

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

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



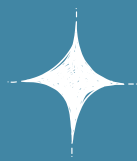
Week beginning 6th October 2025

Message from Mrs Copus



We loved having Simon Fox in school this week as a visiting author and it was great to feel the buzz from the children about his books. It would be great to encourage your child/ren to pick up a book this weekend and try something new! Add this in your reading logs so I can see it next week.

Living Church Links

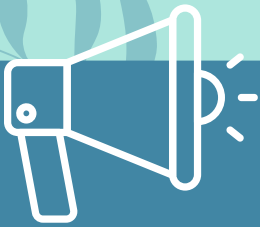


Reflection - Thank you to Mrs Smith who has shared her reflection about LOVE. It is our value for this half term. These reflections are so powerful! Love and Harvest.

Mrs Smith has also shared a link to the song that both our and the church choir sang together during our recent Harvest Eucharist - Look at the World by John Rutter. You can find it [HERE](#)

Harvest Fayre - At St Mary's church last weekend was a harvest fayre. The PTA ran the bottle and chocolate tombola





News

Staffing

Mrs Smith will be leaving us at the end of November as she is relocating to the north of the country to be closer to her family. We are so grateful for the service that Mrs Smith has given to the children, parents and staff and the Kingfishers Club.

We are currently recruiting for a new Learning Mentor and we will let you know once we have made an appointment

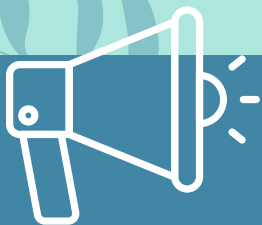
Safeguarding

There are five Designated Safeguarding Leads on our school staff. Mrs Copus, Mrs Hatcher, Miss Turner, Mrs McTiffen and Miss Sleat. You can chat to us at any time if you have a safeguarding concern or we can be contacted through the school office on office@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

World Mental Health Day

Today is World Mental Health Day and it was lovely to see lots of our children and staff wear something yellow alongside their uniform to raise awareness





News

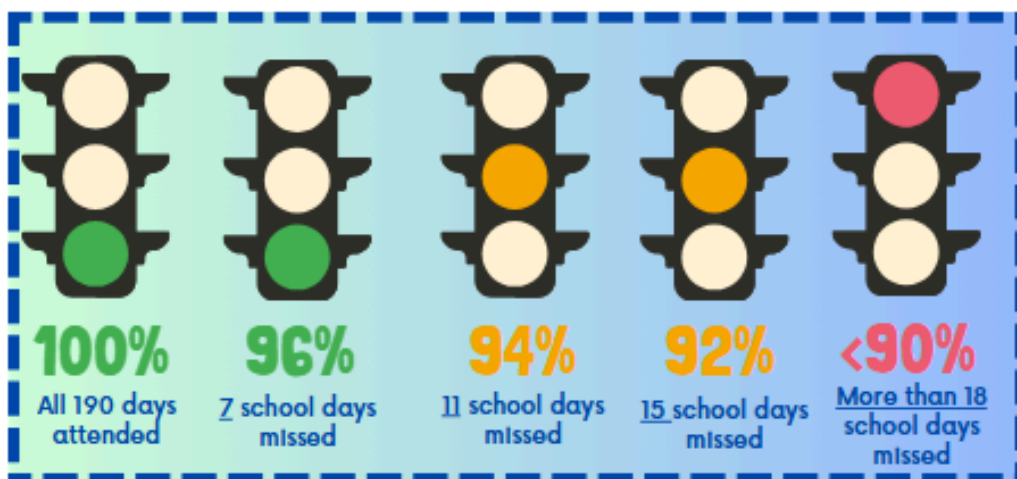
Attendance

This term we are focussing on attendance – it is so important to set up good habits and get the children in to school as much as possible. We don't want any gaps in their learning. We will be contacting families who are classed as persistently absent and asking for a meeting

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



We know that there is a link between good attendance in school and children who thrive socially, emotionally and academically.



Good attendance and punctuality allows children to develop friendships, teamwork and communication skills that are important for their future success. Missing school frequently can lead to learning gaps, lower academic performance and difficulty keeping up with peers.

Every Minute Counts	
Minutes late each day	Missed learning time (per year)
5	3 days
10	6.5 days
15	10 days
20	12 days
30	19 days

Our attendance target is **97%**. This week's attendance was **95.4%**



Curriculum

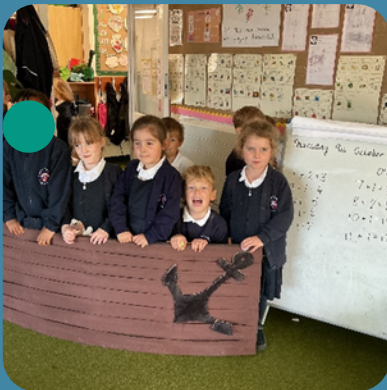
Learning

Maths

Italy Class - On Monday, we looked at the language of 'part' and 'whole' by playing games in the hall. We supported this understanding further through use of stem sentences, e.g. '5 is the whole, 2 is a part and 3 is a part.'



English / Maths



Italy Class - Today, we read 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. We represented this ourselves by physically getting into and out of the boat. Each time we added to the boat, we represented this through a 'first, then, now' sentence and also wrote the formal calculation itself.

Early Years

UK Class - Early Years are really developing their number facts and linking autumnal objects to digit cards.





✦ Curriculum ✦

Art

ChinaClass - China have been working very hard over the past couple of weeks to create rocket artwork inspired by Peter Thorpe. First we practiced each element in isolation in our sketchbooks:

- cardboard flicking for stars
- sponge dabbing for supernovas
- chalk pastel blending for planets
- detailed sketches of rockets

We then created our final pieces- the children are very proud of themselves!



Simon Fox - Author

KS2 - Simon Fox, author of *Avalanche* came to talk to the children about being an author, he talked about the other books that he has written. He talked about how to write and really inspired a lot of our children. Thank you to Steyning Bookshop for setting up this visit and inspiring the children with reading.



Top 10 Readers

Congratulation to Emily P, Bea G, Peter S, Ella C, Jessilyn N, Isabella C, Ella S, Freddie N, Matilda L, Ross H on being our top ten readers in the school.



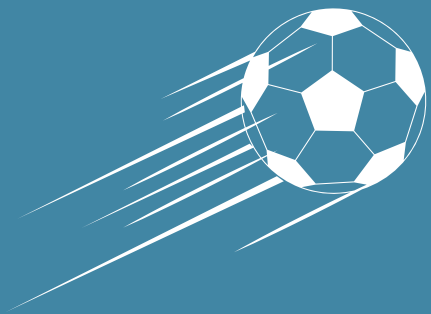
Sport



Football

The Year 4 football team travelled to Tanbridge House on a wet and cloudy Friday afternoon for the first round of matches in the Horsham District Primary Schools Cup. They got off to the perfect start with a dominant display in their first match against Shelley, running out 3-0 winners with Ryan netting an excellent hat-trick. A much tougher opponent in Steyning followed and the team defended heroically with Arlo pulling off a number of great saves to keep the scoreline at 0-0 and earn them a point. That was followed by their final game against Leechpool, who took an early lead and despite an incredible free-kick from Ryan which was brilliantly saved by their keeper, the team just couldn't find a way through their opponent's defence and went down to their only defeat of the evening.

An excellent start to the league campaign and the team are looking forward to returning on 17th October for the conclusion. Well done to the whole squad - Ryan (c), James, Zara, Horatio, Roman, Arlo, Stephan and Edward.



Swimming

We are still soaking up the Autumn sunshine and making the most of our swimming pool. It's so important that our children get every opportunity to enjoy the water, stay active and build confidence in their swimming. These golden autumn days are perfect for it, and they loved every minute.





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.

Nov cut off dates

Thurs 23/10 for w/c 3/11

Thurs 30/10 for w/c 10/11

Thurs 6/11 for w/c 17/11

Dates for your diary

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

Mon 3rd Nov – INSET DAY

Tue 4th Nov – Greek Day in Mex and China class

Mon 10th Nov – Antibullying week

Mon 10th Nov – Uniform Sale 3.15 – 3.45pm

Tue 11th Nov – School Remembrance Service

Tue 18th Nov – Open morning 9.30 – 11am for new parents 2026

Fri 28th Nov – Advent Eucharist

Wed 10th Dec – Australia, Italy and India Christmas Production 2pm and 5pm

Thur 11th Dec – Production 5pm

Tue 16th Dec – UK and Thailand Production 2pm and 5pm

Wed 17th Dec – School Disco 5 – 6pm and 6.15pm -7.30pm

Thur 18th Dec – Pantomime in school – Aladdin

Fri 19th Dec – Last day of term – Christmas Eucharist (wear Christmas jumpers for all with school uniform)



PTA

We are looking for a volunteer who would be willing and able to manage the floats for events and ensure all the money gets collected. If you think this is you please email pta@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk



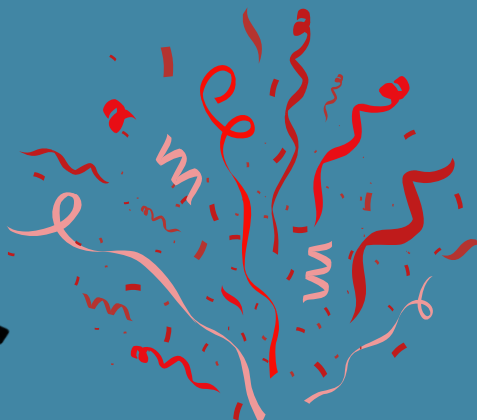
Celebrations

Loving

House Cup

The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Matthew's (Red Team). The cup will be awarded in Monday's assembly.

Dojo's can be awarded for reading at home, kindness, politeness, upholding our school values, supporting our Christian ethos and extra curricular contributions to our school.





Celebrations

Vine Leaves

Addie (Aus) - Perseverance & Resilience - for consistently trying your hardest in all of your learning all week. Even if you struggle, you never give in. You are growing more confident and resilient in your learning. **Peri and Zachary (Aus) - Friendship** - for showing true friendship to a child in class and being kind and inclusive at playtimes. **Zara K (USA) - Kindness & Love** - for always looking out for others and offering help. **Hettie, Immie and Zara B - Service** - for joining in with the hymns and prayers at church so beautifully at the Harvest Service in church on Sunday. **George B, Amelia and Bowie (Ind) - Service & Kindness** - for clearing up the reading books in the shared area and tidying up the cloakrooms. **Stephan, Andrew, Macie and Sid (USA) - Perseverance** - for producing an informative and interesting leaflet in RHE. **Arlo H (USA) - Friendship** - for offering the position of goalkeeper to another member of the football team. **Vinnie (Mex) - Wisdom** - for demonstrating such a mature attitude in our recent RHE lesson and helping others. **Dilan D (Mex) - Perseverance** - for working so hard to complete a science fiction narrative after being away for a week. **Tommy M (Chi) - Service** - for being kind and polite and trying his best every day - it does not go unnoticed! **Leah S (Chi) and Hettie (Chi) - Wisdom** - for writing beautiful, descriptive, science fiction narratives. **Rupert (Chi) - Perseverance** - for making excellent strides in his reading this week. **Tommy (SA) - Helpfulness** - for your knowledge and hard work assisting Mr Hubbard with a job in the classroom this week. **Amelie-Joy (SA) - Perseverance** - you have worked with tremendous focus and determination on your evacuee diary writing. **Ella C (SA) - Creativity** - for your poem written from the perspective of a WW2 soldier, it was outstanding.

Celebration Assemblies

These will be at 9am for this term and it is so valuable for parents to share the learning that has been going on.

NZ - 15th October **India** - 16th October

Mexico - 23rd October **SL** - 6th November

Italy - 13th November **Australia** - 19th November

USA - 20th November **Japan** - 27th November

SA - 4th December **China** - 11th December



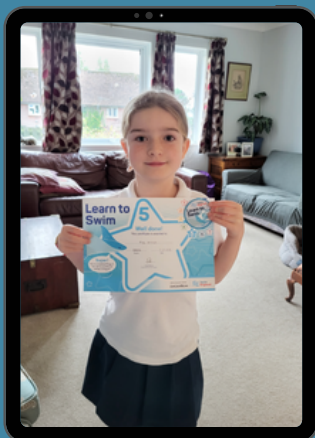
Celebrations

Kindness Shield

Arlo S (Japan) - You are such a kind and considerate young man who always stops to listen to others. You show kindness, consideration and empathy to all around you. This is why you are so well liked and have so many friends. Keep being you!



Achievements



Ava (USA) - completed
Stage 5 at swimming



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

Umbrellas

Parent Support Group Autumn 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.



EMPOWER

INFORM

SUPPORT

Shoreham Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Adur East Family Hub (Shoreham)

9th Sep / 7th Oct / 4th Nov / 2nd Dec

Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)

10th Sep / 8th Oct / 5th Nov / 3rd Dec

Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Durrington Community Centre

16th Sep / 14th Oct / 11th Nov / 9th Dec

Horsham Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Horsham Family Hub

17th Sep / 15th Oct / 19th Nov / 17th Dec

Chichester Umbrellas

Thursdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Donnington Parish Hall

25th Sep / 23rd Oct / 20th Nov / 11th Dec

Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

The Cherry Tree Centre

23rd Sep / 21st Oct / 25th Nov / 16th Dec

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

11th Sep

7.30 pm - 9 pm

9th Oct

7.30 pm - 9 pm

6th Nov

7.30 pm - 9 pm

4th Dec

7.30 pm - 9 pm

Autumn Deals at The Anchorage Care Home



Get the first 2 weeks of your
stay for FREE if you book
before **17th October!**

Terms and Conditions apply

Call today to book your stay
01277 886 299

The Anchorage Care Home
Pulborough RH20 1AG