

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

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



Week beginning 24th November 2025

Message from Mrs Copus

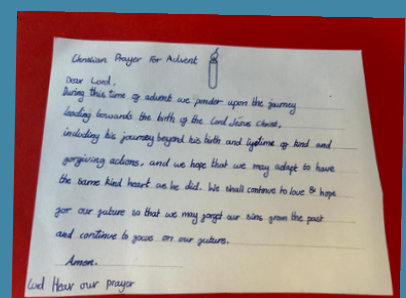


As we start Advent, it has been great to start the St Mary's traditions once again with the introduction of Mary, Joseph and the donkey as they start their journey around the school. Also, the older children buddied up with the younger children to make the Christingles. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at church at 4pm on Sunday to celebrate and take home a Christingle..

This weeks attendance was 95.3% - our target is 96.4 and we would love to work together to achieve this.

Living Church Links

Advent Eucharist – Fr Paul, Mr Holloway and Mr Hancock joined us for Advent Eucharist this morning. The beginning of the Advent season is upon us. We sang hymns like Sing Hosanna and Shine Jesus Shine that remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. The children also shared poems that they had written for the occasion.





News

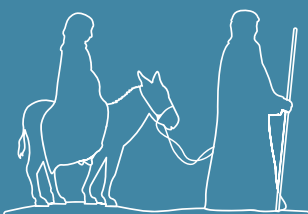
Christingle

On Monday, worship was about light and the start of Christingle. We made a Christingle in worship and talked about the symbolism behind each part of the Christingle. Today, the children worked with a buddy to create a Christingle and reflected on Jesus being the light of the world. Please join us for the Christingle service at St Mary's church on Sunday 30th November at 4pm. The children will get their own Christingle to take home!



Posada

Father Paul introduced our newest children to Posada today. Posada is a Christmas tradition that reenacts Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The tradition is named after the Spanish word for "inn" and originates in Hispanic countries as a reenactment of Mary and Joseph searching for shelter. A set of nativity figures travels from one household to another, often with a story and prayers. Families sign up to host for one night and then pass the figures to the next house - in school we uphold this tradition by passing figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey from each class and office where they are given and received each day with prayers and kept for 24 hours - we will share photo's of their journey throughout Advent.





News



Staff Training

Jane from West Sussex Music Service joined us for our staff development meeting this week. She was able to improve the teacher's subject knowledge of music within the theme of 'Composition'.

Andrew Griffith MP

We were visited by Andrew Griffith, MP for Arundel and South Downs, today following his recent Christmas Card competition. We are thrilled to announce that Jessilyn (SA) has been selected as one of the runners-up, and her artwork will be featured inside his annual Christmas card, which will be sent to the King and the Prime Minister. Congratulations, Jessilyn! Well done to all the children who took part – each will receive a personal letter of thanks from Andrew.



Extra Curricular Clubs



A quick reminder of the last dates for after school clubs this term -

Roller Skating 26th November Kingfishers 8th December 2025

Clay Club 9th December Tag Rugby 9th December

Running Club 10th December Baking Club 11th December

Girls football 12th December Cheerleading 15th December

Karate 18th December Football 18th December

Gymnastics 19th December Street Dance 19th December





News



PTA

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

They are also running the 'Tree of Wishes' cause in support of the children at our school.

FRIENDS OF ST MARYS PTA TREE OF WISHES



OUR PTA HAS CREATED A TREE OF WISHES TO SUPPORT EVERY CLASS AT ST MARYS.

EACH CLASS HAS MADE A SMALL WISH TO BE ENJOYED THE WHOLE YEAR ROUND.

CAN YOU HELP US GRANT A CLASSROOM WISH THIS CHRISTMAS?

HOW IT WORKS:

1. CHOOSE A WISH
scan the QR code or use the link to our Amazon wishlist or pick a bauble from the tree of wishes in the school foyer
2. BUY THE GIFT
Order directly from the wishlist or pop to the shop if you prefer!
3. WRAP AND DROP!
Pop the gift in the Santa sack in the hallway or have it delivered straight to school

PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY 18th DECEMBER



THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL
COMMUNITY



Curriculum



Learning Cooking



Year 6 -the children have been making Lord Woolton pie this week. Cookery is great for so many reasons and to empathise with how people would have used their rations during WW2. It was lovely to see the children then try the pie after all their efforts.



Clarinet Concert



Year 4 - The children in Year 4 have worked very hard this term learning the clarinet in their music lessons, with the help of West Sussex Music. They were delighted to put on a concert for their parent / carers this week to share their new skills.



Celebration Assembly



Japan Class - the children shared with us everything they learned about World War II and the Frozen Kingdom. We listened to their storytelling, discussed the circulatory system, recalled historical events and world leaders, and learned about evacuation procedures.



Sport



Football

One of our year 5&6 football team returned to Tanbridge House for the second round of matches in the Horsham Area League. On a chilly evening, they suffered an early defeat to the champions Southwater but came back to earn their first point with a hard fought 0-0 draw against Castlewood and Amelie's first clean sheet. The team showed grit and determination as their confidence and understanding of the beautiful game steadily grew. Narrow defeats to Leechpool B and Shelley followed but a marked improvement from a fortnight ago.

They will return in two weeks' time where they will compete in the B division. Well done to the team!!





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.

Dec cut off dates

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

***incl Christmas lunch**



*** Last week to
order Christmas
lunch ***



Dates for your diary

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)





Celebrations

Loving House Cup

The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Michael's (Yellow 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

Maryanne, Poppy and Emily (Jap) - Friendship & Kindness - for offering to give their gloves or share a spare pair of gloves to friends during PE last week. Indy (Aus) - Friendship - for being very kind and welcoming to a newer child and making sure he's not alone. Nan (SL) - Creativity - for acting as a great leader in our dance lessons to help her group come up with a dance routine. Arabella (SL) - Kindness - for always collecting in the jotters after the morning activity without being asked. Peri (Aus) - Kindness - for helping Miss Taylor carry the ramps back to her classroom. Swaily (SL) - Service - for reading to children, playing with them and being a real example of an excellent student and helper during lunch club. Tai (Jap) - Perseverance - for trying so hard in Maths. Ross (Jap) - Perseverance - for trying really hard with his reading. Alicia (SA) - Wisdom and Perseverance - for giving so much towards her braille reading and her continued improvement. Rory (Ita) - Perseverance - for trying hard in your learning and using your listening ears! Skyla (Ita) - Wisdom - for pushing yourself with your writing and taking on Miss Heasman's challenges! Amelie-Joy (SA) - Kindness - for instantly offering to lend her spare reading ruler to a friend who needed one. Max and Emily (SA) - Friendship - for going above and beyond to show kindness to others this week. Charlie H (SA) - Perseverance - for being determined to improve your score in our timed Maths challenge! Jessilyn and Ella C (SA) - Wisdom - for making great strides in your learning on long division this week. Leah (USA) - Wisdom - for producing an excellent piece of work in RE retelling the story of Rama and Sita. Bailey (USA) - Wisdom - for trying his best in a science experiment on friction. Isabella (Mex) - Humility - for very kindly replacing something that was accidentally broken. Oliver, Alexa and Lilly Rae (Mex) - Wisdom - for practicing and working hard on their prayers for Advent Eucharist. Jaxon (Ind) - Friendship - for being a good friend and role model to another child. George N and Louis (SA) - Service - for finding some money on the playground and quickly handing it to an adult. Leah S (Chi) - Courage - for being so brave and overcoming a fear. Erik (Ind) - Kindness and Service - for offering to help adults without any prompting





Celebrations

Celebration Assemblies

Please note new date for Thailand Class (Year 1 only)
celebration assembly

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

SA - 4th December

Thailand - 5th December Australia - 10th December

China - 11th December

Kindness Shield



December - Oakley (Aus) - Oakley has been
awarded the Kindness award for December.
You are so funny, personable and empathetic.
You are always looking out for others and know
when to come alongside someone. Nothing is
too much trouble in school and children know
that you will look after them. Keep up the good
work Oakley- you live up to the motto of 'in a
world where you can be anything, be kind!'



Achievements



Luna (NZ) - moved up to
Stage 3 at gymnastics

YOUNG EXPLORERS CLUB

**This Christmas break at Brinsbury
College! 9am - 3pm 23 December**

**Join our Young
Explorers Club (8-
12yrs) for
woodland walks,
animal activities,
and more at
Brinsbury Animal
Centre!**



**Scan to find
out more!**

brinsbury.ac.uk/animal-centre-young-explorers-club/





Christmas Extravaganza

Christmas songs and carols, seasonal humour and
festive food. Christmas Fayre raffle

Friday 12th December 7pm for 7.30pm

Pulborough Village Hall

Tickets £20 to include a glass of wine on arrival

In aid of Education West Africa and
The Parish Church of St Mary, Pulborough
Tickets from Ann Kaiser 01798 872819

ann.kaiser@live.co.uk

Michael Pioli 01798 368342

michael@pioli.co.uk