

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

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

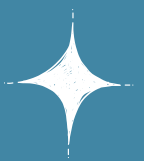


Week beginning 26th January 2026



Message from Mrs Copus

This week the school has been doing Buddy Reading. It is great to see our oldest pupils engaging so purposefully with our younger pupils and developing great relationships. With Reading Buddies and Play Leaders in place, we know the school is working with a sense of community.



Living Church Links

This weekend we mark Candlemas. Father Paul spoke to KS2 about the end of the Epiphany season and what the festival of Candlemas is about. The nativity scene with the wise men will be put away until Advent at the end of the year.





News



Attendance

This weeks attendance was 94.1% - our target is 96.4%

94.1%

Parent Tea & Chat Sessions



Reading - Miss Callender ran her Tea and Chat session on Reading this week. Thank you so much to those that attended. Reading has to be the most important thing to get right!

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.

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.

Celebration Assemblies

China - **POSTPONED**

Thailand - 4th February **UK** - **POSTPONED** new date 24th Feb

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



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

HALF TERM

Thurs 12/02 for w/c 23/02

Dates for your diary



Fri 6th February - Little Sing

Mon 9th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Mon 9th February - Tea & Chat with Miss Heasman - Maths

Tues 10th February - Safer Internet Day

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



Curriculum

Learning

Phonics



There has been some great phonics work going on in **UK** and **Thailand Class** this week - the children enjoyed putting their new found knowledge into practice!

Mrs Armitage on Wheels

UK and **Thailand Class** had 'wheely' good fun bringing in their bicycles, scooters, trikes etc so they could ride around and see how 'machines' work like in their class reading book 'Mrs Armitage on Wheels'.



Hawking About

We were very lucky to welcome Hawking About into school to work with **NZ**, **SL** and **USA classes**.

As part of their topic, 'Predators and Prey', the children had an amazing opportunity to learn all about birds of prey and see them up close. They were completely engaged, asked thoughtful questions and loved being able to hold 'Buzbee' the barn owl!





Curriculum



Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies continued this week with our older and younger children pairing up to share stories together. This week, **Japan** and **NZ Class** and **USA** and **India Class** spent some time looking at books and reading to each other.



RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch



UK class enjoyed a mostly sunny day at Forest School today. They made flags, bird biscuits - including cutting their own log 'biscuits' - and binoculars ready for the bird watch next week.





Curriculum

Writing



India Class have been using adjectives to describe a polar bear in their writing this week. They've done brilliantly and we were particularly impressed with Maddie's efforts!



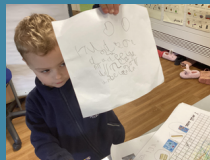
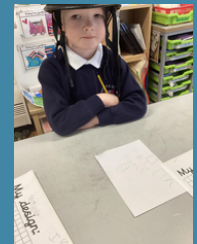
Learning through play



Thailand Class have a new cafe in their open area; the children have been busy making menus and taking orders!



They have also designed their own future machines in groups and are making them with junk materials. They are learning how to take turns and work collaboratively.



Spanish



In Spanish this week, **South Africa** and **Japan Class** have been learning about their homes, they can now name the rooms in their house and describe their houses in detail. Why don't you ask them to tell you as a bit of a challenge!



Hola

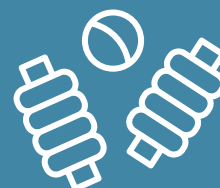




Sport



Cricket



A fantastic afternoon at The Weald School for our year 5 and 6 boys indoor cricket team, winning all 4 games!

The boys showed brilliant teamwork, constant encouragement and some seriously impressive cricket on display. Special shout-out to Oscar, a self-confessed non-cricketer, who took a catch off the very first ball in the final must-win game... and what a game it was – because the boys won and booked their place in the County Finals!

County Finals at BACA in March – here we come!



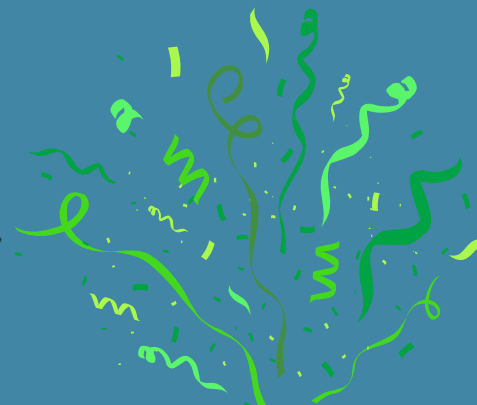


Celebrations

Loving House Cup

The children have collected Class Dojo points all week and this week's winners are - St Richard's (Green Team). Congratulations on your perseverance to get to your first win, which was proudly collected by the house captains, Jayden and Charlie, this morning!

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

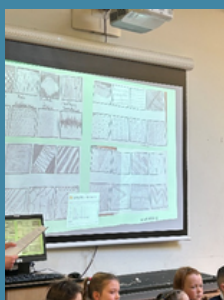


Vine Leaves

Charlie H and Archie P (SA) - Responsibility - for assisting proactively with the organisation of equipment in Gymnastics and participated with focus, setting an excellent example to others. **Amelie-Joy (SA) - Wisdom** - for using manipulatives independently to further your understanding of adding and subtracting fractions. **Daniel (SA) - Creativity** - for having some brilliant ideas in his adventure narrative plan and speaking about these with enthusiasm! **Noah (Ita) - Thankfulness** - for always showing gratitude to the adults in your classroom. **Esmae (Ind) - Friendship** - for helping another child find their fleece. **Gracie (Ind) - Wisdom** - for working hard on her arithmetic in maths. **Rio (Ind) - Humility** - for lending another child his spare coat. **Skyla and Daisy (Jap) - Wisdom** - for excellent effort with their home learning. They are independently completing research and practicing key skills. **Oscar (Jap) - Compassion** - for being such a supportive partner in PE and helping everyone to feel included. **Aimee (Jap) - Creativity** - for being inspired by our adventure narrative writing and planning her own story at home. **Molly (SL) - Perseverance** - for making a wonderful effort with her handwriting over the last few weeks and making great progress. **Connor, Stephan, Edward, Ben F. Ada and Sienna (USA) - Perseverance and Courage** - for performing your dance routine well for the USA Class Celebration Assembly even though you felt nervous. **Harper-Grace (Thai) - Service** - for asking adults if they need help to tidy and organise both inside and out on the playground. **Danny (Thai) - Wisdom** - for always being super ready to learn and willing to work collaboratively.

Celebration Assembly

USA class opened our 2026 shared celebrations by telling us about their learning in the Spring Term and about their topic of Flow. They were able to read their suspense stories, tell us about their DT lessons and making water wheels and also showed their art and sketching techniques. They were so confident and it was a pleasure to hear about what they have been learning.





Celebrations

Achievements



Sophia (Ind) -
achieved her
yellow belt in
karate.



Ada (USA) -
completed her Stage
7 swimming

