



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



NEWSLETTER

“A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love”
Jesus said, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ John 15 v 12

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 10th March 2025

A big thank you to everyone for your support this week. As per the letter that came home to parents today, we have had cases of suspected norovirus and we would ask that you continue to be vigilant and not return children to school until at least 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. We are doing our very best to contain the spread further and will continue to liaise with you next week.

Church Links

SPLASH worship – Thank you to SPLASH who came and talked about how our choices can affect our thoughts and actions in a good or bad way. We made some choices to help us think about choice and what this means. We then sang using the bible verse ‘Phillipians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.’



Reflection - This week's reflection - [Wisdom](#) Thank you to Mrs Smith for such a wonderful reflection!

News

Facebook – We are launching a new school Facebook page. This will have up to date news articles and information on what is happening at school. You can find our new page [HERE](#)



SEND Day at Lodge Hill Centre - The next SEND activity day is on Saturday 22nd March. These days are for children under 18 with additional needs / disabilities, their family and friends in West Sussex. The cost is £6 per person which is due at the time of booking to secure your places. Please note, these days are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Please head to their website to book.

Learning

Science Days -

STEM scientists - working with the experts. Keith and Greg came and worked with Key Stage Two children on wind turbines. The children looked at forces and made a windmill to look at this force.



Weald Book Award - The Year 6 children Weald Book Award group attended the eagerly anticipated Finals Evening on Tuesday. Since commencing the project in October, the children have been set the challenge of reading six new titles and participating in a number of directed tasks based upon their reading material. During the evening, we were able to listen to five of the authors giving inspirational talks about their titles.

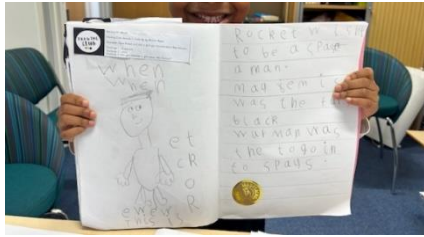
The following children were announced as competition winners, each receiving a certificate for their efforts: Immie - Photo, Rosie M - Front Cover Design, Gemma - Poem, Rosie O - Book Character, Seb - Letter.

We were excited to learn that 'Skylar and the K-Pop Headteacher' was selected as this year's winning title. The children that attended the finals evening were commended by The Weald for their impressive passion for reading and exemplary behaviour.

Congratulations to the following children for their commitment to the project throughout the year: **South Africa:** Daniel, Daisy, Immie, Rosie M, Olly. **Japan:** Gemma, Seb, Rosie O, Sophie, Josh H and Livia



Drawing club and progress - And even more beautiful writing from our youngest children this week!



NZ, SL and USA – River Arun walk – As part of their Geography unit, the children walked down to the River Arun to talk about its route, the meanders and the flow of it. A great experience to be able to walk across The Brooks.



Sports

Football Tanbridge - The Year 6 Girls' Football team travelled to Tanbridge House on Friday afternoon for the next instalment of the spring tournaments. They suffered a heavy 5-0 defeat in their first game against Heron Way but showed much improvement as the afternoon wore on. They lost back to back games against Leechpool A (2-0) and Shelley (1-0) before a hard fought 0-0 draw in their final group game against Northolmes. That pitted the girls against St Mary's Horsham in the battle for 9th place. After 18 games in total since their debuts back in November, the girls finally scored a goal, with Scarlett C bundling in the ball from close range to end the evening with a 1-1 draw. The cheers and celebrations after the game showed how much it meant to them. Very well done to the whole squad



Swimming – Well done to Seb, Daniel, Olly, Finnley, Indi and Victoria who swam so well in the Sussex Gala at The Pavilions in Horsham this week. They really did give it their all – a special mention to the girls who swam twice due to some team sickness.



Indoor Athletics – Well done to the Year 5 & 6 children who travelled to The Weald for an Indoor Athletic locality event. They participated in a range of activities including obstacle relay, standing long jump and shot put. The children behaved beautifully and were thrilled to come second amongst all the other schools.



Things to know...

Sponsorship for SATS Breakfast – Every year we like to supply breakfast for Year 6 during SATS week, this is so they come in earlier, are with their friends, eat lots and are calm and ready for the day. If anyone feels that they could sponsor the breakfast then we would love to hear from you. Please email

office@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Lions art poster competition - 'What farms do for us' closes at the end of this month. Your local Lion will be collecting your schools entries between 27th and 31st March. Judging will take place over the holiday. There will be certificates and prizes for winners in every class from every school and we will be arranging an exhibition of the best entries at the Billingshurst Community Centre sometime during next term.

FOR PARENTS: 10 Tips for Building Resilience in children and teens –

<https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience/guide-parents-teachers>

PTA Trustee – We are looking for a trustee to join the PTA Trustees. There are 5 meetings a year that you would need to attend. If you would like to know more then please click on the link. You just need to be committed to making a difference to the children that we serve. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

Class Assemblies – These are the dates for class assemblies for this term. Please come and celebrate the children’s achievements with them. These will start at 9am.

Wed 19th Mar - UK

Thurs 20th Mar – India

Thurs 27th Mar - China

Thurs 3rd Apr – SA

Chartwells' meal choices – Please could we ask that when ordering your child’s meal choice, you sit down together and choose their preferred option. We have had a number of children refusing to eat what was ordered for them and, as a school, we only receive what you have ordered to reduce food waste.



April Cut off Dates

Thurs 20/03 for w/c 31/03

Thurs 10/04 for w/c 21/04

Thurs 17/04 for w/c 28/04

Thurs 24/04 for w/c 05/05

Dates for your diary – SPRING TERM

Wed 19th March – Steyning Shop Book Fayre 3pm – come and buy a book; you can use your World Book Day voucher!

Fri 21st March – Reports come home (NZ class will receive reports in the summer term due to the change in staffing)

Tue 25th and Thurs 27th March – Parents Evenings

Mon 31st March – Easter Play 2pm

Tue 1st April – Easter Play 2pm

Tue 1st April – 3.30pm Cobnor Residential Meeting

Tue 1st April – School Disco

Thurs 3rd April – Easter Sweet shop on the playground

Fri 4th April – Last Day of term

Easter sweet shop – Date for your diary - There will be an Easter Sweet shop on the playground after school on Thursday 3rd April. This is being run by a Year 6 child and their family. More information to follow.

Celebrations

Daisy B (Chi) has been awarded a ‘Champion of Care’. We are so proud of this achievement and it is much deserved.



Vine leaves – **Ivy D (SA)** - Compassion – for working with a child in PE the past two weeks and has shown huge amounts of patience and compassion helping him to hit the ball with the tennis racket and even work up to a backhand shot today. **Martha (NZ)** - Friendship – for being the first to notice if someone is in need of a friend and she talks to other children with such gentleness and kindness- she really is a star! **Leah R (NZ)** - Friendship - for being a very supportive friend this week. **Poppy G (Ind)** – Friendship - for helping another child come into school when they were sad and helping them empty their bag ready for the day. **Thomas W (Tha)** - Empathy – for showing concern for a younger pupil who was upset after hearing them cry, he came and took me to them to check on them. **Teddy L-C (Chi)** – Humility - for showing kindness and respect to friends and adults. **Ross (Chi)** and **Olivia W (Chi)** - Perseverance -for quietly persevering in their PUMA tests and achieving so much! **Charlie (Chi)** – Wisdom - for showing great interest in the ukulele and finding a natural knack for the instrument **Rory I (Tha)** – Friendship - for instantly helping a friend on the castle climbing wall when they were finding it tricky **Esme H (SA)** - Creativity - for participating confidently in English this week, sharing some fantastic vocabulary choices in class discussion. **Leo F (SA)** - Perseverance – for working with determination to edit and improve a piece of narrative

writing **Harrison B (USA)** – Service - for supporting the singing for the Easter Play well and with such enthusiasm which is encouraging others to join in more

Achievements -

Victoria C (Mex) –
Attended first swim
gala for Atlantis and
achieved some first
times!

Oliver W (USA) –
completed Stage 5 at
swimming

Max H (Mex) –
received Man of the
Match award at
football

Arlo H (NZ) –
received Man of the
Match award at
football



Let's Celebrate!

at

St Mary's Church, Pulborough

*Join us for a
Relaxed, Interactive,
Open Service for All Ages*



**3.30 Tea and Cake, 4pm Service
Sunday 16th March**





Billingshurst and District Lions Club.

Art Competition 2025.

‘What Farms do for Us’

This art competition is to encourage children aged 7 to 11 to creatively think about the world around them.

Contest Rules.

To be run during the **Spring term** with a **closing date of 31st March.**

The contest is open to children in **years 3, 4, 5 and 6.**

The challenge is to create a **poster** with the theme of **‘What Farms do for Us.’**

The Artwork is to be **no bigger than A3 and no smaller than A4.**

Only one entry per child, and each entry must be the work of only one child. It must be that individuals **ORIGINAL ARTWORK.**

All media are accepted. **DO NOT LAMINATE ENTRIES.** However fixative sprays may be used where needed.

The artists, **name, age, form and school must be on the back** of their poster.

Prizes.

Winners and runners up **certificates** will be awarded for every class.

The winner in each class will also receive a **book token for the Lions bookshop.**

We hope to **exhibit** a number of the winning entries at the **Billingshurst Community Centre.**

March Umbrellas

10.00 am to 11.30 am



Shoreham

Tuesday 4th

Adur East Family
Hub (Shoreham)

with
Social Prescriber

Littlehampton

Wednesday 12th

Creative Heart
Community Hub

with
Autism & Social
Communication Team

Worthing

Tuesday 18th

Durrington
Community Centre

Horsham

Wednesday 19th

Family Hub

with
Southern Water

Burgess Hill

Tuesday 25th

The Cherry Tree
Centre

with
West Sussex SENDIAS

Chichester

Thursday 27th

Donnington Parish
Hall

with
South Coast Sports

Online

Via Zoom

Thursday 13th
7.30pm

For more information or
the link to join the online
group, contact:

[outreach-training@
reachingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk)



Reaching Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person who has, or may have, special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex?



Reaching Families is a parent-carer led charity which aims to empower parent-carers and families of children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex through the delivery of information, training and peer support.

Making Sense of it All

In-depth parent-carer guide covering SEND issues from birth to adulthood

Umbrellas

Parent support groups based at locations across West Sussex and online, via Zoom

Training

Workshops and courses on a variety of issues delivered online, via Zoom

Face-2-Face

Peer based befriending for parents of children undergoing diagnosis

Animations

Short animated films on a variety of subjects

Fact sheets

Covering a range of SEND issues localised to the needs of West Sussex families

Benefits Advice Service

1-2-1 advice & claim checking support for families applying for DLA, PIP & Carers Allowance

NDP Navigation Service

Support service for parent-carers of children undergoing assessment on the West Sussex Neurodevelopmental Pathway (via referral from a professional)

Facebook Group

An online parent support group providing news, information and peer support

If you would like more information about how Reaching Families can help, please contact:

Email: admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk

Telephone: 01903 366 360

Reg Charity No 1150906



Reaching Families

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College