



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 31st March 2025

Thank you to everyone for your support over the Spring Term. Please have a lovely Easter holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Church Links

Easter Eucharist – Thank you to Fr Paul, Mr Holloway and Mr Hancock for our Easter Eucharist. We focussed on Palm Sunday and the events at the beginning of Holy Week.

Reflection - This week's reflection! [Justice part 2 2025](#) Thank you to Mrs Smith for such a wonderful reflection!



Easter Messy Church - All are welcome to come to Pulborough Village Hall for our Messy Church Easter Special. On Saturday 12th April 3-5pm we have Easter activities, Games, Singing, Easter Eggs and celebration food. Please contact Judith on 07551323583, with your name and the number of adults and children attending and any food allergies, by Tuesday 1 April to book your place for the meal and Easter Eggs at Messy Church.



Garden of Gethsemane – The children in UK have been talking about The Easter Story and have made their own Garden of Gethsemane, what a fantastic way to remind us of the events in the story.



Learning

Accelerated Reader Quiz – This month Edward S (NZ), Louisiana (NZ), Stephan (SL) and Brooke (Jap) have won the raffle from our quizzes. Well done to them. They have all won Easter chocolate.

Readers – Our Top Ten readers for the term are here – well done to these children. Daniel P, Bea G, Ella C, Emily P, Henry W, Victoria, Gemma B, Isobel, Josh H.

Area and Perimeter in maths – Year 6 have been thinking about the mathematical concepts of area and perimeter. This is a fantastic active and memorable way to engage with this skill.



Writing – We have seen some phenomenal writing this week in USA class. Well done to Mattie for the depth of her writing.



Summer topics – When we return after the holidays we are looking forward to new topics. UK and Thailand will be learning about Bugs, Bees and Butterflies. Italy and India are looking at Our Wonderful World. NZ, SL and USA are looking at Vikings as part of the History curriculum. Year 5 are learning about Below the Waves and Year 6 are learning about Shakespeare and preparing for their SAT's. Newsletters, knowledge organisers and homework grids will go on the website at the end of the first week back.

Haifa – As part of the RE curriculum the children have been learning about Islam. We were delighted to have Haifa join us. She is a practising Muslim and shared with the children about her experiences of Ramadan. She showed them the Koran and spoke in Hebrew. The children asked very thoughtful questions. Thank you Haifa.



Chocolate nests – UK class have been looking at what happens when you melt chocolate, they have added shredded wheat and created their own nests ready for the Easter holidays.



Easter

Easter Play – Amazing Love – A fantastic retelling of the story of 'Amazing Love'. The children performed with confidence and enthusiasm and we are so proud of Year 3 and Year 4 for their contributions.



Disco – Thank you to the PTA and staff for putting on the Disco. It was great to see the children enjoying their time, dancing with their friends and spending their pennies.



Easter Eggstravaganza – We had an amazing collection of Easter bonnets and hats and it was great to see the children showing off their creations. Congratulations to our winners – Isabelle T (UK), Frankie F (Thai), Jaxon M (Ita), Luna B (Ind), Savannah W (NZ), Immy H (SL), Charlotte G (USA), Tai N (Chi), Amelie-Joy K (Mex), Rosie M (SA) and Rex W (Jap)



Cobnor residential trip – If you were unable to attend the residential meeting please find notes on the website under Mexico and China classes.

Sport

Year 3 Boys Football - The Year 3 Boys' football team travelled to Tanbridge House for the last of the spring tournaments. With some late withdrawals, no substitutions were possible. The boys got off to a great start with a hard fought 1-0 victory over Heron Way courtesy of a goal from Ryan D. He further helped himself to five more as the boys cruised to victories over Shelley (2-0) and Kingslea (3-0) to top the group and head to the semi-finals. A tough encounter against Northolmes ended 0-0 and a sudden death penalty shootout was required to decide the winner. Arlo H pulled off two stunning saves before Horatio scored the winning penalty. The boys then met a strong Southwater side in the final and despite two more goals from Ryan D, they went down to a 5-2 defeat. Fantastic effort from the boys to finish runners up in their first tournament as a team. Very well done boys.

There were 10 schools split into two groups and each school played 4 games in a round robin format for the group stage. We won all 4 of our games back to back before we finally got a brief rest and then we gathered together to find out the results of the group stage. The top 2 teams from each group would go into the cup group. The two 3rd placed teams plus highest scoring fourth would play a round robin in the shield group and the other four placed teams would compete, round robin, in the plate group. We came top so played Kingslea (who also won their group stage) in the semi-final, beating them 8-1! The final saw St Mary's take on North Heath and it was end to end - the organisers said it was a fantastic game to watch - with us scoring on the final blow of the whistle to clinch a 7-6 victory. We are so very proud of the team today...they listened, played well and all came away having scored! Each school staff member was asked to pick two of their team to receive a 'magic moment' certificate. We chose Anthony as the only yr5 on the team but held his own brilliantly and managed to secure two tries in the last of our games and Freddie who got injured early on but carried on like a trooper!



Things to know...

Year 6 sweet shop – The sweet stall was a great success and we are so grateful to Matthew and his family for raising £211.99 for the Big Top.



BIG TOP – As we start thinking about the Big Top we wanted to tell you a bit more. The Big Top is a full size circus Big Top tent and it resides with us! Each year we feel this is an extraordinary opportunity for our children to do something different. We have a team who hoist it and a team who take it down and we have a team who put in the sound, staging and lighting. Without these teams it wouldn't happen. We also ask the Year 6 children to fundraise £1200 each year for this opportunity to happen and we thank the parents who help raise this amount. We still have about £400 to raise! We are also looking for a team to help and would ask you to let us know. If we can't get the manpower then we can't make this work. We look forward to hearing from parents who can offer the time and their energy. office@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Swimming Pool – Key Stage Two will restart swimming from Tue 22nd April.

Mon – SL and USA to rotate AM and PM each week

Tues – China and SA

Wed – Mexico (AM) and NZ (PM)

Thurs – Swimming only if it has been a bank holiday or the class needs an additional slot.

Fri - Japan

The children will need to bring a bag with a towel, swimming costume and a swimming hat. A school kit will be provided if they forget as it is part of the National Curriculum.

KS2 Summer term PE kits – After Easter we would like KS2 children to come into school in their PE kits on certain days –

NZ on a **Tuesday**

SL and USA on a **Thursday**

China, Mexico, Japan & SA on a **Friday**

This must consist of a white round necked T shirt, navy blue shorts **or** navy blue leggings **or** navy blue skort and their trainers. On the other PE session they will need their swimming kit.

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

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 17/04 for w/c 28/04

Thurs 24/04 for w/c 05/05

Dates for your diary – Summer Term

21st April – Bank Holiday – Easter Monday

22nd April – Children return to school and swimming starts for KS2

23rd April – Forest School starts for Thailand class for first half term

24th April – Year 6 residential meeting 3.30pm in SA class

5th May – Bank Holiday

6th May – Y6 Duathlon

7th May – 9th May – Year 5 residential Cobnor


12th May – 15th May – KS2 SATs (Breakfast club for Y6)

Celebrations




Vine leaves – **Toby H (SA)** - Perseverance – for the excellent progress you have shown in your reading. **Indi P (SA)** - Kindness - for always willing to help with jobs in the classroom. **Aurelio (SL)** – Politeness - for always being so polite to everyone **Miller B (USA)** – Perseverance - for carrying on after struggling with the first verse without her friend. **Anthony M (China)** - Perseverance - for his attitude and behaviour being exemplary at the tag rugby tournament and he showed his ability as a fantastic athlete on the rugby pitch. **Spencer N (Japan)** - Perseverance - for working hard to increase his reading age by over 3 years since the start of Year! **Ruairi F, Tilly, Lilly and Bertie (USA)** - Perseverance – for trying so hard in learning their times tables. They have put in a great deal of effort practising the times tables. **Lucas M (Mex)** – Perseverance and Friendship - for joining his class for playtimes this week and involving himself in the games of football! It's been so lovely to see him outside, enjoying himself with his peers!

Achievements -




Ted E and Ronnie H (USA) –
Won the ACYFL
Shield final with
their U9 team



Amber W (Ind) -
Completed her
Stage 2
swimming



Martha G (NZ) -
Achieved her
Chief Scout
Bronze Award



**Beatrice G &
Isobel H (Mex)** -
Achieved their
Cubs Chief Scout
Silver Award

Please have a lovely Easter and rest and relax.
We look forward to welcoming the children
back on Tuesday 22nd April. Thank you to
everyone for your support over this term.





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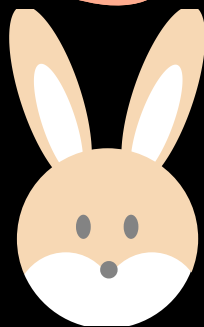
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Louise by email: pdcca@pdcca.org.uk

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course**





Easter Camp

DATE: TUES 8TH APRIL

VENUE: THE TOWERS, STEYNING GRAMMAR
SCHOOL, HENFIELD ROAD

TIME/COST: 9-11: MINI'S, (R-Y2) U5-U9 -£12

9-12: U10-12 - £18

11-3: U13-16 - £24

Stars NC



EMAIL: STARSNCCAMP@GMAIL.COM

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Stars NC

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