

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

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



Week beginning 19th January 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



'It takes a village to raise a child' - this is a famous quote and is so right that it needs all of us working together to help the children in our community be the best that they can be. Thank you to everyone for working together and half term is just around the corner.



Living Church Links

Splash! – We welcomed Splash! to our worship this morning and learnt how to say 'thank you' in many different languages. We talked about saying 'thank you' – we learnt about the scientific research and how important it is to say 'thank you' to people who have helped us.

We watched the Lego Bible story of The Thankful Leper. We sang together and finished with a Splash! prayer. We love it when Splash! comes to lead our worship

– THANK YOU, SPLASH





News



Attendance

This weeks attendance was 94.6% - our target is 96.4%

94.6%

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♥



Maths - Miss Heasman is also running a session about visual images in maths and sharing our calculation policy on Mon 9th February at 2.30pm.

Please let the office staff know if you would like to attend either of these sessions.

Late Arrivals

On the odd occasion that you may be running late and you miss the gate closing at 8.50am, please ensure that you bring your child into school via the office to sign them in - children should not be entering on their own via the car park please.

Anchorage - musical visit

This week a small group of children visited The Anchorage Care Home to play their musical instruments to the residents. It is a great opportunity to perform to an audience and practise these pieces. Well done to Amelie, Violet, Oliver, Ella and Lucas. This keeps the profile of music high as well and gives these children an opportunity to excel. The Anchorage had also kindly donated a copy of 'David Attenborough' for Y6 Explorer Say. It is so lovely that we can work with our community.





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 29/01 for w/c 09/02

HALF TERM

Thurs 12/02 for w/c 23/02

Dates for your diary Spring Term 2026



Thurs 28th January – Hawking About Y3/4

Fri 13th February – INSET Day

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

Mon 23rd February – African drumming workshop – China, Mex, Jap & SA

Tues 24th February – Network Rail assembly

Fri 27th February – Weald & Downland Museum trip – Italy, India & Australia classes

Weds 4th March – Class photos

Thurs 5th March – World Book Day – see separate email

Mon 9th / Tues 10th March – Science days

Tues 17th / Weds 19th March – Parents evening

Tues 24th March – Easter play 2pm

Weds 25th March – Lions book giveaway

Weds 25th March – Easter disco 5-6pm EYFS / KS1 – 6.15 – 7.30 – KS2

Thurs 26th March – Easter Eucharist – parents welcome

Thurs 26th March – Easter Eggstravaganza – bonnets competition

Fri 27th March – INSET DAY

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

Topic



Japan and **SA Class** had their superstarter activity with 'Explorer Day'. The children started the text Brightstorm and made predictions about what might happen. They also made skyships in DT and maps of fantasy lands. If you were an explorer which lands would you go to?



English

Thailand Class have been impressing us with their writing. The children are using their phonic knowledge to construct sentences.



Bikeability

The children in **Mexico** and **China Class** have been working on their Level 1 Bikeability award. This is about control of a bicycle and the children worked on a variety of games to show and develop their skills.





Curriculum



Reading Buddies



Reading Buddies is a program that pairs our older children with younger readers to share stories and build a love of reading together. During Reading Buddy time, children read aloud, talk about books and support one another in a relaxed, encouraging setting. Most importantly, Reading Buddies helps create positive connections across year groups and makes reading fun for everyone. This week, **Mexico** and **Italy Class** paired up and **South Africa** and **Thailand Class** spent some time together.



Reading

Well done to Emily P (Jap), Bea (SA), Bowie (Chi), Mattie (Mex), Isabella (Mex), Ella S (SA), Ayden (Jap), Flora (Mex), Victoria (SA) and Peter (Jap). for being the 'Top 10' readers in our school currently. The reading standards are going from strength to strength and this is shown in their reading outcomes.

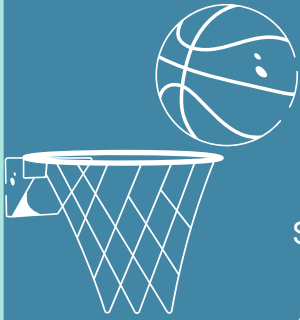


RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

UK and **Thailand** class are continuing to get ready for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch next week - they've been busy making more feeders, painting colourful pictures and practicing bird spotting!



Sport



Talented Athlete

Some Y5/Y6 children headed to The Weald to take part in their Talented Athlete programme. The children used their throwing and catching skills in games of netball and basketball. They also looked at fitness activities and bouldering. They had to use a range of skills and collaborate with children from other locality schools.



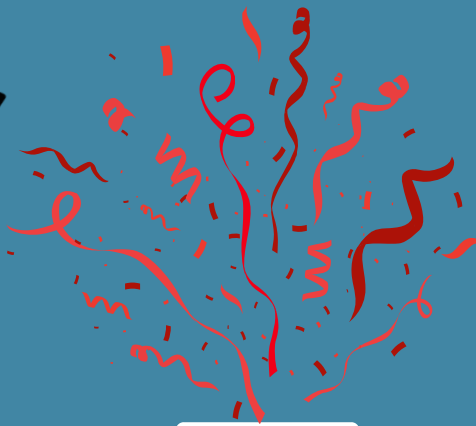


Celebrations

Loving House Cup

The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Matthew's (Red Team) but it was incredibly close this week!

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

Vinnie (Mex) - Compassion - for being very kind and being extremely supportive of a friend who was having a difficult time. Marnie (Thai) - Friendship - for noticing a friend who was stuck with their phonics and helping them out. Victoria (SA) - Kindness - for using her initiative and going out of her way to help others with their Maths learning. Lucy (SA) - Perseverance - for trying so hard in our Maths learning on fractions - you should be so proud of the progress you have made! Theo (Ita) - Service - for acting as a brilliant role model for others to aspire to be like. Raphie (NZ) - Friendship & Compassion - for offering a spare PE kit to another child. Nancy (SL) - Perseverance - for having such a positive attitude towards her times tables this week

Achievements



Lyla (UK) - won three trophies at a dance competition



Ada (USA) - came 2nd in slow & 2nd in pairs dance competition



Sienna (USA) - came 3rd in slow, 5th in solo & 2nd in pairs dance competition