

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

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

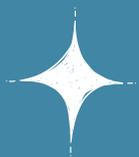


Week beginning 5th January 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



Happy New Year to you all! We hope that your Christmas and New Year was full of joy, hope and happiness and that you made time for friends and family.



Living

Church Links

Epiphany– The wise men joined Mary, Joseph and Jesus as we started thinking about Epiphany. The children were eager to discover more about the gifts that the wise men gave Jesus and the children reflected on gifts that they could give as we start the New Year. Suggestions of kindness, love, being helpful and working with the teachers were some suggestions. Our whole school worship with Father Paul was also about Epiphany.





News



Attendance

This weeks attendance was 94.4% - our target is 96.4%

94.4%

Christian Values

We are thinking about humility, service and forgiveness this half term.



Staffing

We have welcomed Mrs Ashton-Smith who joins our team as Mexico class teacher, Miss Duignan who joins Mrs McTiffen as New Zealand class teacher and Mr Chinery who joins our team as a Teaching Assistant. We hope that they will be very happy at St Mary's.

Cubitt & West

It was lovely to see the children's artwork displayed in the Pulborough office of Cubitt and West over the holidays. Well done and thank you to all that took part.



PE Kits

A reminder that every child must have a named, complete PE kit including, at minimum -

- A pair of plain navy-blue (unbranded) shorts, leggings or fleece jogging bottoms
- A plain (unbranded) or logo white t-shirt
- Appropriate footwear for sport (sensible trainers or plimsolls)
- A plain, unbranded or school jumper / fleece / navy blue hoodie can also be worn when outside or during cold weather.

Football and other replica kit, branded sportswear / tracksuits, 'fashion' footwear etc are not suitable or appropriate for PE. PE days are not dress down / non-school uniform days and appropriate clothing must be worn.



News

Tree of Wishes - PTA

The children from our school council opened the Amazon presents that were kindly donated to the school via the 'Tree of Wishes' organised by our PTA. It was like Christmas again as they opened felt tip pens, a parachute, playground games, chalks, books, paint and art materials. Thank you to everyone that kindly donated a gift!



Parent Tea & Chat Sessions



Reading - Miss Callender is running a reading tea and chat on Tuesday 27th January at 9am. Come and find out more about reading in school, book types and how to help your child with reading.

TALK!

CHAT ♥

Please let the office staff know if you would like to attend this session.

Street Dance Assembly



Jasmine from Urban Movement Academy UK came into school to do a Street Dance demonstration in assembly this week. It was great to see everybody up and moving and giving it a go. Jasmine will be running a new Street Dance after school club on Friday's this term - if your child would like to join, please visit the link below -

<https://urban-movement-academy.classforkids.io/info/10>





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.

Feb cut off dates

Thurs 15/01 for w/c 26/01
Thurs 22/01 for w/c 02/02
Thurs 29/01 for w/c 09/02

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2026

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

Tue 20th January – Explorer Day for SA and Japan class (dress up)

Weds 21st January – Talented Athlete Y5/6

Thurs 28th January – Hawking About Y3/4

Fri 13th February – INSET Day

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



Celebration Assemblies

China - 28th Jan USA - 29th Jan

Thailand - 4th February UK - 5th February

New Zealand - 11th Feb Japan - 12th Feb

Sierra Leone - 25th February Italy - 26th February

India - 11th Mar Mexico - 12th Mar

Australia - 18th Mar South Africa - 19th Mar



Curriculum

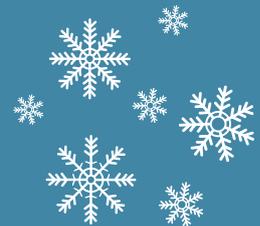
Learning Topics

We have returned to school and our Spring topics. UK and Thailand are learning about Machines, which they started this week by taking things apart! Italy, India and Australia are learning about Frozen Kingdom (having snow this week was a brilliant superstarter!). NZ, SL and USA start thinking about Predators and Prey. Mexico and China are learning about Peasants and Pestilence and Japan and SA are thinking about Explorers and Adventurers. We all love a superstarter to get learning going and we are delighted that Hawking About are coming in for Y3/4 to see birds in flight. Japan and SA have an Explorer Day on Tues 20th January when they're invited to dress up. Mexico and China Class will have a forest schools cooking day - more details to follow.

Snow & Ice - EYFS

Following the flurry of snow earlier in the week, UK class made 'snow' and were able to experiment indoors with it.

Thailand class ventured outside to practice writing their names in the actual snow and then made ice baubles using natural materials they found in the garden.



Machines Day

The superstarter for UK & Thailand class was based on machines. The children had a range of machines that were defunct and the children used tools to take them apart and find out more about the workings.

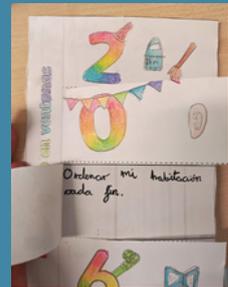
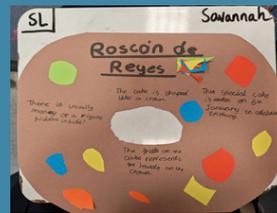




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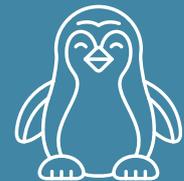
Spanish

The children in Year 3 & 4 have been learning about how Epiphany is celebrated in Spain during their Spanish lessons. Please ask your child what special cake is eaten and when Christmas gifts are traditionally opened in Spain! Year 5 & 6 discussed New Year's resolutions and wrote them out in Spanish.



Antarctica Day

As part of Italy, India and Australia's topic, the children boarded the class aeroplane with Captain Heasman and set off for Antarctica. Once they arrived, the day consisted of activities around the Frozen Kingdom.



PE

New Zealand Class - In their first volleyball lesson of the year, the children began learning the skills associated with the sport - it was harder than it looked!



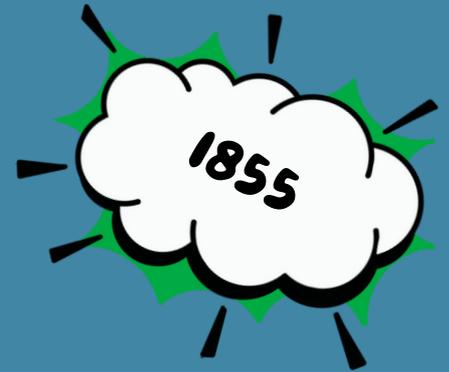


Celebrations

Loving House Cup

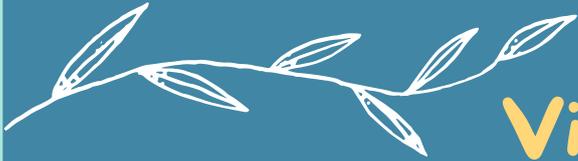
The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Michael's (Yellow Team).

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

Mattie (Mex) - Perseverance - for being determined to figure out why her answer was incorrect in Maths and kept checking until she found where she made a mistake and corrected it. **Dylan (Ita) - Perseverance** - for throwing himself into his learning this term and trying his very best. **Darcey (Ita) - Kindness** - for showing kindness to all and for always having a positive attitude. **Olivia (SL) - Perseverance and Courage** - for showing continuous effort both at home and at school to practice her times tables and improve her score in her multiplication test check. After an accident she was also very brave! **George and Bowie (Ind) - Friendship** - for coming into school together and helping each other to be ready for the day. **Louis (SA) - Compassion** - for alerting staff to a younger child in distress so they were helped. **Zara (USA) - Kindness** - for supporting a group of children in P.E. to make a routine up. **Ada (USA) - Service** - for always being willing to help with the younger members of Roosters **Freddie, Hettie, Ted and Sarp (Chi) - Wisdom** - for excelling in long multiplication



Kindness Shield

Milo (South Africa) - You are an exceptionally kind, caring and polite member of South Africa Class! You always show great consideration and thoughtfulness towards others, often going out of your way to help them. You are an excellent role model, consistently demonstrating our Christian values of kindness and compassion in all that you do. You share your knowledge with calm and gentle encouragement to help others to be successful. Thank you for being you!

