

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 1st June 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



Welcome back after the May half term. It has been lovely to hear so many children sharing their stories of beaches, ice creams and swimming. It is always better when the weather is lovely and supports us all getting outdoors.

Living Church Links

Father Paul came into school to talk to us about parables from Luke's Gospel 21. He acted out the story about the widow who gave her last bit of money to the temple. We reflected on generosity within our school.





News



Attendance

This week's attendance was 92.0% - our target is 96.4%

92.0%

We are continuing to work towards meeting Government attendance targets and would appreciate your support with this.

The Department for Education (DfE) has provided schools with lists of pupils who are currently recorded as persistently absent. If your child's name appears on this list, you will receive a letter from school.

Improving attendance remains a priority for us, and we hope to work together with families to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to learn and succeed.

Whole School Photo

On Friday 12th June we will be having a whole school photo taken. This only happens every 3 / 4 years and is an event that we very much look forward to. We ask that all children come into school wearing their full summer school uniform and black shoes. If your child is doing PE or has Forest School, please ensure they wear their uniform to school and bring their kit in separately.

Enough Stuff

Do you have any old, unwanted books – please bring them into school and we are going to donate to this charity to help a family clinic in Malawi.

Enough-stuff - <https://enough-stuff.net/>



News



Former Pupil

We are delighted that one of our ex-pupils, Josh Andrews, has been selected to play rugby for Harlequins. We know he has worked very hard for this and couldn't be prouder of his achievements. He is currently fundraising for the Harlequins Foundation. If anyone feels that they could support his cause, please scan the QR code below.



Pollination Station

We are looking for bits to help with the pollination station that is being installed on Monday as part of our work with Sussex Green living – if you can help with bark, pine cones, moss etc then please send it into school in a bag on Monday. Many thanks

Sewstainable Barn

Secret Projects who power The Sewstainable Barn based at Pulborough Garden Centre, are running a stand at the Summer Fete and it is called - Make Your Own Dream Denim Bag



They are very fun and fast to make. in order to divert as many pairs of adult jeans as possible away from landfill and overflowing donation bins, we'd be really grateful for any donations

They also run after school clubs - you can find more information here <https://www.secretprojects.org/products/wednesday-sewing-club>



News



Transition

Change is a natural part of growing up and we are here to support your child every step of the way. To help make the transition to new classes smooth and exciting, we will be sending home transition booklets for you to share with your child and explore together.

Staffing

We are looking forward to September and are excited to share the staffing at this time. We will have 11 classes. We spend a great deal of time carefully considering class placements. When creating class lists, we take into account the needs and dynamics of different groups of children, as well as ensuring that classes are balanced and can be taught effectively. We kindly ask parents not to request specific teachers. Class placement decisions are made based on our knowledge of each child and our professional judgement about what will best support their learning and wellbeing.

UK – Mrs Martin-Wells and Mrs Gowland EYFS

Thailand – Miss Duignan EYFS / Year 1

Italy – Mrs Heasman White Year 1

India – Mrs Huntley Hart Year 2

Australia – Mrs Packham Year 2

NZ – Mrs McTiffen and Mrs Ashton Smith Year 3

SL – Miss Taylor Year 3 / 4

USA – Mrs Farrant Year 4

China – Miss Fuller Year 5

South Africa – Miss Turner Year 5 / 6

Japan – Miss Callender Year 6

Retirement

We would like to share the news that Miss Dunstall will be retiring from St Mary's at the end of this academic year. Having dedicated more than 30 years of service to our school, she has made an immeasurable contribution to the lives of countless children and families. We are incredibly grateful for her commitment, care and unwavering dedication throughout her time with us. We know that many former pupils and parents will have fond memories of Miss Dunstall and may wish to share their good wishes. If you would like to leave a message, please send it to the school office and we will include it in a special card to celebrate her remarkable years at St Mary's.



News

Author Visit - K R Thompson

We were thrilled to welcome our friends from The Steyning Bookshop along with the lovely Kate R Thompson, Children's Author.

Kate is the author of the Werelock & Scratch mystery series, which follows the adventures of a werewolf and raven detective duo, stories packed with clever codes to crack and clues to scrutinise.

Our KS2 children were absolutely brilliant, throwing themselves into every challenge and cracking all the clues and codes during Kate's fantastic assembly. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and curiosity made the whole session shine.

A huge thank you to Kate and The Steyning Bookshop for inspiring our young readers and budding detectives





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 11/06 for w/c 22/06
Thurs 18/06 for w/c 29/06

Dates for your diary

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

24th Jun - Year 6 Leavers' Service at Chichester Cathedral

29th Jun - Summer Reading Challenge launch event

10th Jul - Move Up Afternoon

14th Jul - Year 6 production 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' 1pm & 6pm

16th Jul - Year 6 production 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' 6pm

16th Jul - Year 6 Leavers Service St Mary's Church, Pulborough

17th Jul - Year 6 production 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' 6pm

18th Jul - Year 6 Leavers' Prom 6-8pm

20th Jul - China & Mexico class - Bowls Club visit

22nd Jul - Leavers' Assembly

22nd Jul - Last day of school



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.

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

Topic Themes

The children have come back to school to new themes this half term. UK and Thailand are focusing on Shadows and Reflections. Italy, India and Australia are learning about Movers and Shakers and it was great to see the children dressed up and welcoming members of our community as their superstarter. NZ, USA and SL are learning about The Romans and we are excited for them to visit Bignor Roman Villa – we are situated on a Roman road and to be so close to a villa is very special. Year 5 are learning about The Titanic and Year 6 are thinking about Shakespeare.

Movers and Shakers



The children had a wonderful return to school for their super starter. They all embraced the theme of 'Movers and Shakers'. They really enjoyed the talk that PC Quinnell gave. Vincent Van Gogh was the focus artist and each class has created their own interpretation of some of his most famous works... pictures to follow. A wonderfully inspiring day was had by all.





Curriculum

Writing



Italy class had a great time learning about instructional language this week. There was lots of fun and laughter when the children discovered just how specific they had to be when telling Mrs Heasman-White how to make a jam sandwich!



PE

Australia Class were disappointed that their Sports Day had to be postponed due to the weather on Wednesday so they took their PE lesson indoors to practice some of the events.





Sport

Sports Day

Unfortunately, the weather on Wednesday was not kind to us and we had to postpone Sports Day for UK & Thailand Class after the carousel event. The children will complete their races during their PE lessons. Italy, India and Australia Class have had their Sports Day rescheduled to Monday 15th June 2026 at 1.30pm.

Fortunately, the weather was much brighter today and the KS2 events went ahead as planned - it was lovely to see so many families come along to support their children, thank you. The winning teams were as follows -

China, Mexico, South Africa & Japan Class - St Mary's (Blue)

New Zealand, Sierra Leone & USA Class - St Michael's (Yellow)





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

Harry (Ita) - Service, Compassion and Wisdom - for always going out of his way to say hello to me and to ask how I am every time he passes me and also showcasing your deep understanding of place value during our maths lessons. Josh (Mex) - Generosity - for lending his fidget toy to someone when they didn't have one. Elliot (Mex) - Compassion - for choosing to work with and support two pupils who were struggling during a computing lesson. Immy (Chi) - Friendship and Wisdom - for showing another student how to do something during Forest School when they were struggling. George (Chi) - Friendship - for making a new student feel welcome within the class.

Class Assemblies

Australia Class - the children talked to us about facts they had learnt about the UK, they showcased their artwork inspired by Joe Peel of London landmarks and also had a 'pizza party' with the whole class to solidify their learning and understanding of sharing and fractions during maths. They also showed us their Talk Story based on the book Every House On Every Street and made their own version of it to share with us. They finished by singing You've Got A Friend In Me to us. Well done to you all!



Achievements



Congratulations to Ada, Sienna and Lyla for all getting to the finals in their dance competition last week!