

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

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



Week beginning 15th September 2025

Message from Mrs Copus



What a great week we have had in school - children have settled well into their new routines, some clubs have started including roller skating and street dance, regulation stations are up and running with children enjoying a bounce between lessons, Thought-Full have been back in school and we have a lovely, new football pitch on our field!

Church Links

Reflection - Our Christian Value this term is LOVE - we have been thinking about what this means to us in our class worship and the children's contributions are now displayed in a rainbow in our front entrance.



Reflection - Thank you to Mrs Smith who has shared her reflection about LOVE. It is our value for this half term. These reflections are so powerful! Love - you are amazing!





Learning

The term has started so well and children have settled back into their new classrooms beautifully. They have established their routines quickly and are showing great behaviours for learning.

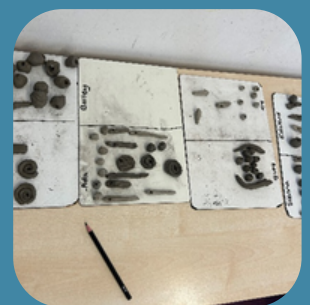


Art

Sierra Leone Class - Sierra Leone class have been looking at African Art as part of learning about their class country.



NZ, SL & USA Class - the children have started their Stone Age topic. Their superstarter is coming up but they have started their theme by designing their Stone Age necklaces and then making beads using clay. They showed great attention to detail.

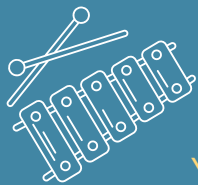


Maths

Four Year 6 pupils went to Christ's Hospital for a Maths Challenge where they competed against other schools. This was a great competition to use and apply their maths skills. Well done to Ella, Beatrice, Peter and Charlie



Learning



Music

Year 3 - The children in Year 3 will be learning to play the Xylophone this half term and started their lessons this week



Year 4 - This term the children will be learning to play the clarinet and they were joined by West Sussex for their first session on Wednesday



Sport

PE - The PE curriculum is in full flow with hockey, tag rugby, swimming and dance just some of the sports taking place in school this week.



Football - there were some very happy children this lunch time as the new 7-a-side football pitch lines were painted on the school field this morning!

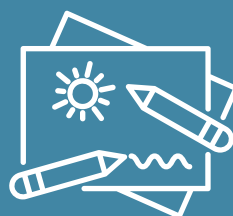




Learning

Early Years

Our new Reception children have settled in and adapted to their new environment very quickly - they've been exploring the key areas of learning, joining us for lunch and making new friends.





News

School Council

Well done to Robin and Lily (UK), Lyra and Harry (Tha), Harry and Eliza (Ita), George and Maddie (Ind), Zach and Emelia (Aus), George and Raphie (NZ), Swaily and Callie (SL), Ada and Ben (USA), Finley and Zara (Chi), Jesse and Mia (Mex), William and Amelie Joy (SA) and Emily and Oscar (Jap) who are all taking on responsibilities for School Council and helping to shape our vision for the school.



Eco Council

Well done to Lagertha (UK), Luke (Tha), Frankie (Ita), Albert (Ind), Oakley (Aus), Orla (NZ), Amelia (SL), Mia (USA), Ruairi and Immy (Chi), Isabella (Mex), Daniel (SA) and Josh/Lincoln (Jap) who are helping to change our school and our world for the better.

House Cup

We are excited to announce the relaunch of the House Cup! Every child in our school is allocated a 'house' when they join and represents their team at Sports Day but now the House Cup will be even more special. From this term, weekly totals will be collected from ClassDojo points earned by each child, with the trophy awarded to the team with the highest tally. To mark this exciting change, the School Council was given the important task of naming our houses. Previously known only by their colours, they will now proudly carry both a colour and a name - bringing even more team spirit and community links to our school! Our new house names are -

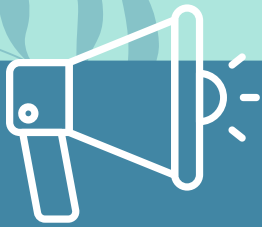


RED - St Matthew

YELLOW - St Michael

BLUE - St Mary

GREEN - St Richard



News

The Weald

Mrs Edwards, Headteacher at The Weald, came along to speak to our Year 6 children about their transition to secondary school and their Open Evening held yesterday evening.



500 Words



The UK's biggest story-writing competition for children aged 5 to 11, opens for entries from Tuesday 23 September until Friday 7 November at 9pm. For further information, you can find out more information by clicking [HERE](#)

SEND Tea & Chat

Parent Tea and Chat at 2pm on Friday 26th September. Come and find out more about EHCP's, ISP (Individual Support Plans, resources and agencies that we work with to support the needs of our pupils)





Things to know...

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.

Sept / Oct cut off dates

Thurs 25/8 for w/c 6/10

Thurs 2/10 for w/c 13/10

Thurs 9/10 for w/c 20/10

Dates for your diary

Wed 24th Sept – Evacuee Day Year 6 (they will need an outfit)

Tues 30th Sept – Meet the Teacher - 3.30pm for EYFS and KS1, 3.45 for KS2 – Please go to your child's classroom and this is an opportunity to find out about plans for the year ahead and ask any questions that you may have.

Tues 30th Sept - Sex & relationship meeting for Y6 parents after 'Meet the Teacher'.

Fri 3rd Oct – Papaya Smartphone Parent chat – please come and find out more about smartphones and learn more about the neuroscience on your child's brain. 9am in the small hall

Fri 3rd Oct – Harvest Eucharist – children to bring a harvest gift to present (tins, dried goods, toiletries, packets - gifts to go to FSW as we support this charity)

Fri 3rd Oct - Harvest Eucharist 9am – Parents are welcome

Sat 4th Oct – Church Fete at the church

Wed 8th Oct – 6 week in meeting for new EYFS parents – main hall

Mon 13th October – Bikeability Y6

Thur 16th Oct – PTA AGM – 3.30pm – Please come along!

Fri 17th Oct – Individual School Photos – full school uniform please

Mon 20th Oct – Flu vaccinations

Tue 21st Oct – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Thur 23rd Oct – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Mon 27th Oct – HALF TERM



Help

We would love to have volunteers in to hear children read. You will need to have a DBS check. If you can help then let the office know and we can arrange this.



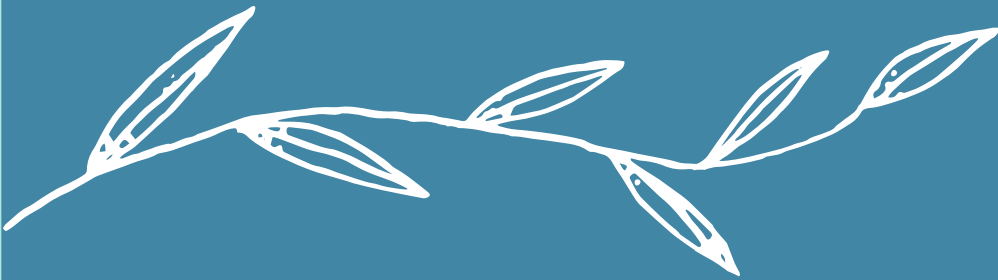


Celebrations



Kindness Shield

Martha G (SL) - You amaze us with your kindness as you offer kindness every day to everyone. You show empathy and sensitivity to everyone that you meet. You always offer a listening ear and are such a kindness ambassador for our school.



Vine Leaves

Rosie (Ita) - **Creativity** - For creating the most wonderful dinosaur puppets! Tom (Ita) - **Perseverance** - For always trying your best with your handwriting and phonics, you never give up! Elena (Ind) - **Friendship** - for being really kind and caring towards a new child in our class. Savannah (SL) - **Humility** - for always looking after the classroom and going out of your way to help others tidy their tables. Victoria (Chi) and Bowie (Chi) - **Creativity** - for creating and sharing a thoughtful drama piece around online relationships. Ruairi (Chi) - **Friendship** - for being a kind and supportive role model to his younger peers. George (Chi) - **Courage** - for settling in really well and making a great start to the year. Nelly (NZ) - **Love** - for describing her new baby brother to the class with such love. Zach (NZ) - **Courage** - for showing such bravery overcoming his fears and moving around the swimming pool independently. Frankie (Ita) - **Courage** - for showing such bravery and helping staff during our recent fire drill



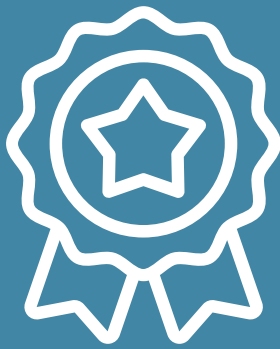
Celebrations

Achievements

Sponsored Walk - We are all super proud of Sierra Leone Class who completed their sponsored walk in aid of their class charity - Education West Africa today.

In total they walked a massive 75km with Mrs Smith - a whopping 3km each in under 35 minutes! Each child received a medal for their efforts

We will let you know how much money we have raised next week.



Freya (Jap) -
performed in a show at
The Capitol in
Horsham with The
Opera Boys

Freddie (China) -
achieved his Stage 8
swimming badge

"LET'S TALK ABOUT KIDS AND THEIR TECH"

FINDING A HEALTHY BALANCE

FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN WITH
OR WITHOUT SMARTPHONES

In this talk, PAPAYA speaker Kate Edgcumbe-Rendle will explore the impact of smartphones and social media on children, and what we can do to delay or limit their exposure.

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

9AM START



**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
PULBOROUGH
RH20 2AN**



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**



CHILDHOOD'S TOO SHORT TO BE SPENT ON A SMARTPHONE



smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/join

This talk will also review some of the mental health problems associated with excessive technology use and how we can achieve a healthier balance with technology for our families. For further information www.papayaparents.com

Find your
local SFC
WhatsApp



Sign the SFC
Parent Pact



We have been alerted to a fraudulent app in the Apple App Store that mimics ParentPay branding.



Security and safeguarding are top priorities at ParentPay Group, and we took swift action to report the app and are working closely with Apple to have it removed.

To date, we have recorded only 2 cases of affected parents.

Please be aware:

- ParentPay **does not have an app available for download from any app stores**
- To use ParentPay, parents should visit <https://www.parentpay.com/> from a mobile phone or computer
- After logging in, parents can save a shortcut onto their phone's home screen

This message is for awareness only, so you can confidently and quickly respond to any parent queries.

Yours sincerely,

ParentPay Group Customer Service Team

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



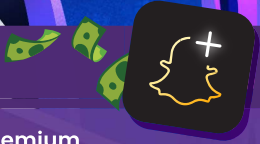
SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



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

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>



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OPEN MORNING WOODVIEW

Tuesday 30th September
10.00 am to 11.30 am

Thursday 9th October
10.00 am to 11.30 am

Welcoming prospective Year 7 to
Year 11 students for September
2026



**Ingfield Manor School,
Ingfield Manor Drive,
Five Oaks,
West Sussex,
RH14 9AX**



Our Woodview provision
supports secondary-aged young
people with speech, language,
and communication challenges.

Please contact Kirsty Thompson
if you would like to attend.

What to expect:

- ✓ Brief introduction to Woodview
- ✓ Tour of our picturesque grounds and facilities
- ✓ Staff Q&A session
- ✓ Light refreshments included

 **01403 782294**

 **Kirsty.Thompson@ambitoeducation.co.uk**