

ST MARY'S C OF E (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

'A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum'

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 23rd June 2025

Message from Mrs Copus

It was walk around week this week and it was great to welcome our new (and existing) families to the school to share in the learning and get to know the staff.



Church Links

The Year 6 children's work is now on display in Chichester Cathedral for the Chichester950 celebrations. We are so proud that it is on display.

Reflection - This week's reflection - thanks, as always, to Mrs Smith!

Generosity





Learning



The Big Sing - Year 3

Year 3 travelled to The Weald. for 'The Big Sing' joining in with other locality schools to make a big choir. They sang beautifully together and we were delighted to sing a solo of 'Three Little Birds'.

Reception garden

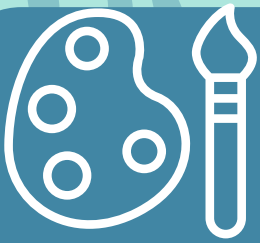
The children have worked very hard over the last few weeks caring for the seeds they planted and digging over the garden to prepare it. They have now planted out all of their sunflowers, beans and pumpkins. They have also put in all the flags they made at forest school to show what they have planted and remind everyone not to walk on the garden



Class Assemblies

NZ showed us their Viking longboats and taught us about oral hygiene. The children sang and really did inspire us ready for The Big Sing.

Italy used the boomwackers to replay Moana. They told us about their maths and geography learning and shared the singing with us. Their descriptions in English were well thought out and beautifully composed.



Learning - Art



Mexico & China

Year 5 have been using their observational and artistic skills to make their own ocean art work.

The creativity and the final outcomes have been phenomenal.

Thailand

Thailand class have been learning about printing. They then created their own stencils, experimented with colour and looked at repeating patterns.



USA

Year 4 have been working on their observational drawings and we have been so impressed with the detail in the children's sketches. They have experimented with line drawings and shading.



Sport



Dance Workshop

The School for Performing Arts was in school today carrying out Street Dance sessions with Year 5. The children were so enthusiastic and we loved the final performances. We are hoping to start a breakfast club with them so watch this space!

Bowls Club

On Wednesday, Mexico and China classes visited Pulborough Bowls Club.

The children were so enthusiastic about learning the sport of Bowls, from how to play to taking part in some fun games themselves.

It was a brilliant opportunity to try something new, develop new skills, and enjoy an afternoon of teamwork and laughter. A huge thank you to everyone at the Bowls Club for welcoming us and sharing your knowledge – we had a ball!





News

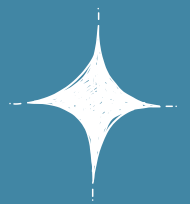
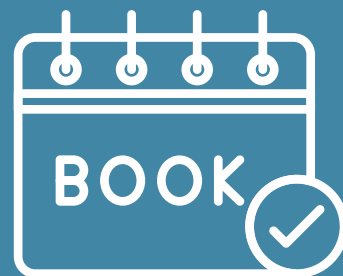


Classes

We are blessed next year to be opening a 12th classroom and so this means that classes across the whole school are smaller for all year groups. Time is spent looking at class lists and getting the class balances correct. We will always listen to parents but moving pupils is not possible once decisions have been made. There is a lot of educational research about children 'moving up' and we know how important this process is with having a new classroom and new challenges.

Parents' Evening

The appointments for parents evening are now live so please book a slot to speak to the teacher and to look at the children's books and see the wonderful learning that your child has been doing.



Brass Lessons

Some of our pupils have expressed an interest in brass lessons – if your child is interested then please click on the link to apply <https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/waiting-list-application/> to apply for tuition lessons.

Treasure Island

Rehearsals are under way for Treasure Island. We are so excited about giving the Year 6 children an opportunity to show off their acting, singing and performing skills. We know that they are going to give it their all. If you still don't have tickets then please contact the office for more information.





✦ Things to know... ✦



Class Celebrations

3rd July – India 10th July – UK
22nd July – Japan and SA Leavers Assembly – 9.30am –
2 seats per family (no more due to space)

Meal Ordering

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.

July cut off dates

Thurs 3/7 for w/c 14/7
Thurs 10/7 for w/c 21/7

Dates for your diary



30th June – Y6 Leavers Service at Christ's Hospital - full school uniform please, no leavers hoodies
1st July – Parents Evening
3rd July – Parents Evening
7th July – Class letters come home
15th July – Production – Treasure Island 1.00pm and 6pm
17th July – Production – Treasure Island 6pm
17th July – Year 6 Leavers' Service, St Mary's Church
18th July – Production – Treasure Island 6pm
19th July – Year 6 Prom
22nd July – 9.30am Final Assembly for Y6
(2 seats available per child)



Celebrations



Vine Leaves

Anthony (Chi) - Perseverance - for persevering with a tricky stroke in swimming. Maryanne (Chi) - Wisdom - for absolutely smashing her PUMA assessment, we are so proud of her progress. Charlie (Chi) - Service - for consistently modelling kind and friendly behaviours to all of his peers. Luna and Bonnie (Ind) - Service - for raising money for charity by doing a 2 mile walk. Daniel M - Service - for stepping in to help Mr Hancock during our singing rehearsal India - Creativity and Perseverance - for working hard to create a very interesting pirate adventure story! Poppy (Chi) - Wisdom and Kindness - for being an excellent role model and teacher when playing Bowls with her class. Sienna (SL) - Kindness - for being so welcoming to visitors around the school, and helping so much at forest schools. Wynter M - Courage - for being determined to say her line in our class assembly and even volunteered for an extra part! Pippa (NZ) - Courage - for showing great bravery in the run up and at an event that she was nervous about attending.

Achievements

Elena (Ita) - took her ballet exam recently and received a 'High Merit' score



Miller (USA) - was a mascot for the Chelsea Ladies football team at their recent game against Horsham



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT



Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and Hitman have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES



While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Splatoon 4 allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION



GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS



The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS



Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS



Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS



Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS



Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS



Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College



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WARDENS

NEW FOR 2025
IN BILLINGSHURST

OPEN
TO
ALL

BOARD GAME CAFÉ



Last Thursday of the month
Starting 27 March 2025
3.15pm to 5.15pm

The Depot, 53A High Street,
Billingshurst RH14 9QX

Meet new people, have a cuppa and play
some board games!

Try playing a new game, or why not bring
your favourite one along?

All ages and board games experience
welcome. If under 18's are attending, please
be aware that this is not a club where child
supervision will be provided.



For more information, please email: billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk
or call: 07795 051516 | 07795 051529



Horsham District
Community Safety
Partnership



Parish Council



Horsham
District
Council



**FREE
Sessions
4th June to
16th July**

MULTI-SPORTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SEN OR AUTISM



**Wednesdays
4.00pm - 5.30pm
Term time only**

Chanctonbury Leisure Centre,
Spierbridge Road, RH20 4PG

A fun packed session for young
people to enjoy lots of new
activities!

We have a bouncy castle, table tennis,
soft play area, quiet area and other
activities. Parents are required to
supervise, siblings welcome.



For more information please contact your Neighbourhood Wardens:

Email: Storrington-SullingtonWardens@horsham.gov.uk

Email: Ashingtonwardens@horsham.gov.uk

