

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

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

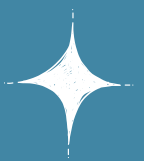


Week beginning 2nd February 2026



Message from Mrs Copus

With one more week to go, we are nearly at half term. A reminder that we have an Inset Day next Friday on 13th February. Please do look at the Pancakes event and Sportsxplore are in school over the holidays as well. A few things to keep the children occupied!



Living Church Links

In Songs of Worship, we've been learning the hymn 'What A Friend We Have in Jesus' and in Mr Holloway's assembly this morning he talked about how Jesus nurtured children and Bible stories that reflect this interaction.





News



Attendance

This weeks attendance was 95.9% - our target is 96.4%

95.9%

A great improvement this week, thank you so much for your help in this matter.

Parent Tea & Chat Sessions



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

TALK!

CHAT ♥

PTA Fund 'Raisin'



What a lot of fund raising the children have been doing. We received 151 boxes back. Thank you to all those who filled the raisin box and made it count! **New Zealand** class were the winners and will receive a gift as a reward. I am sure they will tell you all about it in due course.



Pulborough Library

This February half term Pulborough Library are running a stories and crafts event for families called Travelling Tales! At this event, they'll be sharing some of their favourite transport themed picture book stories and the children will be making hot air balloons and racing cars! This activity is suitable for children aged 4yrs+.

Donation - Craft Scissors

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Dimmock family for their generous donation of craft scissors. With school budgets increasingly tight and often unable to stretch to all the resources we'd love to provide, contributions like this make a real and meaningful difference. The children are already benefiting from having the right tools to create and we are truly grateful for your support.



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 / Mar cut off dates

HALF TERM

Thurs 12/02 for w/c 23/02

Thurs 19/02 for w/c 02/03

Thurs 26/02 for w/c 09/03

Dates for your diary

Mon 9th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Mon 9th February - Tea & Chat with Miss Heasman - Maths 2.30pm

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



Celebration Assemblies

China - **POSTPONED** new date 13th Mar

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



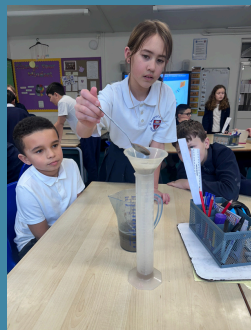
Curriculum



Learning Science



China class have been investigating different ways of separating materials. We looked at sieving, magnetic force, evaporation and filtration.



Design & Technology

In **Brazil**, some of the children have been working on making 'sliders' - pictures with moving, or sliding, parts - as part of a DT project. They were understandably very proud of their efforts, as were we. The children in **Mexico class** have also been learning to sew - they learnt how to thread a needle, running stitch and produced a finish piece of sewing. They should be proud of their efforts!



Reading Dog

Freya, our Pets As Therapy dog, joins us each week and offers some time with individual children as they read to her and her owner. It is so wonderful having them both in school with us and makes a huge difference to the children.





✦ Curriculum ✦



Music

What an honour it was this week to see the children in **China** and **Mexico class** performing a Justin Timberlake song, Can't Stop The Feeling, on ukuleles. They had practised four chords and were able to follow the notation and perform as a whole class. A fantastic achievement.

Little Sing



Well done to our **Year 1** children who headed to Billingshurst Primary Academy to collaborate with other locality schools in a singing workshop. It was great to see them singing as this releases endorphins that make us feel happy! The children got to hear the culmination of sounds made by them all joining in and singing together. Thank you to Miss Heasman for leading this.



Dough Disco

The children in **UK** and **Thailand class** have been working hard on their fine motor skills. Every day there is an opportunity to strengthen our fine and gross motor skills by joining in with Dough Disco!





✧ Curriculum ✧

RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch



After their weeks of preparation, the children in **UK** and **Thailand class** were finally able to start their observations for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch despite all the rain. They spotted Blackbirds, Crows, Pigeons, Blue Tits, a Robin and lots & lots of Starlings! They linked this to a book entitled Blackbird, Blackbird What Do You Do? and learnt to recognise several garden birds.



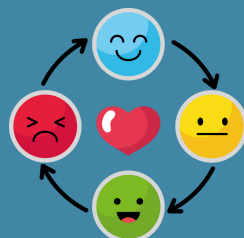
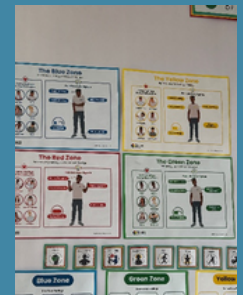
Forest School

At Forest School this week **UK** class got very creative making willow hearts, acorn crumble and clay hedghogs as well as having lots of fun in the mud pit thanks to all of the rain this week!



Learning Mentor

At times, children (and adults!) can find it difficult to regulate their emotions and need some additional help and support. Our Learning Mentor, Mrs Flinders, is working with children on self-regulation techniques and strategies.



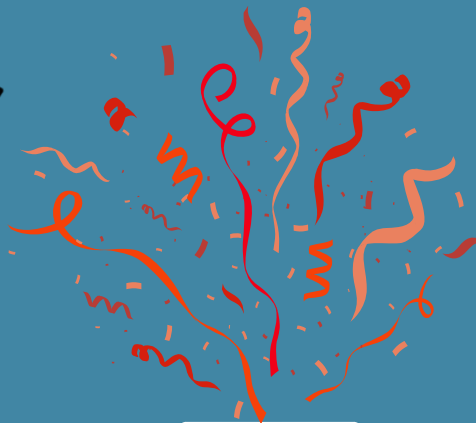


Celebrations

Loving House Cup

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

Daisy M (Aus) - Wisdom - for always doing more to improve herself and others. She pushes herself into everything. **CJ (Ita) - Perseverance** - for trying his best and coming to school with a positive attitude **Jayden (SL) - Kindness** - for using his initiative to tidy away all the ipads without being asked. **Oliver (Mex) - Service** - for being incredibly helpful in class, always offering to do any jobs with a smile on his face. **Izarra (NZ) - Service and Humility** - for constantly checking what she can do to help her teachers. She also offered her spare PE kit to another child that had forgotten theirs. **Lagertha (UK) - Compassion** - for always being the first to offer assistance or a kind cheery word if a classmate is upset.

Leo (UK) - Generosity - for making a replica of a Duplo model that a peer was also keen to play with, it was wonderful to see him do this without fuss or drama **Bea (UK) - Kindness** - for treating everyone with respect and consideration and always being available to help tidy the class. **Zara K (USA) - Friendship** - for being so kind to a classmate who was sad after falling out with a friend and immediately offering to play with them, and came up with an activity that they could do together.

Kindness Shield

February - Poppy (Japan) - In all the time you have been at St Mary's, you have always been the best version of yourself. You are selfless, you put others before yourself and are kind, considerate and compassionate in all your actions. Keep being kind Poppy and know that you are a special person with the kindest heart.





Celebrations

Celebration Assembly

Thailand class Thailand had their celebration assembly this week. They told us about Marvellous Machines. They showed their writing from Drawing Club, performed a story from The Bible and presented their DT machines. They spoke with enthusiasm and showed how much they love learning.



Achievements



Ben G (USA) - won
an inter club event
at Muay Thai



Travelling Tales

Jump on board this half term to **row**, **ride**, and **fly** with us through stories about all the different ways we get around, plus some *wheelie*-fun crafts and activities!



Tuesday 17 February
2.00-3.00pm

Suitable for children aged 4+ years

Booking essential – please speak with staff to reserve a place.
Parents and carers must remain with their child during this activity.

SEND CAFE



MONDAYS, 10am-12pm

9th February

9th March

13th April

St Mark's Church,
Horsham

Join us
to meet with other parents of
SEND children to chat, share,
and connect with people who
understand your journey

We look forward to seeing you then. We are aware that Mondays don't work for everyone so please do get in touch if you can't come along but are interested in other SEND Family events and support.

Email: familyhub@stmarksholbrook.org.uk