House Assemblies and Buddy Sessions

House assemblies this week explored a range of themes, including National Storytelling Week and leadership. Created by the Society for Storytelling, National Storytelling Week is a joyful celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories can help us understand the world, step into someone else's shoes, develop empathy, relax and escape, and develop essential literacy skills. This year's theme is *'Soundtrack Your Story'*.

National Storytelling Week has also been celebrated in the Library, where pupils have been invited at lunchtimes to listen to our Pupil Librarians share stories and talk about their favourite books to read aloud.

In their House Assembly on Tuesday, 8N read the story *Heartsong*. Inspired by Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, the book tells the story of Laura, a mute orphan who arrives at a Venetian orphange. Her life is cheerless until Fr Antonio (Vivaldi) discovers her gift for music and invites her to play in his orchestra. *Heartsong* explores the healing power of music.

Latham House's assembly focused on leadership and was led by our Year 8 pupils. They considered questions such as *'What does teamwork mean?'* and *'How can we show teamwork in the community?'*, using demonstrations to bring their ideas to life.

Bentley and Chaucer House assemblies explored the idea of being the best we can be, rather than winning at everything. The true story of the Jamaican bobsleigh team is both entertaining and powerful: initially dismissed, the team trained with determination and sportsmanship, ultimately earning the respect of those around them and returning to the next Olympics competing as equals.

During the assemblies, certificates were also presented recognising progress in Speech and Drama examinations, as well as the demonstration of strong learning habits in the classroom. Linking back to the Olympic motto *citius, altius, fortius* (faster, higher, stronger), pupils were acknowledged not only for achievement, but for the determination and incremental progress that underpin it.

Prior to the assemblies, our Year 8 Buddies had also been busy leading younger members of

their Houses in activities they had designed themselves. It is always pleasing to see our older pupils supporting and guiding younger pupils, building our sense of community across year groups.




HAMILTON
RULES
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Comic Books
WHITE BEED



Year 7 and 8 Assembly – Candlemas

Mr Gorick writes:
"In assembly this week, our Year 7s and 8s heard about Candlemas — a moment in the Christian calendar that invites us to notice small sparks of meaning in everyday life. They explored the Bible story of Simeon and Anna (Luke 2), two people who recognised something special in the baby Jesus when others might have walked past without noticing. Pupils were also reminded of a line from the Psalms, *'O Lord, you have searched me and known me'* (Psalm 139:1) — a reminder that we are known and noticed, even before we recognise anything ourselves.

They then heard a modern story from the writer Barbara Ehrenreich, who once experienced the world 'flaming into life' in a way she couldn't fully explain. Both these ancient and modern stories encouraged pupils to stay curious, to hold questions lightly, and to pay attention to the quiet moments that can make life feel bigger."

This Week at St Faith’s



1JBH Class Assembly

Mrs Button writes:

"This week, 1JBH treated us to a joyful and energetic class assembly all about transport. The children took us on a journey by road, rail, water and air, sharing their learning through poems, songs, actions and confident speaking. From 'beep beep' cars and 'choo choo' trains to planes whooshing through the sky, every child played a part and showed fantastic teamwork. The assembly also reminded us of the importance of staying safe when we travel. Well done to 1JBH for such a lively, informative and entertaining performance — we are very proud of you!"



More Than a Game?

On Monday, I accompanied the prize winners from last term's C Cubed Essay Competition to a Head's Tea at The Leys. Hosted by Dr Ives, pupils from St Faith's and The Leys had the opportunity to share their experiences of the competition, reflect on what it had meant to them, and discuss what they had learned. It was a convivial afternoon, and Mrs Davies and Mr Welby commented on the pupils' exemplary behaviour.

The following day, we welcomed three Lower Sixth pupils from The Leys — two of whom were Old Fidelians — to lead the next lunchtime discussion in the C Cubed series. The theme was *'What are sports and why do we play them?'*. The discussion ranged widely and thoughtfully, exploring questions such as *'What is the difference between sports and games?'*, *'Why do human beings play?'*, *'Is winning everything?'*, and perhaps most controversially, *'If everyone cheats, is it still cheating?'*. Thank you to all those who attended and contributed so enthusiastically.



This Week at St Faith’s





Patterns and Pastries

This week, many Reception parents participated in a *Patterns and Pastries* session after the morning drop-off. As part of the Early Years Reception Stage, children are developing a deeper understanding of numbers one to ten, the relationships between them, and the formation of patterns in numeracy. As practical resources can help to support the development of mathematical vocabulary and understanding, a wide range of practical activities, games, puzzles and problem-solving tasks were explored during the session. These interactive mornings prompted many lively conversations about numbers and patterns and were greatly enjoyed by all.

This Week at St Faith’s



Pre Prep NSPCC Number Day and Drama4ALL Workshop

Miss Hendry writes,

"The Pre Prep are raising money today for the NSPCC by wearing items of clothing with a number on them. As part of their Number Day today, they have also enjoyed a range of cross-curricular maths activities, ranging from cooking to measuring. In Reception they have practised counting in Spanish, sung number songs in Music and in the classrooms, looked at the arrangements of dots on dominoes to find pairs of numbers totalling 6,7,8. They have also enjoyed lots of number themed stories, such as Six Dinner Sid, Handa's Surprise and Kipper's Toybox.

Year 1 were busy solving maths problems and using their iPads to scan QR codes to check if they had the correct answer, as well as playing a number of maths games on the Deck.

Preschool, Reception and Key stage 1 loved welcoming *Perform* into school for an exciting drama adventure in an enchanted toyshop where a key had gone missing! The children had a brilliant time building confidence, improving their listening and collaboration skills, as well as having fun as they worked together to solve the mystery. There was a huge sense of relief when the missing key was finally found and the toyshop was saved."




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BENGALS
10



Charity Tuck Shop for the RSPCA

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils ran a charity tuck shop this week, in support of Tom's Trust, which supports children with brain tumours and their families. The event was a great success and demonstrated pupils' creativity, teamwork and compassion. We are very grateful for their efforts and generosity. Please read the report in the sidebar written by three of the Bentley House Captains.

This Week at St Faith’s



Welcome Events for New Reception Families

Today, we were delighted to welcome some of the families who will be joining St Faith's in September 2026 to our *Breakfasts on Friday*. Sharing breakfast provided a relaxed opportunity to sample the school's catering and hospitality, meet other families, and be introduced to members of the SFPA. We very much look forward to welcoming our new Reception pupils later this year.

'Pop-in & Play' 2026

Continuing our focus on welcoming younger children to St Faith's, we hosted another successful *Pop-in & Play* session on Wednesday. These events allow families to visit the school and meet the Early Years team in a relaxed and informal setting. Please do encourage friends or colleagues who may be considering a St Faith's education to attend. Booking is available via the school website under *Visits & Open Mornings*.

Save the Date – Pre Prep Open Morning

Our next Open Morning for children aged 3–7 will take place on Saturday 25th April. Booking will open after half-term via the school website. This event will be particularly helpful for families with younger siblings, as well as current Year 2 families wishing to learn more about the transition into Year 3.

East Anglian Schools' Cross Country Championships

Mr Mageean writes,
"Congratulations to our two Fidelians from Year 7 who represented Cambridgeshire Schools at the East Area Schools' Cross Country Championships in Northampton last weekend. On a significantly hillier and more challenging course than the previous round at Ely, both girls showed great determination, finishing 30th and 35th. Being awarded their County vests was a proud moment, and they are already looking forward to transitioning to track athletics over the summer. Well done, girls."



Swimming Gala v. St John's College School

Mrs Critchley writes,

"On Tuesday, 58 pupils across years 5 to 8 took part in the second swimming gala of the term against a strong St John's team. It was great to see such a large field of participants from St Faith's taking to the water; seven of our pupils for the first time. Some convincing relay team performances, particularly from the U13 boys and U11 girls, plus an impressive number of personal best performances across the board, ensured this very close and competitive gala finished in a narrow victory for St Faith's by five points. Our next stop is the IAPS National Swimming qualifying round at Dulwich College at the end of the month. We will look forward to that with great anticipation."

Year 8 Boys' Hockey

It has been a very busy few days for our Year 8 boys' hockey players.

Mr Johnson writes,

"The boys travelled to Cambridge University Hockey and Athletics ground at Wilberforce Road Hockey on Thursday to take part in the U13 Boys County Cup Hockey tournament. After the recent success of the U12 Boys reaching the quarterfinals of the IAPS national finals on Friday 30th at St Edwards in Oxford, it was the turn of the U13 boys to show their mettle!

In very cold conditions the boys started slowly against a very physical and energetic Kimbolton. St Faith's dominated possession and scoring opportunities, but the boys conceded 2 break away goals before going through the gears to respond, but essentially, making their task more challenging, as they narrowly lost 2-1. That was the wake-up call we needed! Mr Thompson instilled belief in the team, to which they responded superbly well. They then went on to win 2-0 against Saffron Walden County High, win 2-0 against The Perse Upper, win 3-1 against King's Cambridge, win 3-0 against The Stephen Perse, leaving them in a 'winner takes all' final match

against St John's.
St John's, who were playing some stunning Hockey were in the same situation as St Faith's, level on points, level on goal difference, and level on nerves! Our team, very ably led by the Boys' Captain of Hockey, saved their best performance of the day until this last match in a nail-biting encounter. A short corner routine that a national league player would have been proud of, produced the magic moment, a brilliantly deflected short that fizzed past their Goalkeeper's ear. The boys were ecstatic at the final whistle, having beaten St John's eventually 2-0 and winning their first ever tournament. The boys will now represent Cambridgeshire Hockey in the East of England round on Friday 13th March in Ipswich. This week the boys have lived the 'Hockey dream' and have loved having the opportunity to pick up a stick and play or train every day, and today they have attended the Regional IAPS tournament, which St Faith's and The Leys hosted. Well done boys!"

As mentioned by Mr Johnson, today, two St Faith's teams entered the IAPS Hockey Regional Tournament, jointly hosted by St Faith's and The Leys. Hosting provided a valuable opportunity for both Foundation schools to showcase their excellent sporting facilities. Results are available on SOCS, and the tournament programme, designed in-house, can be found in the sidebar.



Looking ahead to the weekend and next week

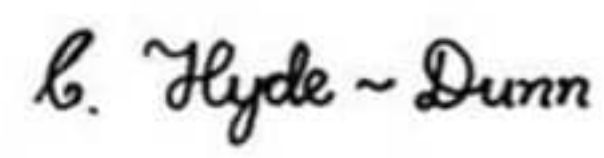
This weekend, some of our pupils will be performing at the Suffolk Festival of Performing Arts at Culford School, while our gymnasts continue their competition season. The boys will compete in the U9, U11 and U13 ISGA Four-Piece National Championships, and the girls in the U10 and U13 ISGA Five-Piece Premier National Championships. We wish everyone the very best of luck.

Next week brings a varied and important set of events across the school. We will be marking **Children's Mental Health Week**, pupils will be taking part in various different **AcE Day** activities**,** and we will also be holding **Pre Prep and Year 7 Parent–Teacher Meetings**. During the week, a group of pupils and staff will also be departing for the **Liverpool Music Tour**, which includes a highly anticipated visit to Liverpool Cathedral to participate in Evensong.

And Finally…

From Pre Prep exploring patterns, to older pupils debating sport and leadership, this week has shown learning taking many different forms across the school. Ahead of the final week of this half-term, I wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable weekend – and hopefully an opportunity to see some of the beautiful snowdrops emerging around us.

With all best wishes,



Crispin Hyde-Dunn

This Week at St Faith’s