

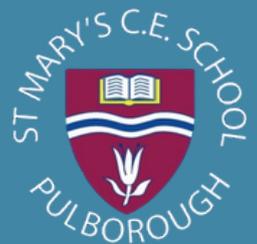
# ST MARY'S C OF E (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



Week beginning 9th March 2026

## Message from Mrs Copus



We are now in the period of Lent and are focusing on the 40 days and 40 nights. Our Easter tree has gone up in the front entrance hall and you can take an Amazon egg as we look to redesign our reading corners! We know that reading is at the heart of what we do.



## Living Church Links



SPLASH came to worship on Monday and spoke about the theme of Patience. Nick did not have any patience and started our worship by eating the marshmallow. We looked at the story of David and how patient he was as he waited to become King. We then looked at the helping hands and thought about strategies to help us be patient. We sang together and said a 'splashy' prayer. What a fabulous way to start a Monday morning together!



# News



## Attendance

This weeks attendance was 93.2% - our target is 96.4%

93.2%

## Andrew Griffith MP - Visit

Visit from Andrew Griffith MP - We were delighted to welcome Andrew Griffith to talk to the Year 6 children about democracy. He was able to talk about his role as an MP, he talked about general elections and how he represents his constituency. The children asked insightful questions about his role.



## Tesco Blue Tokens

Miss Callender has been working with Sussex Green Living to provide us with a new 'pollination station'. They have very kindly applied to the Tesco 'Blue Token' grants and we are so pleased to have been accepted. Next time you're in Tesco Pulborough or Storrington Petrol station - please pop a blue token or two into the Sussex Green Living section to help us receive the biggest grant possible.



## Cycling to School

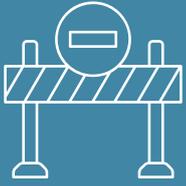


It is lovely to see so many of our Year 6 children riding their bikes to school now that the weather has improved - please remind them that they should wear their helmets for their whole journey, not just as they walk through the school gate!



# News

## Glebelands



Please be aware that there is a road closure on Glebelands that started on Monday 9th March for two weeks. You will need to find an alternative route to school if you travel this way

## PTA - Reading Corners

The PTA are supporting Reading Corners for the children's classrooms. Instead of an Easter Egg why not purchase something for a class reading corner - more details to follow soon.



## Help Required - School Video



We are currently looking for someone who may be able to support us in updating our school promotional video. If you know of anyone with experience in this area, please let us know.



## Sleep

Ensuring that children get enough sleep is essential for their overall wellbeing. Adequate rest helps them regulate their emotions, stay focused, learn effectively, and maintain a healthy mood throughout the day. For children aged 4 to 11, experts recommend 9-12 hours of sleep each night. When children consistently meet these sleep needs, they're better able to manage stress, build resilience, and engage positively with the world around them.





## 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.

**March cut off dates**

**Thurs 02/04 for w/c 13/04**

### Dates for your diary

- Tues 17<sup>th</sup> / Weds 19<sup>th</sup> March - Parents evening
- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Second hand uniform sale 3.15-3.25pm
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March - Easter play 2pm
- Weds 25<sup>th</sup> March - Lions book giveaway
- Weds 25<sup>th</sup> March - Easter disco 5-6pm EYFS / KS1 - 6.15 - 7.30 - KS2
- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Eucharist - parents welcome
- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Eggstravaganza - bonnets competition
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March - INSET DAY
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Back to school - Summer Term



### Mothering Sunday Service

A gentle reminder that our special Mothering Sunday service is taking place this Sunday at 10.30am at St Mary's Church, Pulborough. We're very much looking forward to welcoming you and your family as we mark this meaningful day together.

### Celebration Assemblies

These will be at 9am for this term and it is so valuable for parents to share the learning that has been going on.

Australia - 18th Mar South Africa - 19th Mar



# Curriculum

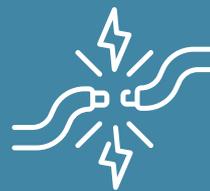
## Learning

### Science week and STEM

U. K. Class have enjoyed being scientists this week. They have worked with China class building a stable birds nest to survive the elements but only using their 'beak' tweezers or chop sticks! They are also experimenting as part of their space topic to grow seeds in harsh conditions to find out if we can grow crops in space.



What an explosive few days of discovery we've had across the whole school! Our classrooms turned into laboratories as our young scientists explored the wonders of the world around them. From welcoming inspiring STEM ambassadors to getting hands-on with chemistry, the learning has been non-stop. We've mastered the art of changing states, turning solids into liquids and back again, and even engineered the perfect 'unpoppable' bubbles! Of course, science can be messy—we may have accidentally triggered a foam wave from the dishwasher during our experiment cleanup but it was all part of



Australia and India had a wonderfully experimental science day! Professor Packham came to visit We did lots of eggciting experiments... The children were very curious learners and enjoyed being questioning scientists for the day.



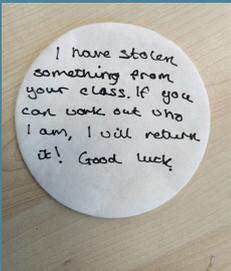


# Curriculum

## Learning

### Science week and STEM

After lunch, we returned to class to find a ransom note from the office! Either Mrs. Sheppard or Mrs. Adams had taken one of Mrs. Ashton-Smith's beloved meerkats! There was only one way to solve this mystery... science! Specifically chromatography. We tested the ink from the two pens Mrs. Sheppard and Mrs. Adams use, then tested the ink from the letter and found out that Mrs. Sheppard was guilty! An angry mob of year 5 stormed her office, catching her by surprise! She happily admitted to taking the meerkat and leaving the note as a mystery for us to solve. We went back to class and rejoiced in the meerkat's safe return!



New Zealand have been thinking about Invisible ink, dancing snakes and density towers. They look like scientists with pipettes.





# Curriculum

## Celebration assemblies

### Mexico class

Mexico class celebration assembly - We learnt so much with Mexico's class assembly. There was History, Science, Maths and English. They shared poetry, science investigations about changing materials and some drama about The Black Death. The children were so confident in their learning.



### China class

It was a real treat to join China Class for their assembly today! The children showcased their incredible learning from across the curriculum with such confidence and pride. The journey began with a dive into the Tudor era, where we admired their impressive Hans Holbein-inspired portraits and heard all about their fascinating trip to the Mary Rose. In a sudden "Breaking News" twist, the assembly was interrupted to report on a scandalous theft of doughnuts from the staff room—a clever way to show off their fantastic report writing skills! The atmosphere then turned musical as the class picked up their ukuleles to play and sing a wonderful rendition of Three Little Birds. We also saw some live-action science, with the students demonstrating various methods of filtration with great precision.

It was a truly memorable performance.



# Curriculum

## Sports

**Swimming Gala** – The children went to The Pavilions in Horsham to compete against other schools. The children demonstrated a range of strokes and swam so well. We are very proud of them.



**Indoor Athletics** – We took a team of nineteen children to The Weald for Indoor Athletics. After a variety of events including track and field events, the afternoon finished with the javelin and on the final throw we won!! We are very proud of the team for their perseverance.



**Thailand - PE - Pairs balancing** - This week, Thailand Class truly excelled in their PE sessions, focusing on the core skills of balance and collaboration. Working in pairs, the children explored the mechanics of counter-balance and counter-tension. This required a high level of communication and trust, as they had to mirror their partner's movements and distribute their weight evenly to remain stable.



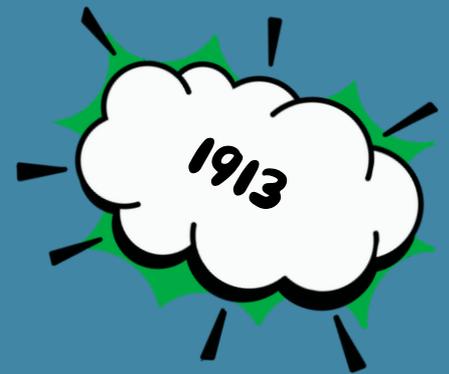


# Celebrations

## Loving House Cup

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

**Kaiser and Eliza (Ita) - Perseverance** - for putting lots of effort into your writing and making good progress as a result! **Louis (Ita) - Wisdom** - for showcasing your wisdom during our recent challenges! **Charlotte (Mex) - Compassion** - Charlotte is always very thoughtful and considerate of others but this was particularly evident at games club when she let children at Roosters in year two play the game she wanted to play herself. **Millie, Macie, Ben F. and Leah (USA) - Service** - for always being helpful members of USA Class and for helping their peers by supporting them with their work when they find it challenging. **Jaxon (Ind) - Courtesy and Flexibility** - he has done so well with change this week

## Kindness Shield - March

Well done to Bea (UK class) who has been awarded the March entry. It says, 'Bea, it was only six months ago that you were walking through the school gate for the first time and now you are being awarded the Kindness Award for April 2026. You are becoming capable, confident and an independent learner. You have formed great relationships and learnt to share, take turns and you are so kind to everyone - you are so lovely - a special girl!'





# Celebrations

## Achievements



Well Done to Olviai-May, Ben, James, Ben and Edward for taking part in a rugby festival over the weekend



Well Done to Rio in India class for passing stage 4 in swimming this week.



West Chillington Dramatic Society



# Open Day

Saturday 21 March, 12-4 PM

West Chillington Village Hall

*Want to find out more about your local dramatic society?*



Watch part of a play  
12:15 and 3pm



Play reading 1:15pm

Improvisation session 2:15pm



Backstage tour



Light & sound demo



Face-painting

Refreshments



Upcoming events

Director's stand



★ Free of charge ★

## Everyone welcome!

Children need to be accompanied by an adult

[www.wcds.co.uk](http://www.wcds.co.uk)