

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

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



Week beginning 22nd September 2025

## Message from Mrs Copus



What a busy week in school - from trips out around the village for Evacuee Day to Forest School sessions and sporting events at The Weald, there has been lots going on for us all. Thank you to everyone who attended the SEND Tea & Chat with Mrs Hatcher this afternoon - we very much appreciate you taking the time to work with us to provide the best possible outcomes for all of our children.

## Church Links

As part of our Living and Learning, SPLASH came to talk to us about Harvest and being grateful. Nick had bought raisins from the shop and he wasn't clear about where these came from. Eventually Lois reminded Nick about the farmers. The children made the word HARVEST and came up with other words such as EARTH, SHARE, HEART, SAVE. The children then unrolled the scripture verse 'Do not forget to do good and to share with others.' Hebrews 13:16. We sang together and used this as our prayer. The children loved being involved in our worship and celebrating together. This is ready for our Harvest Eucharist and giving to FSW with our gifts



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 - the language of love!





# Learning

## Art



**Mexico Class** - Well done to Mexico class for their learning on Peter Thorpe. It is great to see their use of colour, texture and use of lines to create different effects.



## Topic



**Year 6 - WWII - Evacuee Day** - As part of our World War 2 topic, the Year 6 children took part in Evacuee Day on Wednesday, to experience what it might have felt like to be an evacuee in 1940. We visited the station, where the children considered the emotions they would have felt if they had been travelling away from their homes to be evacuated to the countryside, leaving their families behind. We then walked on to the pillbox and learnt about its important role as a defensive structure against sea invasion. Finally, we visited the WW1 and WW2 war graves in the churchyard and reflected on the service and sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces.

A huge thank you to all the helpers who kindly gave up their morning to accompany us on our walk.







# Sport



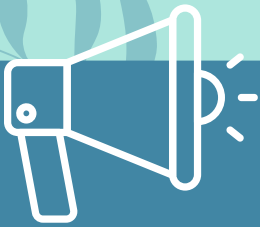
## Swimming Gala

Our swimming team were out showing off their skills this week. They participated in a variety of races and kept gaining second place medals. The team were so supportive of each other and thank you to Mrs Gowland for getting the children ready and prepared!



## Talented Athletes

Year 5 and Year 6 talented athletes were at The Weald with other children from The Weald locality participating in Netball, Basketball, Tag Rugby and Football. It was great to see the pride and motivation that the children had.



## News

### Fairtrade Fortnight



Fairtrade Fortnight launch - Miss Turner and South Africa Class led this morning's whole school worship to introduce Fairtrade Fortnight. They described the aims of Fairtrade and the important work done by this organisation to ensure that all those involved in the supply chain, particularly the farmers, are treated fairly.

The rest of the school were invited to take part in a Fairtrade quiz and a tea tasting challenge, linked to this year's theme of 'Brew it Fair.' The tea was delivered by none other than Mrs Copus, wearing her brilliant banana costume!

Finally, we shared the Bible story of Joseph and reflected on how he took responsibility for keeping his family and the people of Egypt safe during seven years of devastating famine. The children were encouraged to think about what actions they can take to ensure the farmers in developing countries receive a fair price for their work.

### Prefects

Following a staff vote, our Year 6 prefects have started taking responsibility for various aspects of the school improvement plan. The following positions have been allocated today -

Head Boy - Peter

Head Girl - Beatrice

Deputy Head Boys - Arlo and Milo

Deputy Head Girls - Ella S and Daisy

Senior Prefects - Ella C, Charlie S, Victoria and Ayden

Prefects - Freya, Oscar, Jessilyn, William and Finnley

House Captains - St Mary - Max and Lucy,

St Matthew - Jacob and Anthony,

St Richard - Jayden and Charlie H,

St Michael - Louis and Poppy

Worship - Amelie-Joy and Lucas



## 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.

#### Oct cut off dates

**Thurs 2/10 for w/c 13/10**

**Thurs 9/10 for w/c 20/10**

**Thurs 23/10 for w/c 3/11**

### Dates for your diary

**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

## House Cup

Today saw the inaugural House Cup winners announced. The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Mary's (Blue Team)! It was proudly collected by our newly elected House Captains







# Celebrations



## Vine Leaves

Peri (Aus) - **Courage** - For being really brave after a fall and continuing on all day, doing all his learning. Alicia (SA) - **Perseverance** - For trying so hard in learning to read Braille. Hattie and Marnie (Tha) - **Wisdom** - For taking skills learned during maths mastery and using them to play games independently later in the day. Molly P (Ita) - **Kindness** - For scooping up a friend in need of some support. Georgie (Ita) - **Perseverance** - For being so determined to be a successful fire lighter at Forest School! Jacob (Ita) - **Friendship** - For sharing with others and being an excellent friend. Oakley S (Ita) - **Courage** - For being incredibly resilient and courageous after a tricky incident on the way to school. Lilly-Rae (Mex) - **Friendship** - For being kind towards another child who needed support. Josh D (Mex) - **Perseverance** - For getting all of his spellings correct. Harper-Grace (Thai) - **Kindness** - For showing kindness to others and always willing to help adults. Grace (Thai) - **Friendship** - for inviting others to play in her games. Archie D (Thai) - **Perseverance** - For showing great perseverance in his learning. Lillian (Ind) - **Creativity** - For creating a fantastic drawing of a dinosaur eye. Nancy D (SL) - **Kindness** - For welcoming a child into our class and making them feel part of the Sierra Leone class team. Jaxon M (Ind) - **Kindness** - for being exceptionally kind to a little girl who was upset. He showed real care and empathy. Thank you Jaxon. Zara B (Chi) - **Kindness** - for helping a friend in need during our clarinet lesson. Bowie W-V (Chi) - **Wisdom** - for writing an excellent narrative on the back of a wordsearch at swimming!

## Sponsored Walk

We are thrilled to announce that Sierra Leone Class raised a phenomenal £357.00 for Education West Africa during their sponsored walk last week - we are incredibly grateful for of the support, thank you.



## Admissions – key dates

### Monday 6 October 2025

#### Online applications open.

You must provide an email address to apply. You can apply online for your child's school place by visiting [westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](https://westsussex.gov.uk/admissions).

Schools will have their prospectuses available and will have arranged open events.

### Thursday 15 January 2026

#### National closing date for starting school applications.

You must submit your completed application by this date. Failure to do so will affect the priority attached to your application.

### Thursday 16 April 2026

#### National offer day.

Applicants will be notified which school their child is offered by email, where an email address is supplied.

## Making an online application

To make an application using the online system you will need:

- an email address; and
- create an account on Parent Portal if you do not already have an account.

Your Username will be your email address.

Your password must adhere to the following rules. It must:

- be at least 8 characters long;
- have at least one character that is UPPERCASE;
- have at least one character that is lowercase;
- have at least one special character (such as: \* ! \$); and
- have at least one number.

To apply for a school place please visit [westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](https://westsussex.gov.uk/admissions) or call **03330 142 903**.

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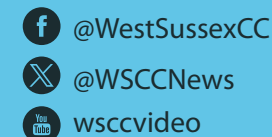
## Starting school in September 2026

Deadline:

**Thursday 15 January 2026**



Stay in touch





## How to apply

If your child's date of birth is between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 it is now time to apply for their school place. You need to apply online by visiting **[westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](https://westsussex.gov.uk/admissions)**

Please be aware that the email address which you provide will be shared with your preference schools and allocated school, as parents and schools increasingly communicate electronically.

If you do not have access to the internet, free access to apply for a school place is available in all West Sussex libraries.

The website provides information needed for completing your application, including details of all the schools in West Sussex, your catchment school, if applicable, and important information for parents. Please read it carefully before making your application.

There are some benefits to applying online and we strongly advise all parents to do so. However, if you really can't access the internet you can obtain a paper form by calling **03330 142 903**.

Please note, you must provide a valid email address with your application in order to receive the outcome of your school offer.

## You must apply on time

It is very important that you apply before the closing date of **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

If your application is received after the closing date of **Thursday 15 January 2026** your chance of securing a place at one of your preference schools could be seriously affected.

Applications received after the closing date of **Thursday 15 January 2026** are late applications and will only be considered after all those that were received on time.

It is your responsibility as a parent to ensure that your application is received by the Pupil Admission Team on time.



## Your preferences

We advise all parents to think very carefully about their three preferences and to use them wisely.

School places are allocated according to the published oversubscription criteria for that school. This can include criteria such as whether you live in the catchment area, whether there are siblings already at the school and the distance you live from the school.

Please be realistic in your preferences. You have a higher priority for local schools. If you chose an oversubscribed school, the further away you live the less likely you are to be offered a place.

Please note that personal circumstances, such as child care arrangements, are not part of the oversubscription criteria for any school and will not be taken into consideration.

Finally, we always advise parents to include their catchment school, if applicable, as one of their three preferences.

Apply online at:

**[westsussex.gov.uk/  
admissions](https://westsussex.gov.uk/admissions)**



# The 7 **SUPERPOWERS** of smartphone-free kids

## 01. More time

Based on UK kids' average usage, they could get over 35 hours a week back to use in the real world.



## 02. More freedom

More space to grow into themselves – without pressure from likes, trends, or group chats.



## 03. Real social skills

They build confidence and vital skills by talking, listening, and laughing together – face to face.



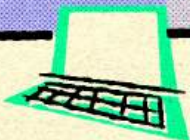
## 04. Better mental health

Less time scrolling means less anxiety, fewer comparisons, and more joy in the everyday.



## 05. Digital resilience

They learn to use tech intentionally – creating, thinking, questioning, not just scrolling endlessly.



## 06. Focused learning

Without constant distractions kids can focus, think clearly and get in the zone – in and out of school.



## 07. Proper sleep

No late-night scrolling means deeper rest, brighter moods, and a brain ready for tomorrow.



Join hundreds of thousands of families delaying smartphones and social media – together.



**SMARTPHONE  
FREE CHILDHOOD**



# Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement bringing families together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.



Smartphones were never designed with kids in mind – but they've reshaped childhood faster than any technology in history.

Many families wish there was another way, but delaying smartphones when all your children's friends have them, can feel impossible.

That's why Smartphone Free Childhood exists. We help families delay smartphones and social media together – building community, sharing support, and changing culture.

## How you can get involved



### Sign the Pact

Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay



### Join on WhatsApp

Connect with like minded local parents for solidarity & support



### Build local momentum

Become an SFC School Organiser and start creating local change



**SMARTPHONE  
FREE CHILDHOOD**

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