

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

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



Week beginning 13th October 2025

Message from Mrs Copus



Next week is our last full week before the half term break. Thank you to everyone for your perseverance and resilience in the last few weeks, the quality of teaching and learning has been great to see. Enjoy the half term break when we get there and enjoy creating memories and moments.

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 - telling each other why

Worship - We looked at the four seasons and we were able to talk about colours associated with autumn. We discussed our feelings and emotions and how these can be the same as the seasons. We linked being happy to something in the Bible like Jesus rising from the dead and we linked being sad with the death of Jesus on the cross.





Curriculum



Science

China Class - the children cut and scraped Oreo's to show the different phases of the moon across a lunar month - they had a lot of fun while learning! Who doesn't love a biscuit in Science!



Learning



Art

Early Years - the children have been experimenting with autumn colours this week and using different fruit and vegetables to create different textures. Which one do you think created the best texture?

Black History Month

The Year 6 children have been learning about Black History Month and doing a range of activities. We are looking forward to seeing their artwork next week where they use Pop Art on these historical figures.





Curriculum

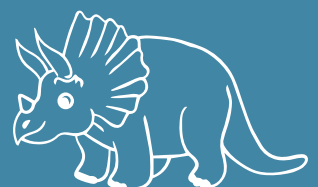
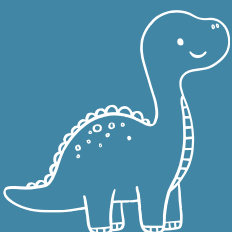
Forest School

Italy Class had a great time doing dinosaur themed activities at Forest School this week!



Dinosaur Day

Italy, India and Australia Class - there were footprints in school when we arrived on Wednesday morning, giant dinosaur footprints and the children were ready for a Dinosaur Day that involved being a palaeontologist, solving mysteries and learning all about Dinosaurs. We saw some fantastic costumes so thank you to everyone for further deepening the children's learning.





Sport



Football

Some of our Year 6 boys traveled to Tanbridge House School for the second round of the Horsham Area Schools League on Friday.

The boys were in a tough 'Large Schools' group but defended well throughout and saw some great saves in goal after numerous attacks on our goal.

The first game against Heron Way ended in a well-earned 0-0 draw. Next the boys faced a strong

Kingslea team and battled hard, eventually succumbing to a 1-0 defeat. However, this was quickly followed by a 1-0 win against Greenway

Academy with a last minute goal by Charlie. The final game of the tournament was a very evenly matched affair and ended in a 0-0 draw.

The team finished a very respectable 5th place overall and they can be very proud of their teamwork and perseverance.



Bikeability

Year 6 have been learning about the rules of the road this week with Bikeability. They grew in confidence as the week has gone on and understood more about being a responsible cyclist. The instructors were so impressed with our children and commented on how well they listened and followed instructions.



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 30/10 for w/c 10/11

Thurs 6/11 for w/c 17/11

Thurs 13/11 for w/c 24/11

Dates for your diary

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



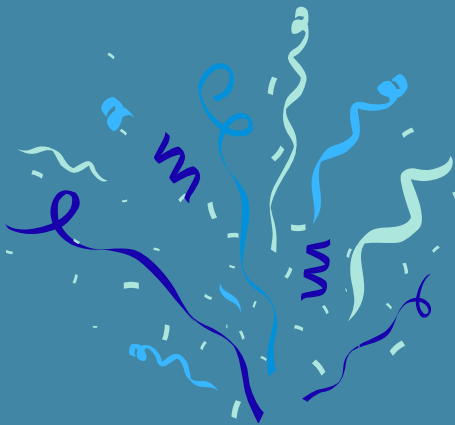
Celebrations

Loving

House Cup

The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Mary's (Blue Team)...but it was so close this week! 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

Daisy RL (India) - Friendship - for kindly lending her spare dinosaur outfit to another child. Jayden (SA) - Friendship and Kindness - for being so kind and encouraging to a much younger child and for being a really positive role model.

Dino (Chi) - Wisdom - for insightful contributions in class discussion.

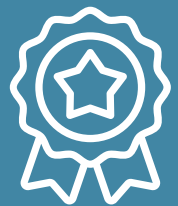
Louisiana (Chi) - Perseverance - for trying her very best in maths and seeing improvement. Keeyan (Chi) - Service - for making a conscious effort to have an excellent week of learning and kindness. Leo (SL) - Perseverance - for trying his best in all of his work this week and really engaging with the learning.

Erik (Ind) - Kindness & Friendship - for being so kind to a younger child who is learning school routines Roman (SL) and Sid (SL) - Perseverance - for working really well and completing lots of activities in their maths books. Jaxon (Ind) - Perseverance and Courage - for joining in beautifully with class assembly. Ralph D (NZ) - Compassion - for looking after a child that was hurt. Maryanne (Jap) - Perseverance - for trying her best at all times to fill in her reading log book.

Achievements



Rio (India) - completed
Stage 2 at swimming
this week



Celebration Assemblies

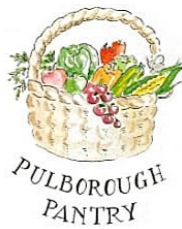
These will be at 9am for this term and it is so valuable for parents to share the learning that has been going on.

Mexico – 23rd October SL – 6th November

Italy – 13th November Australia – 19th November

USA – 20th November Japan – 27th November

SA – 4th December China – 11th December



PULBOROUGH PANTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join Our Team!



Help Us To:

- Reduce Food Waste
- Support Our Community
- Build The Team

We Need Help With :

- Monday Evening Collections
- Thursday Morning Collection
- Sunday Afternoon Collection
- Sunday Afternoon running of the Pantry



Volunteers Needed

Monday Evenings
4pm until 6pm
to run the Pulborough Foodbank



If you can spare any time to support us,
please contact: pulboroughpantry@gmail.com



Pulborough Pantry



www.pdcca.org.uk

POP-UP

IN THE PARK SPORTS EDITION

NEEDLES
RECREATION GROUND

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER
10.00AM - 12.00PM

Head outside this half term for a free morning of sports and garden games.



FREE EVENT - SIMPLY POP ALONG

PLEASE BE AWARE IN THE CASE OF RAIN THIS EVENT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.

20% off

Everything In-store & Online!

Including clearance

From 27th October to 9th November

Use Code: **SAVE20 at checkout.**

monkhouse.com

Please note: Excludes Clubs (Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies & Rainbows).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.

See full reference list on our website