

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

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



Week beginning 30th June 2025

Message from Mrs Copus



As we enter the last couple of weeks of term, we still have a few exciting events ahead of us including our visit afternoon for new classes, leavers' service at church and our end of year production of Treasure Island. Whilst we try to keep everything consistent, there are some changes ahead so please continue to talk to your child about the fact that everything will be fine!

Church Links

This week our Year 6 children attended a Diocesan Leavers' Service at Christ's Hospital chapel. It was a beautiful service and Mrs Copus was very proud to be asked to do the Headteachers reading for this year group. Our church Leavers' Service is on Thursday 17th July and will start at 2pm - Year 6 parents are invited to join us there,

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

Generosity





Learning



PE - USA Class

The children have been developing the throwing skills of a shot-putter. They were able to talk about the Olympic throw from a shot-putter, they practiced the steps with sharpening the hand eye coordination, then practiced the throw with a high five for a giant with a bean bag, then a tennis ball and then the actual shot put.

Forest School

It was time for the children in USA Class to have their turn at Forest School this week. They had the opportunity to improve their skills with tools and had fun making lots of different things



Class Assemblies

India Class talked about their Geography learning and the equator, they read their pirate adventures and sang us some sea shanties. In maths, they told us about fractions and numerators, denominators and equivalent fractions. The children's hymn was about forgiveness as one of our Christian values.



Sport



Year 3 & 4 Cricket

On Thursday a mixed year 3 & 4 cricket team went to Billingshurst Cricket Club for a regional cricket tournament. There was some strong opponents but we are very proud to say that the team won! There was some amazing cricket skills and the whole team worked together incredibly well. The team are now through to the county finals at Blackstone next week. Huge congratulations to the whole team!

Swimming

Life saving and being able to be safe is so important in our swimming lessons. China Class took their cool to the next level this week with a water safety session. They practiced the HELP position, sharpened their life-saving techniques, and even made their own wave machine with floats to mimic rocky waters. Great fun was had by all!





News



Classes

New class lists will be sent home to parents on Monday 7th July either via email or your MCAS app, depending on your communication preferences. We are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Packham to our school team, she will be the class teacher for Australia Class from September. She is looking forward to meeting the children this Wednesday at our transition afternoon.

Parents' Evening

It was lovely to see so many parents & carers this week talking to their child's teacher. We really appreciate the open communication we have and how we can all work together for the benefit of the children; thank you.



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 for lessons

<https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/waiting-list-application/>

Treasure Island

Rehearsals are well 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

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 10/7 for w/c 21/7

Dates for your diary



7th July – Class letters come home

10th July – Plant sale by the Gardening Gang after school club

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 Year 6
(2 seats available per child)



Celebrations



Vine Leaves

Daniel M (Mex) - Service - for stepping in to help Mr Hancock during our singing rehearsal
Ethan (SA) - Perseverance - for continuing to improve stamina in swimming lessons
Ross (Chi) - Perseverance - for having the strength to carry on with a challenge during his PIRA test.
Charlie (Mex) - Wisdom - for writing an excellent non-chronological report on a sea creature.
Anthony (Chi) - Service - for singing wonderfully and being a brilliant role-model to his peers during rehearsals for the production.
Sarp (USA) - Friendship and Kindness - for always being willing to help other children in class
Savannah (NZ) - Perseverance - for being courageous and persevering each day, even when things are not easy.
Harrison (NZ) - Friendship - for consistently supporting and encouraging his friends in such a lovely way

Kindness Shield - July

Matilda P (USA) - What a kind, compassionate role model you are. You amaze me with the sensitivity you show to others. You are genuinely concerned about others and come alongside to support. You give above and beyond when it comes to kindness. Keep up the good work as you show that, in a world where you can be anything, you are always kind!





Celebrations

Achievements

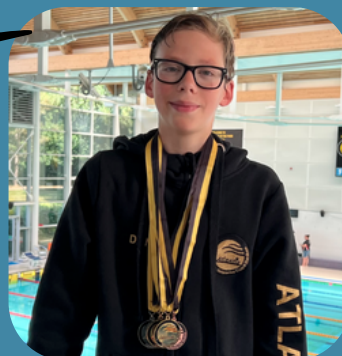


Victoria (Mex) - Passed
her sailing Stage 1 and 2
sailing



Mattie (USA) - competed
in a swim gala, finishing
with a PB in the 50m
freestyle & tumble turning
for the first time

Daniel (SA) - competed in a
swim gala and achieved 5
PB's plus 6 medals
including 3 gold and 2
silver.





! GARDen GANG!

PLANT

SALE



Thursday 10th July
Front playground
after school!





DONATE HERE

ADAMS 40 BY 40 CHALLENGE

40 by 40: One Mission, 40 Challenges, 18 Months of Madness

To mark turning the big 4-0, I've set myself a mission: complete 40 different challenges between 29th June 2025 and 29th December 2026 – all to raise money for causes close to my heart.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Contact - starsnccoaches@gmail.com

Stars NC

NETBALL SUMMER CAMPS

TIMES:

U5-U9: 9.00-12.00

U10-U15: 9.00-13.00

COST PER CAMP:

U5-U9: £18

U10-U15: £24

DATES:

THURSDAY 31ST JULY

TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST

VENUE:

**THE TOWERS,
STEYNING GRAMMAR,
SCHOOL, BN44 3TF**



Everyone welcome to join us for thrilling, high-energy, good vibe camps where you'll sharpen your skills, make new friends, and have an absolute blast on and off the court!