

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

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

## NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 18th May 2026

### Message from Mrs Copus

The first half of summer term has flown by with such active, memorable, engaging learning opportunities for every year group in our school. Please enjoy the bank holiday weekend and the half term break and spend time with friends and family to create memories. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June ready for sports days and our new termly curriculum.



### Living Church Links



We welcomed SPLASH today. Lois came as a 'Green Eyed Monster' and was very jealous about missing out on cake. The worship unpicked how unique and special we are in God's eyes and how we come with our own skills and talents. The worship started with a describing activity and ensured that the children used the skills that God had given them. We read a verse from The Bible 'I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way' Psalm 139. We sang together about how unique we all are and Lois and Nick accompanied the children on the ukuleles.



# News



## Attendance

This week's attendance was 91.1% - our target is 96.4%

91.1%

## Sports Day

A reminder that Sports Day will take place during the first week back after half term.

**EYFS & KS1 Sports Day – Wednesday 3rd June**

**Morning session:** UK and Thailand Class

**Afternoon session:** Italy, India and Australia Class

**KS2 Sports Day – Friday 5th June**

**Morning session:** China, Mexico, South Africa and Japan Class

**Afternoon session:** New Zealand, Sierra Leone and USA Class

Parents are welcome to come along and support their children during their session.

## Absences

A reminder to parents and carers that regular school attendance is extremely important. We have recently seen an increase in children being reported absent through illness when they have in fact been on holiday. We ask families to follow the correct procedures for requesting leave during term time and to support the values of honesty and responsibility that we promote in school. Please be aware that penalty notices may still be issued retrospectively where unauthorised holidays are identified. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

## Lunch boxes and snacks

A reminder to parents and carers that sweets and chocolates should not form part of children's snacks or lunch boxes. We have noticed an increase in these items being brought into school recently and ask families to support healthy eating by providing balanced lunches and nutritious snacks wherever possible. Thank you for your cooperation.





# 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





## 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 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 25<sup>th</sup> May - HALF TERM WEEK

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jun - KS2 Author visit - K R Thompson

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jun - Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jun - Year 4 multiplication tests

Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun - EYFS & KS1 Sports Day

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jun - KS2 Sports Day

Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Jun - NZ, SL & USA trip to Bignor Roman Villa

Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Jun - UK & Thai Planetarium visit

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Jun - Whole school photo

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

4<sup>th</sup> June - Australia 11<sup>th</sup> June - Italy

18<sup>th</sup> June - Sierra Leone 24<sup>th</sup> June - Mexico

25<sup>th</sup> June - USA 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Thailand

8<sup>th</sup> July - India 9<sup>th</sup> July - UK

22<sup>nd</sup> July - Japan & SA 9.30am



# Curriculum

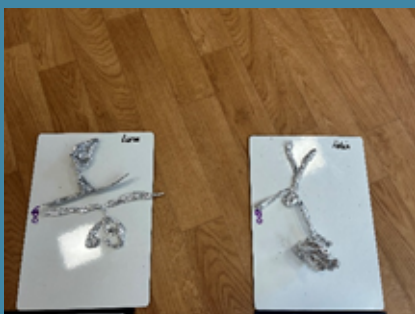
## Outdoor Classroom Day

On Thursday Mrs Ashton-Smith organised an Outdoor Day. Children from EYFS to Y6 took part in learning outdoors. Miller and Aria did a presentation about Jane Goodall during the whole school assembly developing their confidence on speaking to an audience and Mattie and Flora who did a presentation about David Attenborough after celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on residential at Cobnor. Mexico and Australia class who were inspired by Andy Goldsworthy to make a tree from natural resources on the school field and SL class who went outside to identify and measure the age of trees.



## Art

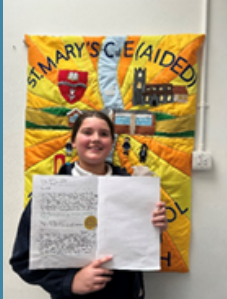
New Zealand class have been looking at the artist Giacometti and created their own sculptures from tin foil. They really thought about the shapes of the human form.



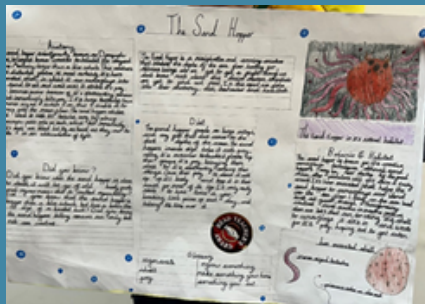


# Curriculum

## English



What an amazing piece of English from Charlotte (Y5) and Zara (Y4)! Their writing goes from strength to strength and we are so proud of the progress they are making.



## Gardening

Children in UK class and Rossters after school club have been busy planting pumpkin plants in preparation for the Harvest Fayre. They've worked very hard together and look forward to seeing what they can grow over the next few months!

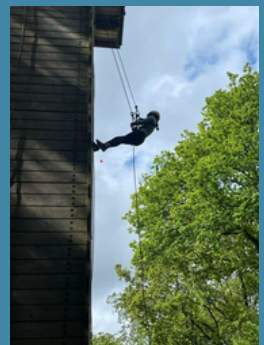




# Curriculum

## Year 6 Residential

What a fabulous week for the children on their residential trip at PGL Marchants Hill this week. They've taken part in zip lining, buggy building, abseiling, Jacob's ladder, trapeze, rifle shooting, giant swing, raft building and many other games and activities. They have shown brilliant teamwork, resilience and determination to challenge themselves and each other. We are incredibly grateful to Miss Callender, Miss Turner, Mrs Hayes and Mrs Parsons for spending the week with the children and giving them the adventure of a lifetime!





# Sport

## Quad Athletics



A group of children participated in a 'Quad Athletics' event at The Weald School where they took part in four different activities - 600m, 100m, javelin and standing jump. They performed brilliantly and came second overall - we are very proud of the effort that they put in.



## Hockey Equipment

We are so blessed to have been given new hockey equipment from The Hockey Trust for our lessons and to set up a hockey club from September. We are so grateful for all this new equipment which enriches the curriculum for the children.





# 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.



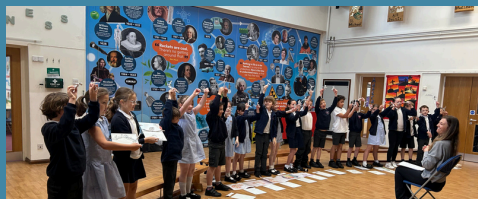
# Celebrations

## Vine Leaves

Harper-Grace (Tha) -Perseverance - for trying so hard to learn to skip. Rosie, Molly, Amelie, Ryan, Arlo, Mattie, Flora, Isabella, Annabelle, Miller and Ada - Humility - for working so well together as a team and having respect for each other during netball club. Theo (Ita) - Kindness - for being a brilliant friend to others and always having others' backs. Josie (Mex) - Compassion - for being very kind to fellow pupils ensuring they feel welcome and included. Willow (Mex) - Friendship - for being very kind and protective of her classmates. Archie (SA) - Service - for being extremely helpful in year five, especially during art, by repairing year five's coral structures. Daniel (SA) - Service - for being a brilliant role model whilst helping Mrs Burbidge during PE lessons Swaily (SL) - Compassion - for taking the time to look after and nurture a bird that needed saving. Fred and Harrison (Mex) - Compassion - for being very kind to children in Australia when they were overwhelmed and helped cheer them up and engage them with the task.

## Class Assemblies

**NZ assembly** - The children were able to retell their talk story, they added and subtracted pizzas using fractions with a common denominator, they showed their sculptures based on the work of Giacometti and celebrated with 'My Lighthouse' with their best singing voices.



**China Class**- Well done to China for their celebration about oceans, their subject knowledge showed the depth of the curriculum, they talked about ocean animals and the ones they have created, they showed us their 3D art work and finished with the campfire song of Baby Shark' that we practised on residential.





# Celebrations

## Achievements



**Penelope (Thai) -  
competed Stage 2  
swimming**



**Maddie (Ind) -  
competed Stage 4  
swimming**



**Reuben (Ind) - was  
awarded his Bronze  
Chief Scout award**

# Construction Club

**Get creative. Get imaginative.  
Get building!**

**Suitable for children aged 4+ years  
FREE DROP-IN SESSION**

**Parents and carers are asked to remain  
with their child during this activity**



**Wednesday 27 May  
1pm-4pm**

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FREE weekly drop-in sessions**

**Parents and carers are asked to remain  
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**Wednesday 27 May  
1pm-4pm**



The Steyning Festival has heaps of **FUN** activities for kids this half term!  
From children's theatre and circus skills to science, art and sporty activities, we have something for everyone!  
**PLUS** the chance to meet 2 fantastic authors **CHRIS RIDDELL** and **LIZ PICHON** and see their amazing live drawing shows!



**ART IN THE PARK DAY:**  
**TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2pm**



**Drawing Magical Mermaids and More**

*A creative event for the whole family!*

*Join multi-award winning author and illustrator*

**CHRIS RIDDELL**

*for an hour of fantasy drawing fun for ages 6+ with LIVE DRAWING and an underwater draw-along!*

**2pm-3pm at the PENFOLD HALL Child Ticket £5**

**FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK AT : [STEYNINGFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://STEYNINGFESTIVAL.CO.UK)**



**Story-Telling Day**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**  
**2pm in the BIG TOP**



**THE BRILLIANT WORLD OF LIZ PICHON**



Join the best-selling author of the **TOM GATES** series for a joyful hour of **DOODLING**, giggling, games, storytelling and more! Liz will be celebrating 15 years of the **TOM GATES** books and introducing us to the colourful crazy world of **THE MUBBLES**.

**FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK AT : [STEYNINGFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://STEYNINGFESTIVAL.CO.UK)**

