

October Newsletter



A message from Mrs Foston

What a busy Autumn term 1 it has been! The start of the school year has flown by and we are now looking forward to October half term and an exciting Autumn Term 2.

The autumnal weather is setting in and when we return from our break the nights will be darker. Please do ensure the children have appropriate, named clothing, for the changing conditions and take additional care during the walk to and from school.

SEND Hub

We are delighted to be able to inform you that, following successful Local Authority consultation, SEND Hub provision will be developed at both schools. We are in the very early stages and are working closely with the Local Authority to develop these facilities. As a federation we feel greatly privileged to have been selected for these projects and have our commitment to inclusion recognised. As we progress, we will provide further information and updates regarding our Hubs and the fantastic opportunities they offer for our federation and local communities.



Children in Need

We are delighted to share that we have signed up to take part in runPudsey 2026! We are incredibly excited to get active and raise vital funds for BBC Children in Need.

We have chosen to hold this event on Appeal Day, Friday 13th November and we will be setting up an exciting obstacle course for the children to tackle.

On this day, we would also love for all children to come to school dressed in bright clothes. Please ensure they are wearing comfy shoes though, so they can safely and comfortably participate.

To take part in the fundraising, you will need to register your child online using our unique school details. Once registered, you will be able to easily track your child's fundraising progress and share their page with family and friends for sponsorship.

Please follow these steps to get started:

1. Visit our school landing page: Go to <https://www.runpudsey.co.uk/school/the-st-gilbert-of-sempringham-church-of-england-primary-school-pointon>
2. Enter our unique School Code: You must enter the code **OB2E** during the sign-up process so your child is linked to our school event.

Once your child completes the challenge, the runPudsey team will send their official medal directly to us at school so we can present it to them. Please note, your child must be registered online and raise at least £1 to receive a medal, however all children will be taking part in the course. Thank you so much for your support in helping us raise money for such a wonderful cause. Let's get moving for Pudsey!



SEND & Inclusion

Thank you for attending our SEND parent partnership meeting. Our next meeting will be at St Gilbert's of 20th November at 9.30, and we would love to see you there. Please see some of the views from our parents.

"Firstly, it was lovely to see Robin's nest. A place where our children get to spend some time doing whatever it is they need to do in there. I guess that's individual for each child.

Secondly, although just a few of us, a mix of parents, with children of varying needs and families with quite different experiences, but with such common issues, like isolation, judgment and lack of information or understanding for ourselves and from professionals.

It certainly was helpful to feel less alone, and I hope as the meetings continue, and more parents attend, there will be opportunity to share useful tools, skills and strategies together."

-Jo

"Thank you for arranging the meeting, it was really nice to meet everyone and to share our experiences.

The parent send support meeting was a great chance to meet other parents going through similar things as us. We were all able to share our stories and offer ideas of what may help each other and our children. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming. It would be great for more parents to come along, whether their children are diagnosed or not, whether they are just starting their journey or have tons of experience. We hope we can support each other through difficult times, share ideas and celebrate successes."

-Zoe

Attendance

We would like to remind parents and carers, where possible, to arrange routine medical appointments, such as the dentist, outside of school hours. We have seen an increase in pupil missing valuable learning time due to appointments during the school day.

Please can we also ask that more detail is provided when reporting absences. Please can you provide a brief explanation on why your child is absent. Thank you.



Roots to Food

We were delighted to welcome Darren from Roots to Food back into school for another fantastic cooking experience! The children thoroughly enjoyed developing their culinary skills and putting everything they have learnt into practice.

This time, the children prepared a delicious Chicken and Vegetable Fricassee, whilst also learning some new French vocabulary for the different vegetables they used. Meanwhile, our youngest chefs in Nursery were busy making their very own stromboli. The results were fantastic, and all the food was absolutely delicious!

Recipes have already been sent home, so we hope the children will enjoy recreating these tasty dishes with their families.

It has been wonderful to see how the children's confidence, independence and cooking skills have grown across the different year groups. They have gained so much from Darren's visits, and it is lovely to see them building on their skills each time.

A huge thank you to Darren for another inspiring and enjoyable visit!



Reading

Our new Reading Ambassadors have been chosen and are already getting started! They have received their badges and held their first meeting, where they shared lots of great ideas for promoting a love of reading across the school. We're looking forward to seeing their ideas come to life and helping more children discover the joy of reading.



Music

The choir has officially begun preparations for their upcoming trip to Young Voices, working hard on an exciting repertoire that ranges from an ABBA medley to a tribute to David Bowie. The children have been fantastic so far, demonstrating wonderful dedication and enthusiasm during rehearsals. If your child would like to join the choir, please contact the school office to sign up. We also have a busy schedule of performances lined up over the Christmas period, and we will share exact dates and times with you as soon as they are confirmed.



Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)

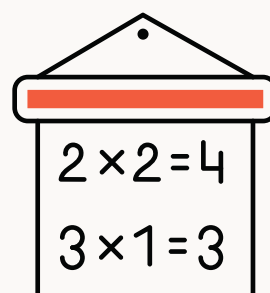
Times Tables Rock Stars is a fantastic way for children to develop their multiplication and division skills while having fun! We encourage all children to regularly access TTRS at home to improve their speed, accuracy and confidence. Just 5–10 minutes of practice each day can make a real difference.

Who can become a Times Tables Rock Star?

Why Are Times Tables So Important?

Knowing times tables is a vital part of developing mathematical fluency. Secure times table knowledge helps children tackle more challenging areas of maths, including fractions, division, percentages and problem-solving. When children can recall multiplication facts quickly, they can focus more on understanding and solving complex problems rather than spending time working out basic calculations.

Practising little and often is far more effective than one long session. Quizzing your child, playing multiplication games or using TTRS are all excellent ways to help!



Can Your Child Tell the Time?

Reading the time is an essential life skill that children need both inside and outside the classroom. We encourage parents and carers to practise telling the time regularly at home, particularly using analogue clocks.

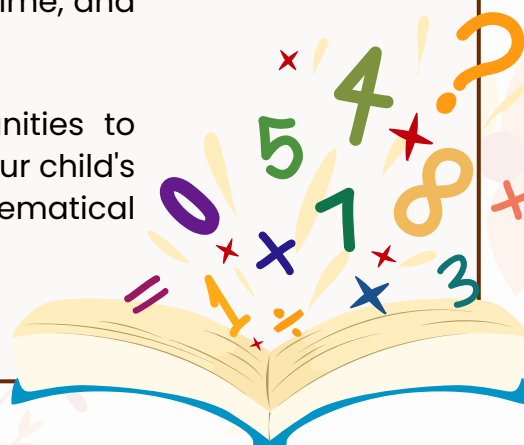
You can support your child by asking questions such as:

- What time is it now?
- How many minutes until dinner?
- What time will it be in half an hour?
- How long until we need to leave?
- Can you tell me the time using a 24-hour clock?



As children progress through primary school, they should become increasingly confident reading analogue and digital clocks, understanding 12-hour and 24-hour time, and calculating time intervals.

Remember: Maths is everywhere! Small opportunities to practise at home can make a huge difference to your child's confidence, independence and mathematical understanding.



Reception & Nursery

A huge, warm welcome to all our new and returning families! We are absolutely delighted with how beautifully the children have settled into school over these past few weeks.

Starting Nursery and Reception is a monumental milestone. The children are doing a fantastic job adapting to our new environments, longer days, and fresh routines. We are already seeing beautiful friendships blossom, a sense of independence growing, and lots of big smiles at the door each morning.

While our main focus has been making sure every child feels safe, valued, and emotionally secure, we have already jumped into some wonderful learning activities and experiences, including bikeability, developing their skills to use our balance bikes, and Roots to Food, where the children had the chance to develop their chopping, mixing and tasting skills.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's key person, in nursery, or the teachers on the door in the morning.



PGL

What an incredible few days our Year 4 children had at PGL! They embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, courage and a fantastic attitude, taking part in a whole host of exciting activities including the zip wire, buggy building, trapeze, orienteering, problem-solving challenges and an evening campfire.

Day by day, we watched the children grow in confidence as they stepped outside their comfort zones, challenged themselves and encouraged and supported one another. It was wonderful to see them celebrating each other's successes and showing such resilience when things became tricky.

One of the most special parts of the experience was seeing children from across our federation come together, form new friendships and build lasting bonds. It was lovely to watch them getting to know one another, working as a team and sharing so many wonderful experiences.

Our Year 4 pupils were the youngest children attending the PGL site, yet staff members across the centre were quick to praise them for their outstanding behaviour, positive attitude and willingness to get involved.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They represented our school wonderfully and created memories that we hope they will treasure for years to come.

Well done, Year 4 — you were amazing!



Aylmerton

What a fantastic time we had at Aylmerton! The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities, including exploring rock pools, hunting for fossils, learning about coastal erosion and discovering the history of the Wyndham family. One of the highlights was our boat trip to Blakeney Point, where, despite the windy conditions, the seals certainly did not disappoint, coming incredibly close to our boat!

We also tackled a very muddy marsh walk, wading knee-deep through the river Glaven, a river that passes through the low-lying salt marshes and mudflats of the Blakeney National nature reserve before meeting the sea.

Other activities included team-building challenges, a monster trail, swimming at The Reef, woodland adventures, den building and, of course, a disco! Throughout the residential, the children showed fantastic resilience, teamwork and enthusiasm, making memories that will last a lifetime!



Sports

It has been an incredibly busy term for sport at our school, with children across all year groups getting active and learning new skills!

Our youngest learners in Reception have absolutely loved their balance bike training, building great confidence on two wheels. Further up the school, pupils had a fantastic time trying something new at our Archery Development Day, while our dedicated sports captains have completed their Sports Crew training and are ready to lead activities at lunchtimes.

On top of all that, our brand-new Multisports Club has launched and is already a massive hit! Thank you to everyone taking part and bringing such great energy to our physical education activities this term.

Next term we are looking forward to Year 3 & 4 Bikeability, Cross Country, the Archery league, and much more!



School Council

We are delighted to announce that our new School Council representatives have been officially elected! They have wasted no time at all and are already incredibly busy. Their very first job has been to gather pupil voice by collecting brilliant ideas and feedback from children across the whole school. Over the next few weeks, the council will be researching and looking at different charities to support this year, as well as planning for the upcoming Children in Need. It is going to be a packed, exciting year for our councillors, and we can't wait to see the positive changes they bring to our school community!



St Gilbert's PTFA is now hard at work planning our events for the new school year! Our AGM was held on Thursday 15th October where we renewed our roles and discussed how we can make our fundraising even more successful over the coming months. If you wish to get involved, or volunteer to help at events, please speak to a member of the PTFA.

New for 2026-27 is The Parent's Lottery! Please follow the QR code to sign up for the chance to win CASH prizes! The lottery is drawn every Friday with tickets costing £1 (you can buy up to 6 per week) – match 6 numbers to win the top prize of £25,000! A whopping 56% of all ticket sales comes directly to the PTFA, therefore increasing the money raised for our school. You've got to be in it to win it!



Our Winter Disco will be held on Friday 27th November, 5.30-7pm. Please look out for details of when tickets will be available to buy via the Arbor App (£3 per child). The PTFA will be selling disco accessories and snacks including sweet and crisps, so please send your child with some spending money (all items between 20p-£2 as usual).



As an extra Christmas treat, this year we are inviting all families to our Christmas Light Switch-On, to be held right before the Disco at 5.10pm (Friday 27th Nov). Children (and parents!) are invited to decorate a bauble to hang on our tree, the perfect way to celebrate the start of the Christmas season! Decorate your bauble however you choose, perhaps with your name, your family's names, a pet's name, or make it as brightly coloured and Christmassy as you can! No glass/easily breakable decorations please.



This year's Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 11th December at 4.30-7pm. All of our usual stalls and attractions will be returning including the raffle, bottle stall, Elfridges, visit to Santa, bouncy castle, tombola, children's gifts, refreshments (including hotdogs!), a performance by our School Choir and lots of games to play! A new feature this year will be our Winter Craft Market held outside on the playground. If you know of any crafters who would like a stall, please speak to a member of the PTFA.

We are also asking for donations for our very popular raffle, as well as the tombola. Is your company or business able to donate a voucher or prize? Please hand any donations to reception or a member of the PTFA. Anything you can give would be gratefully received.



With Christmas fast approaching, don't forget to sign up to Easyfundraising! By doing this, hundreds of companies will donate a percentage of your Christmas spending to St Giberts PTFA at no cost to you. Make sure Easyfundraising is set up as an extension on your internet browser, then a donation will be made automatically! Please follow the QR code, or see our new banner on the school gate if you haven't already signed up!



Last week, the children had the opportunity to Design a Christmas Picture! These designs can be printed on lots of low cost items including cards, mugs and keyrings, making the perfect Christmas gift for family members and friends. Details of how to purchase these will be made available soon, and a small percentage of each sale will go to the PTFA/School!



Once again, the PTFA would like to thank all families and friends of the school for your continued support and generosity. We are looking forward to another great year of fundraising!

Christmas Fair & Craft Market

Friday 11th December
4.30 - 7pm
St Gilbert's School, Pointon

Hot Dogs
Cakes & Bakes
Raffle
'Elfridges' Gift Shop
Craft Stalls
Visit Santa
Plus lots more Family Fun!

Hot & Cold Drinks
Tombola
Bouncy Castle
Games
Bottle Tombola
Choir Performance

FREE ENTRY!
Everyone Welcome

For all enquiries including stall bookings and raffle donations, please contact:
pointonschoolfundraising@aol.com

Please choose to support
St Gilbert of Sempringham
PTFA

The parents' lottery
Support your school with every ticket

£25,000 jackpot!

Support our school

Scan this QR code and enter our school name to join The Parents Lottery

How does it work?

There will be **guaranteed prizes** up for grabs each week including the chance to win the **£25,000 jackpot!** Keep your eyes on the Friday weekly draw to find out if you'll be a winner this week.

Choose us on The Parents Lottery list → Each ticket only £1 → Play with up to six tickets → Prize draw every Friday → Each ticket supports our school

The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery promoted by Parentkind Enterprises Ltd (PKE) Company no. 5864280. A charity-licensed subsidiary of Parentkind. It is a non-charity, non-profit-making company. The Parents Lottery is only for adults. Playing, prizes, a full list of prizes, & any of our services, needs, information and help with gambling, please call the National Gambling Helpline on 0800 8000333.

GambleAware GAMBLING COMMISSION PARENTKIND The parents' lottery

Dates for your Diary

October

26th-30th Half Term

November

2nd - Start of Autumn term 2
13th - Children in Need
20th - Y3/4 Bikeability
27th - KS2 Cross Country- Pointon
27th - Pointon Disco 5.30pm-7pm

December

4th - Non-Uniform day- Bring a Bottle
10th - Pop Rox assembly- 2.30pm
11th - Christmas Dinner and Party afternoon
11th - Christmas Fair 4.30pm - 7pm
15th - Nativity- 2.30pm at School
18th - Christingle - 2.45pm at School
18th - End of Autumn Term 2

JANUARY

5th - Start of Spring Term 1

