

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 4th May 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



We've had a shorter week due to the bank holiday on Monday but still lots going on in school. We've had the Year 5 residential trip to Cobnor Activity Centre and we all had a fantastic time - we're so proud of the children for trying so many new things. Next week is KS2 SATS for Year 6 and we wish them all lots of luck - you have worked so hard towards this and we know you'll do your best, which is all we can ask. We look forward to seeing you for SATS breakfast at 8am on Monday!

Living Church Links

We welcomed Nick Peebles from the Life Church to our worship this week and he talked about jealousy and contentment. The children chose presents and thought about what size the present would be, we then thought about how we felt when others got a present and we didn't. We looked at the story of Joseph and the jealousy that his brothers showed.



News



Attendance

This week's attendance was 90.9% - our target is 96.4%

90.9%

Staffing

We are delighted to confirm that Ms D Fuller has been appointed as class teacher to cover Miss Aburrow's maternity leave. Ms Fuller will be joining us after May half term and will spend time working alongside Miss Aburrow to ensure a smooth and supportive transition for the children. Ms Fuller is already well known within the school community and to many of the children. We are very pleased to be welcoming her to our teaching team.

'Giving Back'

One of our parents, Evie, is 'giving back' to the Betty Martin Charity by volunteering 20 hours of her time. She will be doing some of this by helping out in our school grounds to keep the environment looking good for the children. If you feel that you could donate to her fundraising, please click on her Gofundme link [HERE](#)

SEND Support for Parents

We are always keen to share information for families about a range of services and resources that may help and support those with additional needs.

[Autism Central](#) – a free NHS funded national service providing autism support for parents and families.

[Charlie Waller Trust](#) – offers a range of courses for families on a range of issues that families may encounter.

[West Sussex Mind](#) – offers support if you're worried about a child or young person's mental health and wellbeing

Garden Gang

Our Garden Gang were hard at work after school on Tuesday afternoon, potting up new plants to brighten the front of the school. They also added cheerful marigolds and some sugar snap peas to the beds in the fruit cage. With all their care and enthusiasm, we're looking forward to a bumper harvest in the months ahead



Harvest Fayre

We are starting to prepare for the Harvest Fayre that will be returning this year. In September, there will be some competitions running for the children to enter so you have plenty of advanced notice to start thinking about what you might be able to grow in readiness for these categories.

There will be two age groups: 5-7 and 8-11

Children's Gardening Competition Categories:

- Biggest Pumpkin
- Longest Carrot
- Funniest Shaped Vegetable
- Best Harvest Basket Display
- Most Creative Vegetable Sculpture



Children's Cooking Competition Categories:

- Best Decorated Biscuit – to be done on site, biscuits and decorating materials supplied by sponsor
- Best Homemade Biscuit
- Best Healthy Treat



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.

June cut off dates

HALF TERM

Thurs 21/05 for w/c 01/06
Thurs 28/05 for w/c 08/06

Dates for your diary

Mon 11th May - Year 6 SATS week

Weds 13th May - Year 1 Phonics information meeting

Fri 15th May - Non-uniform day for school summer fayre

Mon 18th May - Fri 22nd May - Year 6 PGL Bethany House residential

Thurs 21st May - New Parents (Sept 2026) meeting - 7pm

Mon 25th May - HALF TERM WEEK

Mon 1st Jun - Fri 5th Jun - Year 4 multiplication tests

Weds 3rd Jun - EYFS & KS1 Sports Day

Fri 5th Jun - KS2 Sports Day



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.

20th May - New Zealand 21st May - China
4th June - Australia 11th June - Italy
18th June - Sierra Leone 24th June - Mexico
25th June - USA 2nd July - Thailand
8th July - India 9th July - UK
22nd July - Japan & SA 9.30am



Curriculum

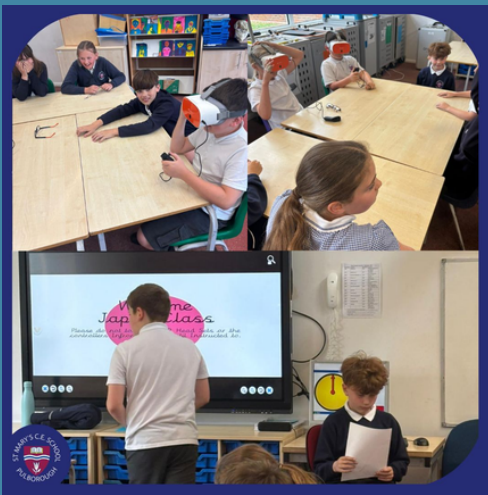
Computing

China Class were treated to an underwater experience using the VR headsets, expertly lead by Theo and Josh from year 6.

They wandered rock-pools and swam around the Great Barrier Reef as part of a project they've been working on this week!



Japan Class also benefitted from the expertise of Josh and Theo, our ICT Prefects, who took on a fantastic leadership role by guiding their peers through an interactive session exploring the world of Shakespeare. It was wonderful to see students leading learning, supporting one another and engaging so enthusiastically with classic literature.



Forest School

Sierra Leone Class had an absolutely brilliant day at Forest School. The children threw themselves into every activity and loved having the chance to learn outdoors. They spent the day building dens together and balancing on the slack line, cheering each other on and practising their coordination. They took a closer look at a stag battle that had been found, chatting about what might have happened and what it tells us about wildlife. The children were curious, muddy, busy and full of questions, everything we love to see during Forest School days





Curriculum

Project



China Class year 4's have undergone an exciting ocean-based project this week! In groups they were given a habitat to research. They looked at animals which live there and the threats they face and created group posters. They also looked at some data and statistics around ocean pollution and created bar graphs to show their findings. Then, they created dioramas of their ocean habitat. Finally, they each created a presentation to show the work they had done. A busy few days!



Maths

Japan Class have been finding the volume of cuboids and learning about cubed numbers by using manipulatives.



Duathlon

The Year 6 children completed a Sponsored Duathlon after school last week as part of their fundraising for this year's Big Top production. Everyone who took part performed brilliantly and challenged themselves; it was fantastic to see the teamwork and encouragement shown throughout the afternoon.



Boys:

1st - Finnley, 2nd - William, 3rd - Jayden

Girls:

1st - Freya, 2nd - Aimee

Team Event:

1st - Anthony and Poppy, 2nd - Charlie H and Max, 3rd - Peter and Arlo



Thank you also to the adults that supported the event and kindly sponsored the children. They have raised an incredible £1148.94 so far - special mention to Anthony (Jap) who raised £330 of that by himself!





Curriculum

Year 5 Residential Trip

The Year 5 children have been on their residential trip this week at Cobnor Activity Centre in Chichester. It is a chance for them to go away and live together - for many, their first stay away from home - and try new things. The children had the chance to experience keel boating, high ropes, aeroball, archery, a cosy campfire and a coastal hike. It is great to share such an adventure with the children - you get to see a different side of them when they are away from home and school. Thanks, as always, to our staff for giving up their time to allow the children these wonderful experiences and memories.





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

Lawrence (Tha) - Wisdom - for working really hard on his speed and recall of his bonds within 10. **Everly (Tha) - Wisdom** - for always trying her best during Drawing Club and being proud of her achievements. **Anthony (Jap) - Service** - for his charitable contributions towards the Big Top. **Daisy & Maryanne (Jap) - Friendship** - for considering others when writing your residential / Weald form group lists. **Darcey (Ita) - Kindness** - for brilliantly supporting another child who was having a tricky morning. **Frankie (Ita) - Perseverance** - for persevering when finding writing quite difficult this week, but generated a lovely final piece of writing. **Noah (SL) - Wisdom** - for consistent engagement with his spellings this year.

Achievements



**Santi (Aus) -
completed Stage 2
swimming**



**Isabelle (Ita) -
achieved her Rainbow
distance badge at
swimming**

FUNDRAISING WALK

AT

THE ANCHORAGE

IN SUPPORT OF AGE UK



The Anchorage
CARE HOME - PULBOROUGH

in support of
ageuk

★ JOIN US FOR ★
A FUN COMMUNITY EVENT!

Led by Daisy, our
"Through the Eyes of a Child" star



DATE:
16th June 2026



TIME:
4:00pm – 5:30pm



LOCATION:
The Anchorage
Care Home



THE CHALLENGE

Daisy is taking on a
10-LAP WALK
around The Anchorage
and she wants

YOU to join in!



**COME IN
FANCY DRESS**
to make it
extra fun!



WHO CAN JOIN?

- ✓ Children from the programme
- ✓ Residents
- ✓ Families & visitors
- ✓ Staff
- ✓ Even dogs are welcome!



AFTER THE WALK

Stay and enjoy:



Cake sale



Drinks



Community fun



**ALL PROCEEDS
GO TO AGE UK**



GET INVOLVED

Daisy is inviting St Mary's School and the wider community to help make this a fantastic, community-wide event.



COME ALONG & SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

Let's walk together, have fun, and make a difference.

The Anchorage Community Dementia Café Launch



We are pleased to announce the launch of The Anchorage's first ever Community Dementia Café

Our first session will include dementia-friendly activities and a special musical guest in an inclusive, welcoming and supportive environment.

enquiries@anchoragecarehome.co.uk
01798 872 779

**The Meadows Room
Pulborough Village Hall**

**Tuesday 12th May
10:30am - 12:00pm**



This initiative is delivered in partnership with PDCCA and is open to those living with dementia, their carers, and anyone seeking support or signposting to relevant services.

PDCCA
PULBOROUGH & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION