

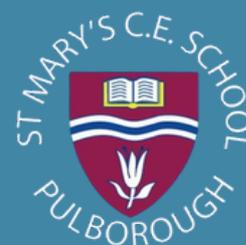
ST MARY'S C OF E (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 17th November 2025

Message from Mrs Copus



It was lovely to see a fluttering of snow this week and the children and staff were excited to head outside to explore this as a learning opportunity. There has been so much going on so please read on and find out about the learning that has happened this week.

This weeks attendance was 95.4% - we would love to improve this, please join us in making sure we get great outcomes for the children.

Living

Church Links

Today we said Goodbye to Mrs Smith. She is moving 'up north' to be closer to her family and we wished her all the very best in her next adventure.



Reflection - Thank you to Mrs Smith for sharing her final reflection with us - [Peace Be With You](#)





News

Splash!

We welcomed SPLASH in to our worship this week who told us a story about Mary and Joseph. It involved a treasure box 'The true meaning of Christmas' but the keys did not fit. We hunted for the key and once we found it, there were some articles inside that reminded us about hope, joy and peace at Christmas. The Bible reference said, 'May the God of Hope fill you with all the Joy and Peace as you trust in him'. We sang together and prayed. The children loved the worship and commented that 'Jesus is the key to Christmas'.



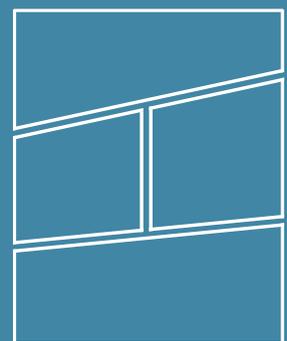
Staffing

There are some staffing changes happening ready for the Spring Term. Mrs Mac is retiring and so is stepping down from her role in New Zealand class. Miss Duignan will be taking on these two days and will work alongside Mrs McTiffen. Mr Coomber is leaving us and Mrs Ashton-Smith will be stepping in as Mexico class teacher. Both teachers come with experience and are excited to be joining the St Mary's team. We look forward to welcoming them in January. Miss Duignan is already working in school and so will be getting to know NZ class and Mrs Ashton Smith will visit before the Christmas holidays.

Staff Training

At our school, the needs of our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) students are always a top priority.

This week, our teachers and teaching assistants participated in a Comic Strip Cartoon training session. This training equips them with creative tools to help students better understand various situations they may encounter at school in a fun and accessible way.





News



Snow!



There was much excitement this week as we experienced a rare treat – snow! It doesn't happen often, so we all grabbed our coats and headed outside to enjoy it. The children absolutely loved playing in the flurries and making special snowy memories together.



Wraparound Care



Our Roosters children rolled up their sleeves and whipped up their very own burger bun pizzas and they absolutely nailed it! From spreading sauce to sprinkling toppings, the teamwork was amazing. Everyone pitched in, helped each other out, and created some delicious masterpieces. Fresh out of the oven, warm, cheesy, and proudly made by our crew... they officially declared them the BEST Roosters snack EVER!

If you need help with wraparound care, please contact our office team or email them on wraparound@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

PTA - Bingo Night & Grotto

We thrilled that the PTA raised an incredible £588.47 at the bingo night last Saturday - these funds makes such a difference and in this instance will be going towards a sensory break out room. We are very grateful for the continued support.



Tickets are now on sale for their next event, Santa's Grotto, on Friday 5th December and this always sells out quickly so get your tickets before they've gone- click [HERE](#) to purchase.

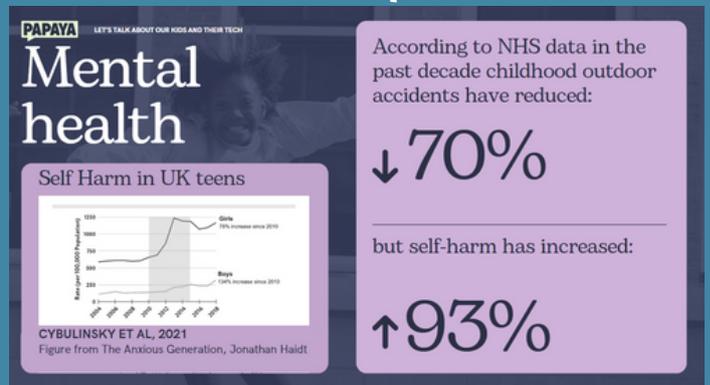




News

Papaya - Smartphone Talk

Many thanks to the parents who joined us for the enlightening presentation about young people and the effects of Smartphones. Whilst we are all very aware of the discussion around children and technology, it was very eye opening, and somewhat shocking, to see the facts and data presented. We have shared some of the most pertinent details below but would really recommend doing your own thorough research on this topic.



Woolly Hats

Australia Class were recently treated to a wonderful surprise, a collection of beautifully knitted hats, lovingly handmade by Knit & Cosy by Natasha. Each child had the chance to design their own hat, then their unique ideas came to life as they were transformed every design into a real, wearable creation.

The finished hats arrived just in time for the cooler weather, and the children were thrilled with the results. A huge thank-you to Natasha for her talent, care, and creativity!





Curriculum

Learning

Art



Japan and South Africa Class - Well done to Japan & SA class who have used their creativity to make the most amazing art work - these poppies are fantastic and so creative!



Italy, India and Australia Class - Miss Dunstall has been working on art units with Australia, Italy and India and we are so impressed with the outcomes. The series of six lessons have culminated in these fabulous pieces of art and I know that the children are proud of their work.

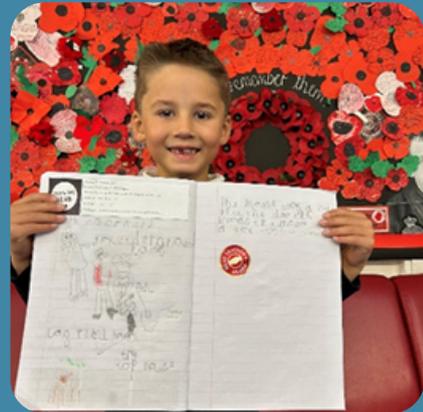




Curriculum

Drawing Club

Drawing Club takes place in our Early Years and KS1 classes - it happens three times a week and the children start by drawing a picture and build up to writing about it as the week goes on. The children's writing is going from strength to strength. Have a look at Tom's sentences - he is becoming a confident writer!



Science

China Class - this week the children investigated the effect of gravity by weighing different objects using a Newton Meter and comparing and making links between the weight and mass.



Poetry

SL Class have been thinking about poetry including the features of poetry - they used the subject 'Rivers'. Callie and Alfie excelled with the content, the presentation and their poems included all of the features they'd learnt. We are so proud of the high quality work they are producing. Such creativity!





✦ Curriculum ✦

Church Visit

New Zealand, Sierra Leone and USA Class headed to church this morning for their class worship. Father Paul told them the story of the Saints and how / why some people become Saints. We looked at the banner that had been taken up to the church depicting the Saints and talked about Zaccheus and Matthew, with Andrew (USA) sharing his knowledge with everyone and doing a beautiful reading.



Class Assembly

USA Class - the children delighted us all with their celebration assembly this week. They taught us about The Stone Age Boy book and shared the stories they'd written about it, they showed us their non-chronological reports and shared some of their poems. As part of their Diwali and Hindu project, they presented their Rangoli art work too. They also sang a 4 times table song to us and it was lovely to hear their voices!



✦ Sport ✦

A group of children from Years 3&4 travelled to Collyer's Sixth Form College to take part in a badminton skills festival. The children took part in a variety of activities throughout the afternoon focusing on key skills such as speed, agility, hand-eye coordination, footwork and racquet grip. They finished with a series of rallies to end the afternoon. Well done to all who took part and thank you to the parents who accompanied the children to the event.





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.

Christmas lunch is now available to order



Dec cut off dates

Thurs 27/11 for w/c 8/12

Thurs 4/12 for w/c 15/12*

*incl Christmas lunch

Dates for your diary



Thurs 27th Nov - Clarinet concert to Parents / Carers - USA Class 10.35am / China & SL Class 11.20am

Fri 28th Nov - Advent Eucharist

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

Thur 11th Dec - Australia, Italy and India Christmas 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

Thur 18th Dec - Christmas lunch (please order via ParentPay)

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

PTA

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



Celebrations

Loving House Cup

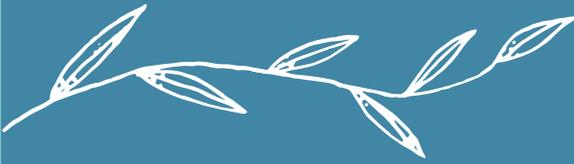
The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Matthew's (Red Team).

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

Lucas M (SA) - **Wisdom** - for demonstrating superb organisation and commitment to your Arithmetic homework - keep up the brilliant work! **Bea G (SA) - Responsibility** - for your love of learning and willingness to embrace new challenges, it is a delight to see - thank you for being such an exemplary role model! **Amelie-Joy (SA) - Perseverance** - for approaching all curriculum areas with great determination and never giving up! **Callie (SL) - Creativity** - for the river poem you created in our English lesson. **Ben G (USA) - Kindness** - for supporting another pupil in the class with their reading. **Ada (USA) and Sienna (USA) - Service** - for being helpful members of USA Class and always willing to hand out books and other tasks to help the class. **Gioele (NZ) - Service** - for spending a long time helping another child during Computing even though he wanted to complete his own challenge. **Freddie (Chi) - Compassion** - for coming alongside and supporting a younger peer with his learning. **Sarp (Chi) - Wisdom** - for continuing to uphold an incredible standard of daily reading in his reading log! **Minnie (Chi) and Leah (Chi) - Compassion** - for giving their time to support a younger pupil during break time. **Elena (Ind) - Friendship** - for being great at looking after one of her friends who came into school upset. **Rosie B (Ind) - Wisdom** - for completing her maths independently.

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.

Japan – 27th November SA - 4th December

Australia – **Rescheduled** 10th December

China – 11th December

CHRISTMAS MARKET

STALLS - CAROLS - SNACKS - DRINKS
MEET SANTA - MUSIC - ELF TRAIL

5PM-8PM

5TH DECEMBER 2025

PULBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL



MARTIN LUNDY

IMC



Jack and the Beanstalk

THE PANTOMIME

Performances
throughout
December

Scan the QR
code for
more information



£15.00
per
person

Book tickets at fishersfarmpark.co.uk

Christmas Appeal

The Horsham District Foodbank wants to ensure everyone has a Merry Christmas this year and are asking for festive donations this Christmas.

They would be grateful for the following items:

- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Long-life milk
- Custard
- Fruit Juice/squash
- Jam and spreads
- Tinned macaroni cheese
- Condiments (Ketchup, mayo, pickle)
- Hot chocolate
- Long-life desserts
- Savoury snacks
- Toilet roll
- Festive Treats (Selection box, Christmas chocolates, mince pies, Christmas puddings)



If you wish to make a financial donation, please scan the code:





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

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