

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

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



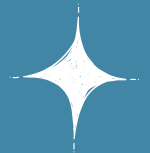
Week beginning 7th July 2025

Message from Mrs Copus



Next week is a week to celebrate the end of term with our end of year production – Treasure Island. Please come along and support our Year 6 children as we sing, dance and act together. We are looking forward to seeing all their skills shining through! It is very important to us that Y4 and Y5 come and support Y6 to show them how important it is to get involved and develop this sense of community. This will count when it their turn in Year 6!

Church Links



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

Thankfulness





Learning



Reading

In our final reading tests there have been some impressive achievements! These children have improved their reading ages by **three** years in one academic school year - **Josh D** - SL, **George** - Jap, **Martha** - NZ, **Ross** - Chi, **Ethan** - Chi, **Spencer** - Jap, **Rosie O** - Jap, **Emily** - Chi, **Arlo** - Chi.

Jayden (Mex) has improved his reading age by **five** years in one academic year! A true achievement!

Fossils!

Thank you to Nadia and Kate for coming to school to talk about Fossils. The talk covered the work of paleontologists and a little bit about Mary Anning. Also, it covered the dinosaur period and when the Earth had a supercontinent, Pangaea and the different fossilised animals which lived during the different periods. We had some children who excelled in this talk.



Forest School

UK Class have spent a beautiful day up under the trees at Forest School today. They've particularly enjoyed mark making on giant white sheets using silver birch branches as 'brushes'



Learning

Class Assembly



It was lovely to see so many parents and families join us for the **UK Class** assembly earlier this week. The children were delighted to share the work they have done so far this term including some beautiful art work!

Art

Year 6 have been studying the Brazilian artist Romero Britto this term. We learnt that his unique style is inspired by cubism and graffiti art.

His 'Happy Art Movement' aims to create a world with more compassion. The children created portraits in Britto's style, including a black and white photograph, portrait sketch and bold, vibrant backgrounds.





Learning

English - Writing

Amelie-Joy (Mex) has written such a beautiful non-chronological report on sea creatures that she is rightly very proud of - and so are we!

Well done Amelie-Joy; your hard work, determination and attention to detail shines through.

The Giant Kraken.

The Giant Cracken is a powerful creature. Scientists have been discovering it for decades. They are very rare to find and now finally, are you ready to dive down deep?

Anatomy

The Giant Kraken's tentacles are a mix of octopus and squid tentacles. It has claws of a crab which can snap away. It has eyelashes of a jellyfish and its tentacles can sting from up to a mile away. The Giant Kraken has wings of a flying fish which can soar into the sky and they also have hair reels which sting you. The females are the size of a humpback whale and the males are the size of a blue whale.

Behaviour

The Giant Krakens are fierce but shy. They are also not that many Giant Kraken left and Scientists have tried to count. They believe there are 9 or 10 males left and females 3 or 4. They are known to be almost invincible they can also see in the dark.

Habitat

The Giant Kraken lives in the night zone. It likes living in a dark rocky cave and a glowing coral village. There is a skyscraping castle. They harvest kelp, seaweed and coral and the lamp post is made of glowing coral and the posts are covered in seashells.

Diet

The Giant Kraken eats mackerel and the fish that live in the caves. It also eats seaweed and sea cucumbers. Sometimes the Frooty Tooty turtle visits them and gives some a fruity tooty snack. They also drink ice which has been melted and turned into a cold water and sometimes if they find human food they might eat it.

Did you know that they have one Giant Kraken in captivity. Scientists used a lab in London but it was moved up to Scotland because the English were worried about what its amazing powers could do to them.

In conclusion, Scientists are still trying to discover all the amazing things about these interesting creatures.



Sport



Sportsmark Award

We are thrilled to have been awarded GOLD for our Sportsmark this year. Thank you to Mrs Burbidge and Mrs Gowland for getting together the application for this. We know how important sport is for our mental health and wellbeing and how important it is for children to be active.

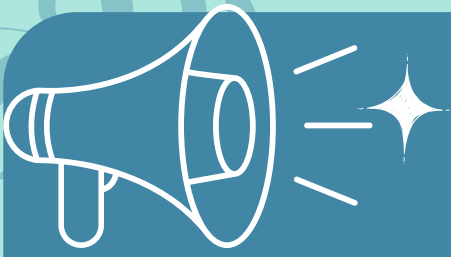
Cricket - County Finals

This week we sent not one but two teams to the Sussex County Finals at Blackstone Cricket Ground after both teams won their regional tournaments recently! Huge congratulations to both teams - we are very proud of you all.

The Year 5 & 6 team competed against 17 other teams from across East and West Sussex on Monday and conducted themselves beautifully. They were a credit to themselves and our school, playing some fantastic cricket and placing 5th overall!



The Year 3 & 4 team had a scorcher of a day on Wednesday and played brilliantly, supporting each other and sharing their cricket knowledge to set their field and place their shots, improving as the day went on. The whole team should be very proud of their efforts!

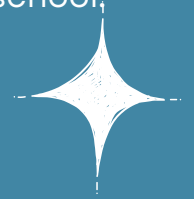


News



Gate Tokens

We are missing many of the tokens that operate our entrance gate. We'd be incredibly grateful if you're able to check and return any that might have snuck home as they are very expensive to replace and we'd rather spend our limited budget on resources for the children! We're happy to award dojo points to any child that is able to bring some back into school.



Smartphones

We recently sent out a questionnaire regarding Smartphones. In September, we will only allow phones to be brought in by Year 6 pupils who are walking home alone. We would urge parents who are thinking of investing in a phone to consider a simple 'brick' phone for these purposes so that the children can only phone or text. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Treasure Island

Ahoy there - it's production week next week! 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

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.

September cut off dates

Thurs 21/8 for w/c 1/9

Thurs 28/8 for w/c 8/9

Thurs 4/9 for w/c 15/9

Dates for your diary



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

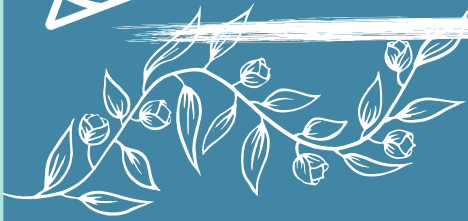
18th July – Production – Treasure Island 6pm

19th July – Year 6 Prom

22nd July – 9.30am Final Assembly for Year 6
(2 seats available per child)



Celebrations



Vine Leaves

Oakley - Service - For being incredibly helpful and proactive in tidying up our cloakroom. **Tai (Chi) - Friendship** - for lending his goggles to a friend in the pool when they really needed them. **Delilah (Chi), Emily (Chi) and Charlie (Chi) - Creativity and Wisdom** - for expertly written and beautifully published non-chronological reports. **Alfie (Chi) - Service** - for being very helpful and a great role model to his friends this week. **Toby H (SA) - Service, Perseverance and Courage** - for helping Mrs Smith with a problem she needed to solve. **Cameron (SA) - Perseverance** - for finishing the sequel of Kong plus also showing massive courage, standing up in assembly this morning. **Annabelle (SL) - Kindness** - this was nominated by another child who said Annabelle deserves a vine leaf for kindness due to fulfilling her role as a wellbeing warrior and helping them work through some friendship difficulties at playtime. **Minnie (SL) - Wisdom** - for writing a fantastic biography on Mary Anning. **Bailey (SL) - Perseverance** - for putting 100% effort into his PIRA and PUMA assessments despite finding the questions challenging. **Erik (Tha) - Service** - for being polite, courteous and grateful when spending time in Brazil. **Finley (SL) - Kindness** - for being friendly to a boy who was curious towards him in Brazil. **Tilly (USA) - Courage** - for managing to overcome a situation she found challenging. **Louisiana (NZ) - Kindness and Friendship** - for being a great friend when there wasn't a space for someone to sit and she made space for the person to sit down. **Noah (NZ) - Kindness** - for thoughtfully waiting for his friends to get changed before leaving for football.

Achievements

Rosie O (Jap) - completed her Stage 3 swimming



Hettie (SL) - completed her Stage 6 swimming



We are recruiting for September Vacancies in our kitchens

St Marys Washington
Thakeham
West Chiltington Maternity Cover
St Marys Pulborough

St John The Baptist, Findon
Vale, Findon

Term time contract and school friendly hours
ID for enhanced DBS will be required.

Please contact us at
westsussex@chartwells.co.uk
to find out more





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

Training

Summer 2025

(2nd half-term)

Reaching Families offer a range of free training courses and workshops to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex



Training Workshops

June

Making Sense of Wellbeing: Self-care and managing stress	Tuesday 10th	10.30am
Making Sense of Behaviours that Challenge (age 2-11 years)	Wednesday 11th	10.30am
Making Sense of Adult Life - Supporting Adolescents (11 years+)	Wednesday 11th	7.30pm
Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Tuesday 17th	7.30pm
Making Sense of Education Health & Care Needs Assessments and Plans (EHCPs)	Thursday 19th	10.30am
Making Sense of Wellbeing: Understanding and building resilience	Tuesday 24th	7.30pm
Making Sense of Masking	Wednesday 25th	10.30am

July

Making Sense of Personal Independence Payment	Thursday 3rd	7.30pm
Understanding Autism	Thursday 10th	10.30am
Understanding Demand Avoidance	Monday 14th	7.30pm

The SEND Foundation Course

An introduction to SEND and the key issues parents and carers will encounter as their children grow and develop.

Dates: 25th June / 2nd July / 9th July (3-part course) **Wednesdays** **7.30pm-9.30pm**

All training above will be delivered via Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge, for more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

<https://reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com>



www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

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Umbrellas

Parent Support Group Summer Term 2025

**Would you like to connect with
other local parent carers?**

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex, please join us at one of our local support groups or from the comfort of your own home.



Shoreham Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Adur East Family Hub (Shoreham)

3rd Jun / 1st Jul

Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)

7th May / 4th Jun / 2nd Jul

Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Durrington Community Centre

22nd Apr / 13th May / 17th Jun / 15th Jul

Horsham Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Horsham Family Hub

23rd Apr / 21st May / 18th Jun / 16th Jul

Chichester Umbrellas

Thursdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Donnington Parish Hall

24th Apr / 15th May / 26th Jun / 17th Jul

Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

The Cherry Tree Centre

29th Apr / 20th May / 10th Jun / 8th Jul

If you would like more information about our Umbrellas Support Group or would like the link to join Umbrellas online, please contact the outreach team.

Email:

outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Umbrellas Online

Thursdays via Zoom

1st May **7.30 pm - 9 pm**

12th Jun **7.30 pm - 9 pm**

10th Jul **7.30 pm - 9 pm**