

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

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



Week beginning 1st December 2025



Message from Mrs Copus

The Christmas productions are in full swing now and there isn't long to wait until the costumes are shown and the children will take to the stage to perform. It is always a special time and a great way to count down to Christmas. We are nearly there with just two weeks to go! Do make sure you have your tickets.



Living

Church Links

Advent Service in church – Thank you to those who came to the Advent Service at church. It is always one of my favourite services especially when everyone has a Christingle and the lights go out in church. A truly memorable event!





News

Attendance



This weeks attendance was 92.6% - our target is 96.4% and we would love to work together to achieve this.

92.6%

End of day collection

As we continue to work together to ensure a smooth and safe end-of-day collection for all pupils, we kindly ask for your support with the following procedures. To help staff clearly see who is collecting each child, please wait on the left-hand side of the playground as you enter through the gates, behind the benches in the middle of the playground. This greatly assists staff in quickly identifying adults and ensures that children can be dismissed safely and efficiently.

A few additional reminders to help the process run smoothly:

- Please arrive on time for collection to avoid delays and ensure children are not waiting unnecessarily
- If someone new is collecting your child, please inform the school office or your child's class teacher in advance (ideally before lunch time)
- We kindly ask that you supervise siblings closely while waiting to ensure everyone's safety.
- If you need to speak with a teacher, please wait until all children have been dismissed, or feel free to arrange a separate time to meet.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and continued support. Your help makes a big difference in keeping our end-of-day routine calm, safe, and efficient for all.



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.

Jan cut off dates

Thurs 25/12 for w/c 05/01
Thurs 01/01 for w/c 12/01
Thurs 08/01 for e/c 19/01
Thurs 15/01 for w/c 26/01

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 for those who have ordered

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

Spring Term 2026



Mon 5th January – Return to school

Fri 16th January – Drama workshops in school for KS1

Mon 19th January – SPLASH worship

Mon 19th January – Second hand uniform sale – front entrance – 3.15pm – 3.45pm

Tue 20th January – Meet the Teacher for Mexico Class

Fri 13th February – INSET Day

Mon 16th February – Fri 20th February – HALF TERM

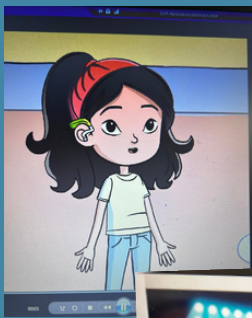


Curriculum

Learning

Early Years

The children have been thinking about the Christmas Story this week. The children used the small world and imaginative play to recreate the story. After learning about the Advent wreath, the children used cheerios and made their own wreaths. It is great for fine motor control to do the picking and then threading. Well done to them.

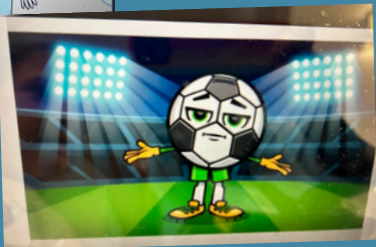


Hola

Spanish

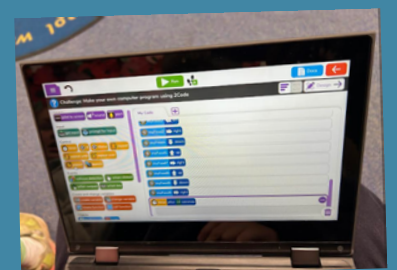


In Spanish the children in Y3 and Y4 have been experimenting with Avatars. The children record their spoken Spanish and the avatar repeats it. The children's confidence in Spanish has improved as they love using their Spanish words and creating something!



Coding

Year 6 have been coding and making their own online games. The level of their knowledge is improving all the time and has impact on the digital knowledge that they now have.





✦ Curriculum ✦



Learning Geography



South Africa and Japan were fortunate to have the opportunity to join a live assembly from Antarctica on Friday morning! We listened to Robert Swan OBE and Jenny Cooke from the 2041 Schools charity, whose goal is to protect Antarctica through education.

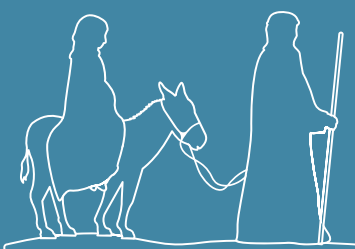
Robert Swan, an experienced polar explorer, joined us from Union Glacier Field Camp, Antarctica. Not only has he made history by becoming the first person to walk to both the North and South Pole, he also overcame many challenges to complete the South Pole Energy Challenge – an expedition powered only by renewable energy.

We extended our knowledge of the polar regions and were challenged to become 'Champions of Antarctica' by considering the actions we can take to look after this amazing continent and stop the ice melting. What an inspirational morning!



Posada

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, our Mary, Joseph and donkey figures have started their Posada journey around the school - they will continue moving from class to class throughout Advent.



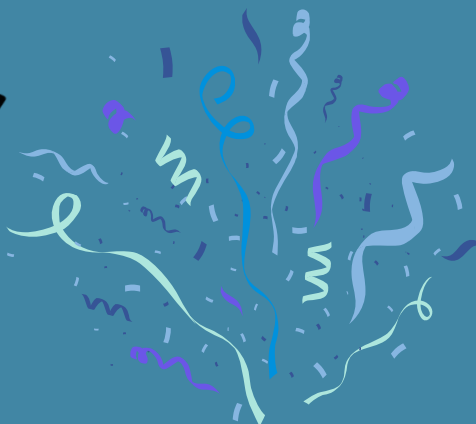


Celebrations

Loving House Cup

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

Celebration Assembly



SA Class - Well done to the children who clearly articulated their learning with their class celebration. They were able to tell us about WW2, their history skills and how they have developed a sense of chronology, how they remembered the soldiers, their artwork with poppies and then they told us about their learning in Frozen Kingdom around their English and Geography. It was a very detailed celebration assembly and showed the strength of learning that has gone on.

Choir in the Community

The choir went to visit Hillside Lodge this week.

It is a fantastic opportunity to take some Christmas cheer into the local community. Well done to Miss Aburrow and the choir for a great performance! We hope to be visiting more of our local community in the coming weeks, spreading more joy this festive period.



Vine Leaves

Freddie, Archie and Milo (SA) - Wisdom - for making outstanding progress in this term's reading assessment; you should be so proud of this achievement. **Teddy (Jap) - Wisdom** - for focusing so hard during the assessments this week and showing what he is capable of. **Daisy, Oscar & Phoebe (Jap) - Wisdom** - for making phenomenal progress with long division, approaching this tricky method with determination and positivity. **Emily (Jap) - Creativity** - for sharing several high-quality pieces of artwork with the class recently and being keen to explain the process and skills she used. **Tom (Ita) - Service** - for being a brilliant role model and helping Miss Cornish. **Ada (USA) - Wisdom** - for sharing her knowledge about all the warning flags for swimming in the sea when we were learning about water safety in RHE. **Connor (USA) - Wisdom** - for working hard writing a playscript during English



Celebrations

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.

Australia – 10th December

China – 11th December

Achievements



Esmee (Ind) - moved up to Stage 6 swimming!

Eliza (Ita) - came 3rd in a gymnastics competition

