

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

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



Week beginning 20th October 2025

Message from Mrs Copus

A fantastic half term for everyone and we have been blessed to have good weather to continue PE, swimming, Forest Schools and other learning. We have been lucky enough to have experts in school such as authors, paleontologists, Bikeability to name a few and learning is taking place in every class as the class assemblies, meet the teacher and parents evenings have all shown. We have a lot to be grateful for and most of all we are grateful for the staff here that give so much to ensure that children are flourishing – thank you to them all for their efforts. When we return on Tuesday 4th November, we would be grateful if parents drop the children off at the gates so that learning can start promptly in classes - any messages should be conveyed to the school office or me on the gate.



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 - Week 7





News

Staffing



Mr Coomber will be leaving us at Christmas. Mr Coomber has been at St Mary's for nearly ten years and we will be sorry to see him go as he has given so much to us all but especially to Year 5, PE and we will miss his great sense of humour! We will let you know once an appointment has been made.



Communication

To help keep communication clear and professional, we kindly ask that all parents / carers contact staff through official school channels only (such as class email or the school office). Using personal or informal methods of contact can blur the lines of communication and may create uncomfortable situations for both staff and families. Thank you for helping us maintain respectful and effective communication between home and school.

Parking



A reminder please to be mindful of our neighbours of the school. Cars should not be parked on any zig-zag lines, on grass verges or over someones driveway at any time. Parking is available thanks to the Sports & Social Club at the end of the recreation ground.



Remembrance

The Remembrance service is at church on Sunday 8th November. There is a procession from the Lower Street car park, if any of our children would like to join in with their parents in their school uniform they are very welcome. Poppies are on sale at the end of the school day on the playground.

In addition, if children belong to a uniformed group (i.e Rainbows, Brownies, Squirrels, Cubs etc) and would like to come to school in their uniform on Tuesday 11th November then they are welcome to.



News

PTA - Tea Towels

Please see the email sent from the PTA regarding the brilliant tea towels the children have designed in KS1 and KS2 and get your orders in before the upcoming deadline.



Wellbeing Warriors

Our Wellbeing Warriors would love to set the school a Half-Term Challenge to GET ACTIVE! Being active really helps positive mental health. It helps you sleep better, have happier moods, and reduce feelings of stress, anxiety and racing thoughts. This does not have to mean running marathons or training every day at the gym. There are lots of different things you can do to get active and here are a few ideas that our Wellbeing Warriors have come up with:

Play sports – football, tennis, cricket... there is a • long list! - Go bowling
Play on a trampoline - Go for a walk - Go to the park - Spend time in the garden

Walk the dog (if you have one) - Ride your bike / scooter / skateboard / roller blades - Lift some weights (or tins of beans!) - Follow an exercise video on the internet - Do some stretches when you get out of bed - Make a den in the woods - Dance along to your favourite music

It would be great if you could send a picture of you being active during the holidays to vsmith@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk so we can celebrate what an active school we are!

Brass Lessons



West Sussex Music - Hello, I am Charlotte Barton, the new brass tutor with WSM. As you possibly know, I was in school last week for an assembly during which I demonstrated Trumpet and talked about the opportunity for pupils to have trumpet and other brass instrument lessons with me. I attach the WSM flyer which has further details and if you are interested, please contact the school office.



News



Spirituality

This week the Governors started thinking about spirituality. Below are some thoughts that the teachers will be sharing with the children in developing their spiritual awareness:

- **Be a Role Model:** Your own spiritual practices and beliefs can influence your children, so model the behaviours and values you want them to embrace.
- **Open Dialogue:** Encourage open and non-judgmental conversations about spirituality, allowing your children to ask questions and express their thoughts and feelings.
- **Explore Different Beliefs:** Introduce your children to a variety of spiritual and religious traditions, helping them understand the diversity of human beliefs and values.
- **Nature and Mindfulness:** Spend time in nature with your children, teaching them to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Practice mindfulness together to develop a sense of presence and inner calm.
- **Read Spiritual and Moral Stories:** Share age-appropriate books and stories that convey moral lessons, values, and spiritual themes.
- **Family Rituals:** Establish family rituals that connect to your spiritual or cultural traditions, such as prayers, blessings, or ceremonies. Make these rituals meaningful and participatory for your children.
- **Encourage Self-Reflection:** Help your children develop the habit of self-reflection and journaling. Encourage them to think about their values, beliefs, and the meaning of life.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Teach your children about the importance of compassion and kindness by engaging in acts of service, such as volunteering together or helping those in need.
- **Encourage Questions:** Welcome and explore your children's questions about spirituality. Help them seek answers and develop their own understanding.
- **Mind-Body Practices:** Introduce practices like yoga, meditation, or tai chi to help your children connect with their inner selves and develop a sense of inner peace and balance.





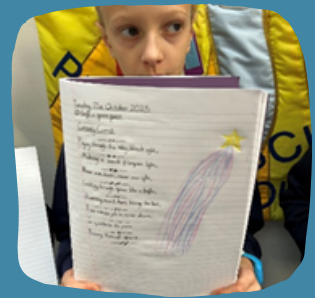
Curriculum

Learning



Poetry

Year 5 have been composing poetry based on their space theme. Vinnie, Eadie and Isabella were so keen to show their examples. The language choices and the compositions are fantastic.



Art

Thailand Class - this week, the children have been exploring the amazing work of artist Yayoi Kusama, known for her bold and beautiful use of dots. The children were inspired to create their own Kusama-style masterpieces and the results are absolutely stunning.

Take a look at their wonderful artwork below such creativity and imagination on display!

Year 6 -As part of our Black History Month celebrations, the children in Year 6 have been learning about influential figures throughout history. Inspired by the Pop Art movement, they created vibrant portraits to celebrate these individuals. Their work reminds us that the colour of a person's skin is not what defines them, it's their character, actions, and contributions that truly matter.





✧ Curriculum ✧



Writing

Stephan (USA) and Annabelle (Aus) have been inspired to write their own books after some other children starting writing books. This will always be encouraged and they should be so proud of their first editions.



Phonics

The repetition of Phonics is very important in the early stages of reading and there are lots of visual and physical ways to learn this and manipulate sounds as our children have been finding out.



Class Assembly



Mexico Class - Well done to Mexico Class for reaching for the moon! You amazed us all with your fantastic assembly, sharing everything you've learned about space, the planets, and the moon. Your artwork and writing were out of this world! A huge well done for your very first assembly in Year 5, what a brilliant start!



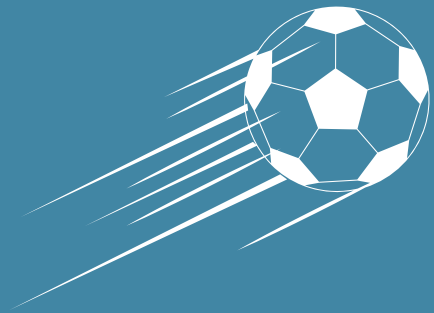
Sport



Football

The Year 4 football team travelled to Tanbridge House on Friday for the conclusion of the Horsham Area Primary Schools League.

The team got off to the perfect start with an excellent 1-0 win over eventual champions Southwater with Ryan netting the winner and his first of the afternoon. A hard fought 0-0 draw against Heron Way followed before a 3-0 win over Greenway. Ryan was on target again and Edward and Arlo also scored their first goals for the school.



The team took an early lead in their final game against Kingslea with Arlo netting his second of the afternoon after a superb long ball from Ryan. What followed was an incredible defensive display to keep the Kingslea strikers at bay. Edward, Roman, Ben, Zara, Ryan and Stephan absorbed all of the pressure that came their way. In the final minute when a Kingslea striker finally managed to breach the St Mary's wall, James pulled off an incredible save, reminiscent of Gordon Banks against Pele in 1970, to ensure the game ended 1-0.

A fantastic achievement to finish runners up in a tough league with 4 wins, 2 draws, 1 defeat and only 1 goal conceded. The team should be enormously proud of their achievement. Well done to the whole squad - Ryan (c), Ben, Stephan, Arlo, Edward, Zara, Roman and James.





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 6/11 for w/c 17/11

Thurs 13/11 for w/c 24/11

Thurs 20/11 for w/c 1/12

Dates for your diary

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

Sat 15th Nov – PTA Bingo night

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 Michael's (Yellow Team)...it gets closer every week! We will present the cup at the beginning of next half term.

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

Josh D (Mex) - Kindness & Service - for being so kind and helpful at Roosters Skyla (Jap) - Perseverance - for trying so hard in Maths. She can now systematically find common factors. Charlie S (Jap) - Service - for showing pride in his work by presenting each piece beautifully. He gives all of his learning 100% effort. Amelia (SL) - Friendship - for taking responsibility to mend friendships and show reconciliation after a disagreement. Teagan (USA) - Perseverance - for beautiful presentation in her homework. Ava (USA) - Kindness and Service - for being helpful in our class clarinet lessons, always happy to help others. She has become the class expert. Ivy (Aus) - Perseverance - for her resilience in maths. She has improved so much and her constant enthusiasm is showing. Teddy (Aus) - Compassion & Friendship - for being a good friend to several class mates this week; Teddy has been on hand to offer kindness and caring and, of course, his wonderful smile. Milo (SA) - Service and Kindness - for always being polite and appreciative. Orla B (NZ) - Compassion - for offering another child her cardigan when they were cold Rory (Ita) - Courage and Kindness - for being so resilient and always bringing joy and smiles to our faces Mason (Chi) - Perseverance - for making such an effort to improve his handwriting. Tilly (Chi) - Wisdom and Creativity - for creating a beautiful piece of space poetry, full of figurative language. Minnie (Chi) - Wisdom - for making excellent progress in her arithmetic. Jaxon (Ind) - Perseverance and Resilience - for really trying with everything that you do and not giving up!

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.

SL - 6th November

Italy - 13th November Australia - 19th November

USA - 20th November Japan - 27th November

SA - 4th December China - 11th December



Celebrations

Achievements



Ada (USA) - completed Stage 6 at swimming and won a trophy at a dance competition



Daisy (Jap) - competed with her horse Timmy in their first competition this week



Daisy (Ind) - completed Stage 3 at swimming



Archie P (SA) - awarded 'Coaches Player' for Billingshurst FC on Saturday & 'Man of the Match' for Pulborough FC on Sunday!



Congratulations to George H, Monty, Vince, Winnie, Ralph, George B, George N and Zac at Pulborough U8's for winning 6-0 on Sunday!





PLAY

an instrument

Let music change your life



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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Andrew Griffith MP's Christmas Card Competition



Andrew Griffith is inviting children under 12
to send their designs to
andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk with a
closing date of Thursday 13th November

Scan this code to find out
more

The winning card will be sent to more than
1,000 people, with prizes for the winner and
runner up!

