

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

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



Week beginning 11th May 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



What a week it has been for Year 6! We are full of praise for the effort and enthusiasm they have put into their SATs tests. They have been resilient, hardworking and given 100%! They deserve a break and most of them are off on their residential trip next week – we wish them a fun packed week together. We have also announced their end of year production and they will be performing... 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'! This is not a production that we have ever performed before so we are very excited to see what they can do.

Living Church Links

As part of our worship assembly, Father Paul talked to the children about Ascension Day and some of them helped him to create a frieze of Jesus talking to his disciples. Father Paul also talked about Pentecost.



News



Attendance

This week's attendance was 92.8% - our target is 96.4%

92.8%

SATs breakfast club

Thank you to **Tesco** for their food donations this week to support our Year 6 pupils. The children were given a hearty breakfast of pain au chocolate, croissants, waffles, pancakes, fruit kebabs, water melon, fruit juice, scrambled eggs, baked beans and yoghurts. We always want to ensure that our Year 6 have a good breakfast and spend time together before their tests. Thank you to all of the staff for coming in early and cooking / preparing to make this happen.



Year 4 Multiplication Tests

Thank you to the parents who attended the Year 4 presentation for the upcoming multiplication tests. If you were unable to attend, you can find the presentation on our website - please look at how you can work with your child to help them with their times tables.



News

Author Visit - K R Thompson

We are delighted that on Monday 1st June K.R THOMPSON will be visiting us to talk to the children about her new WERELock & SCRATCH series of illustrated puzzle / mystery chapter books! Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will meet with her and could have a signed copy to go home with. You can order this using the details below or bring £7 cash on the day.

You can purchase Kate's books via the online shop – with FREE DELIVERY to the school! Pre-ordered books will be handed out to children at school on the day of Kate's visit and she will personally SIGN & DEDICATE these for your child, while she's at school.

The deadline for pre-ordering is 4pm on Friday 29th May.

HOW TO PRE-ORDER YOUR BOOK VIA THE STEYNING BOOKSHOP ONLINE STORE

- 1) Click [HERE](#) to go to the Steyning Bookshop website
- 2) Add the K.R THOMPSON book/s to your shopping basket
- 3) Select 'LOCAL PICKUP' (No postage charge, books will be delivered to the school)
- 4) Enter Billing Address as normal. In ORDER NOTES add 'ST MARYS SCHOOL, CHILD'S NAME & CLASS.
- 5) Proceed to payment by credit/ debit card or Paypal.
- 6) Books will be handed out to the children & signed by Kate at school on 1st June.

If you have problems ordering online, please call the bookshop to order by phone on 01903 812062



PTA Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who donated bottles / chocolates / sweets to our PTA during the non-uniform day on Friday. These will all go towards raffle / tombola stalls at our Summer Fayre on Saturday 13th June.



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

Thurs 21/05 for w/c 01/06
Thurs 28/05 for w/c 08/06
Thurs 04/06 for w/c 15/06
Thurs 11/06 for w/c 22/06
Thurs 18/06 for w/c 29/06

Dates for your diary

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 - KS2 Author visit - K R Thompson
Mon 1st Jun - Fri 5th Jun - Year 4 multiplication tests
Weds 3rd Jun - EYFS & KS1 Sports Day
Fri 5th Jun - KS2 Sports Day
Weds 10th Jun - NZ, SL & USA trip to Bignor Roman Villa
Weds 10th Jun - UK & Thai Planetarium visit
Fri 12th Jun - Whole school photo
Sat 13th Jun - School Summer Fayre

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

Performing Arts Day

Mrs Worley took some of our Y5 pupils to a Performing Arts Day at Christ's Hospital.

The children were able to work with artists from the creators of War Horse. They designed their own puppet to use during the session and worked together as a team to make the character come to life. Brilliant team work and they represented the school so well.



Gardening

More plants have gone into the new fruit cage and some seeds have been planted thanks to our Garden Gang. We look forward to seeing the produce that this yields!



Forest School

USA Class started off their sessions of Forest School this week. The children had a great time balancing on the slack line, being inventive in the mud kitchen, enjoying snack time around the fire and just spending good quality time together outside exploring and learning.

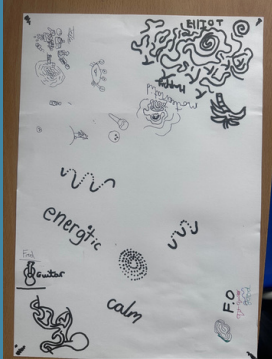




Curriculum

Music

Mexico class had a music session with Miss Aburrow this week. We explored ocean soundscapes by responding to music on paper and then having a go at composing our own!



Year 6

Our Year 6 children have all worked incredibly hard on their SAT's tests and were a real credit to themselves and the staff. To celebrate, their 'Big Top' production was announced - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! - and they auditioned on Friday morning before receiving their leavers' hoodies in the afternoon. On Monday, the majority of them are also off on a residential trip to spend the week together experiencing new adventures and challenges - we can't wait to hear, and see, all about it!





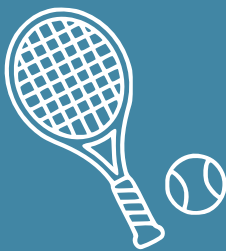
Sport



Tennis



Thank you to Mia, Macey, Andrew, Freddy, Theo, Felix, Leah and Martha in Year 3 & 4 for joining Mrs Copus at The Weald School on Thursday for an afternoon of Tennis. The children practised lots of skills with foot work, racquet control and serving and then participated in their own matches.



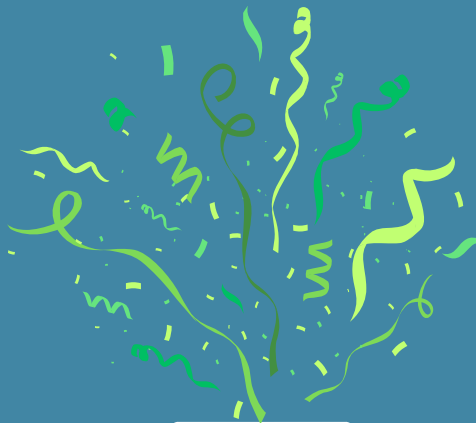


Celebrations

Loving House Cup

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

Mia (Mex) and Izarra (NZ) - Perseverance - for working really hard at Garden Gang, planting lots of veg plants in the fruit cage. Poppy (Jap) - Courage and Perseverance - for putting in lots of work and effort in building her confidence. Lennie (SA) - Perseverance - for his positive attitude to his SATs. George H (NZ) - Perseverance - for pushing himself out of his comfort zone with his newspaper report! Alicia (SA) - Courage and Perseverance - for being adaptable when technology failed and not being put off by the change of plan. Victoria (SA) - Service - for ensuring that SATs breakfast was set up for her class mates. Miller (Mex) - Friendship and Service - for helping children read their parts for a presentation. She did this subtly and with kindness ensuring everyone felt happy and included. Louis (Ita) - Perseverance - for writing a brilliant fact file about the Tower of London. Theo (SL) - Perseverance - for showing a great attitude to learning in English this week and writing an excellent newspaper report. Connor (SL) - Creativity - for engaging well in all the activities at Forest School and showing great creativity. Andrew and Freddy (SL) - Courage - for following instructions and trying really hard with their swimming. Mason (Chi) - Wisdom and Friendship - for showing a friend a times tables trick to help them with the MTC. Leah (Chi) - Perseverance - for working very hard to edit her writing independently. Ronnie (Chi) - Perseverance - for making a sturdy effort to improve his writing in both length and quality. Rayne (Aus) - Perseverance - for never giving up and trying very hard. Emilia (Aus) - Compassion - for being very kind and supportive to a child this week and showing wonderful friendship. Jaxon (Ind) - Perseverance - for managing so well this week and doing some very quiet and thoughtful detective inspections with Mrs Crosbie



Kindness Shield

Ella C (SA) - May - What an unassuming young lady you are. You are kind, respectful and patient to all around you. You take others into consideration and are always the first to volunteer to help.
Keep being you!



Celebrations



Achievements



Lyla (UK) - competed in a dance competition and came 1st in pairs, 4th in hip hop and 5th in slow!



Eliza (Ita) - competed in a gymnastics competition and came 1st in 2 events 2nd in 2 more!



Violet (SL) - worked very hard to achieve her purple belt in karate

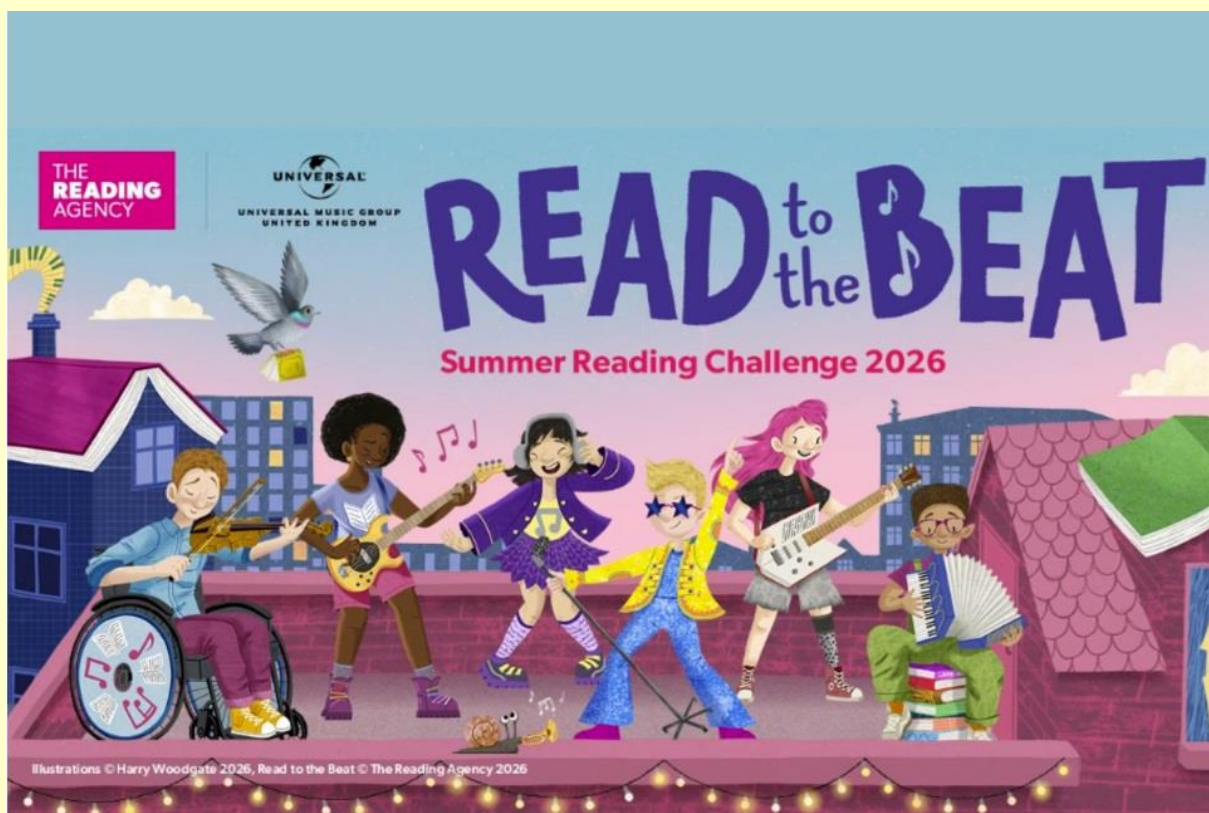
Jaxon (Chi) - scored the final penalty to win the Storrington football tournament with his team



Amelia (Ind) - moved up to Stage 4 in swimming

Hattie (Thai) - achieved Level 1 in Beam and Vault in gymnastics





The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge, one of the largest summer reading programmes in the UK for children aged 4 to 11, launches on Saturday 4th July. Last year, 10,800 children joined the challenge in West Sussex. We would love to reach even more in 2026!

***Read to the Beat* encourages children to read amazing library books – of their choice - over the summer holidays. Every child who visits their local library after registering for the Challenge will receive an engaging sticker booklet. Throughout the summer they can collect stickers and other exciting rewards for reading books and completing reading-related challenges.**

***Read to the Beat* is free - children just need a library card to register - and if they don't have one yet, this can be set up for free too. To find out more, visit your local library or libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src**

