

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 8th December 2025

Message from Mrs Copus



As we enter our last week before the Christmas holidays, we are celebrating coming towards the end of Advent with a pantomime, which will be Aladdin, Chartwells Christmas lunch and a visit from a special guest...Father Christmas! We work hard to make sure this is a special time for all who attend St Mary's.

Living Church Links

Posada – Mary, Joseph and the donkey have continued their Posada journey around the school – on Friday morning they were passed from India class and they will continue their journey until the end of the term.

There are some lovely services for the children at St Mary's Church upcoming – please see leaflet attached if you would like to attend





News

Attendance

This weeks attendance was 91.6% - our target is 96.4%

91.6%



As we share the latest attendance figures in this newsletter, we want to acknowledge that we are fully aware of the current increase in bugs and illnesses affecting many of our children and families. We understand that these health challenges can impact attendance and we appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate this season. Our priority remains the well-being of all our children and we encourage families to reach out if they need assistance during this time.

Cake Sale

What a fantastic morning at our EWA cake sale! A massive thank you to everyone who baked or brought in cupcakes, cookies and cakes.



It was heart-warming to see so many children getting involved and supporting a charity so close to our hearts. Even better was watching the whole school community come together, helping younger pupils, sharing big smiles, and creating such a positive buzz around the hall.

We are thrilled to announce that thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible £181! This amazing amount will help fund uniforms, equipment and furniture for our link schools in Sierra Leone.

Thank you all for making a real difference.





News

Collection Reminder

We kindly remind all parents and carers that children must be collected from school by an adult aged 16 or older, including for after-school clubs and wraparound care (Roosters). Please note, this does not apply to Year 6 students who have received parental permission to walk home at 3:15pm. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children.

Tree of Wishes - PTA



Gifts have started to arrive under our 'Tree of Wishes', arranged by our wonderful PTA, and we couldn't be more grateful to everyone who has taken a bauble and contributed. One package, labeled "A Magical Tale for a Brilliant School," has us especially curious and we can't wait to see what's inside!



Horsham Area Family Hub

The Needles Neighbourhood Centre, Three Acres, Horsham, RH12 1RS
Monday-Friday 09.15am-5pm
01403 213590

We offer a range of support, information and guidance to parents, carers and young people as part of Early Help. The Family Hub is open for you to drop in and speak to our staff on a whole range of issues affecting you and your family. We also have public access computers to use, free of charge, as well as social spaces available to meet other parents. We have a whole range of sensory toys and resources to support your child's learning in a fun way. You can also book our interactive Magic Carpet on Mondays and our Sensory Room Monday-Friday. You will find assistants in all our hubs on the front desk who can offer information advice and guidance.

We also have an excellent Facebook page full of lots of information and details of our Events.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1ENfv4STnE/>



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

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

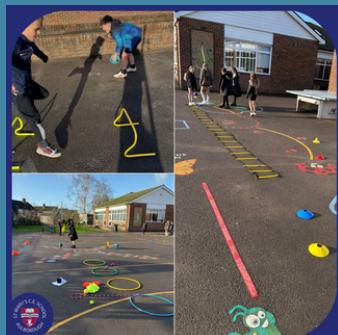
Mon 5th January – Return to school
Fri 16th January – Drama workshops in school for KS1
Mon 19th January – SPLASH worship
Mon 19th January – Second hand uniform sale – front entrance – 3.15pm – 3.45pm
Tue 20th January – Meet the Teacher for Mexico Class
Fri 13th February – INSET Day
Mon 16th February – Fri 20th February – HALF TERM



Curriculum

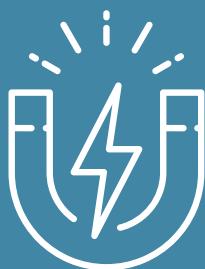
Learning PE

Japan and South Africa (Yr6) classes have now completed two awesome sessions of Play Leader training with Mr. Meaney from The Weald School and they've started putting those skills to the test! Working in groups, they planned and delivered their very own activities for their partner classes in Sierra Leone and USA. We saw fantastic teamwork, collaboration, communication and leadership on display,. Now they're ready to take the lead at break times, running fun activities for our younger year groups.



Science

China Class have been busy exploring the wonderful world of magnets. The children investigated attraction and repulsion, discovered the magic of north and south poles and experimented with different types of magnets to find out what they can and can't stick to.





Curriculum

Learning Christmas Production

The children in **Italy, India and Australia** class absolutely shone this week as they brought Bethlehem Bake Off to life on stage! The traditional Christmas story unfolded in the most imaginative way, a bustling baking competition in Bethlehem, complete with shepherds, angels, and wise men all mixing, whisking, and kneading their way toward baking glory. Amid the flour-filled fun, they helped us all rediscover the real reason for the commotion: the birth of Jesus. Every child knew their lines, their cues, and most importantly, they looked and sounded like they were having the best time. Their confidence, energy and joy lit up the room and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.

Well done Italy, India and Australia classes, you were simply brilliant!



BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF



Sport

Learning Football



The Years 5 & 6 girls' football team returned to Tanbridge House on Friday to compete in the B division of the Horsham Area Primary Schools League. Despite strong winds and heavy rain late in the afternoon, the girls battled hard securing a second 0-0 draw against Leechpool B and only just falling to narrow 1-0 defeats against Castlewood and Heron Way respectively.

The girls' have shown great progress and improvement over their three outings at Tanbridge House. Their enthusiasm for football is an encouraging sign and a first goal and win are certainly not far off.

Well done to the team this week - Bea, Amelie, Freya, Ella S, Ella C, Daisy, Aria, Mia and Victoria.

Choir in the Community



Our choir had the absolute joy of visiting The Anchorage Care Home residents and staff today, filling the halls with the sounds of Christmas carols and beloved hymns. The children were bursting with excitement, they truly love going to see the residents, share smiles and make memories together.





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.





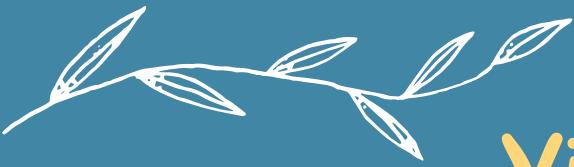
Celebrations

Celebration Assemblies



Australia Class - the children delivered their first class assembly in Year 2 with confidence and enthusiasm. They introduced their Top Trump dinosaur cards, sang their dinosaur-themed class song, and proudly shared their dinosaur eye creations. To finish, they explained what they had learned about their senses.

China Class - Wow, the children absolutely brought their learning to life! They kicked things off by taking us on an unforgettable journey through the solar system, sharing fascinating facts. Then we travelled back in time as they showcased everything they've learned about Greek mythology from powerful gods to legendary heroes! Their English work was nothing short of amazing, full of creativity and confidence. And to top it all off, they filled the hall with festive cheer, ending the assembly with a joyful performance of *Feliz Navidad!*



Vine Leaves

Louis, Tom, Lucas, Eliza, Lola and Kobe (Ita) - Service - for using their best singing voices and representing Italy class so well during the nativity performance. **Elsie (Ita) - Love and Friendship** - for arriving at school each day with an enormous smile on her face and being a kind friend. **Winnie (NZ) - Friendship** - for handling difficulties with kindness and gentleness. **Arlo (USA) - Friendship** - for waiting for a friend who sometimes finds the mornings tricky. **Violet (SL), Oscar (Jap) and Amelia (SA) - Courage** - for singing in front of a large audience at the Christingle Service.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025

FRIDAY 12th December

7.30pm Special Musical event at Pulborough Village Hall in aid of Education West Africa and St Mary's Parish Church

WEDNESDAY 17th December

7pm Mary How Carol Concert in church

SUNDAY 21st December

8am and 10.30am Services

6pm THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Crib Service

11pm MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

(There is NO 8am service)

10.00am PARISH EUCHARIST

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

■ WE ARE HIRING! ■ SCHOOL CLEANER

St Mary's C of E Primary School

■ Hours (Term Time):

Monday–Friday | 4:00pm – 7:00pm
Plus deep cleans during all half-term breaks

■ Pay:

£12.50 per hour (pro rata)
28 days paid holiday spread over 12 months

About the Role

We are looking for a reliable and hardworking School Cleaner to join our team at St Mary's C of E Primary School. You will help maintain a clean, safe and hygienic environment for pupils and staff.

Key Responsibilities:

- Cleaning classrooms, toilets, corridors, and communal areas
- Mopping, vacuuming, dusting, and sanitising surfaces
- Emptying bins and restocking supplies
- Following all Health & Safety and safeguarding procedures

Requirements:

- Cleaning experience preferred but not essential
- Reliable, punctual, and able to work independently
- Must be available for all half-term deep cleans
- Enhanced DBS required (can be arranged)

What We Offer:

- Full training provided
- Uniform & equipment supplied
- Friendly, supportive team
- Part-time, permanent role

■ Apply Today

office@hallscleaningservice ltd.co.uk
07305 107 448



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



www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Umbrellas

Parent Support Group

Autumn Term 2025

Would you like to connect with other local parent carers?

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex, please join us at one of our local support groups or from the comfort of your own home.



EMPOWER

INFORM

SUPPORT

Shoreham Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Adur East Family Hub (Shoreham)

9th Sep / 7th Oct / 4th Nov / 2nd Dec

Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)

10th Sep / 8th Oct / 5th Nov / 3rd Dec

Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Durrington Community Centre

16th Sep / 14th Oct / 11th Nov / 9th Dec

Horsham Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Horsham Family Hub

17th Sep / 15th Oct / 19th Nov / 17th Dec

Chichester Umbrellas

Thursdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Donnington Parish Hall

25th Sep / 23rd Oct / 20th Nov / 11th Dec

Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

The Cherry Tree Centre

23rd Sep / 21st Oct / 25th Nov / 16th Dec

If you would like more information about our Umbrellas Support Group or would like the link to join Umbrellas online, please contact the outreach team.

Email:

outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Umbrellas Online

Thursdays via Zoom

11th Sep	7.30 pm - 9 pm
9th Oct	7.30 pm - 9 pm
6th Nov	7.30 pm - 9 pm
4th Dec	7.30 pm - 9 pm

TRAINING

SPRING TERM 2026



WORKSHOPS

Making Sense of Masking	Tuesday 13 th January	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Understanding Demand Avoidance	Thursday 15 th January	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Making Sense of Wellbeing: Self-care skills for parents and carers	Tuesday 20 th January	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Understanding Sensory Processing Differences	Wednesday 25 th January	10.30am - 12.30pm
Making Sense of Anxiety in Adolescence	Tuesday 3 rd February	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	Wednesday 4 th February	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Annual Reviews	Thursday 5 th February	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Thursday 12 th February	10.30 am - 12.30 pm

All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge. For more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com



**Reaching
Families**

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

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