

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

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

## NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 29th June 2026

### Message from Mrs Copus



As we approach the end of term, we were delighted to welcome Bev from the library service. There are 50 dojos on offer for every child who completes the summer reading challenge - we would love children to continue to read over the summer to maintain and improve their reading levels. There are so many amazing books out there for children to devour and we want to hear about this on our return!

### Living Church Links

We have started to prepare for our Year 6 Church Leavers Service at St Mary's Church, Pulborough on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm. We look forward to welcoming parents / carers to the service as we say thank you, goodbye and wish the children the very best in their journey





# News



## Attendance

This weeks attendance was 94.9% - our target is 96.4%

94.9%

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.

## Meal Provider - September

From September 2026, school meals at St Mary's, Pulborough will be provided by ISS Education, who are taking over from Chartwells as part of a new West Sussex County Council contract. ISS will be bringing exciting new menus and a brand new online ordering system to make managing school meals easier than ever for families. Meals will be just £2.95 per day, which is 25p less than the current charge. If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals then check the WSCC website and apply today [www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/) - the criteria for qualifying is in the process of changing so more families may now be eligible for this benefit and we would encourage you all to apply. To find out more about what's coming, including menus and how the new ordering system will work, visit [www.feedwestsussex.co.uk](http://www.feedwestsussex.co.uk). If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact [office@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk)



FEEDING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY



## Summer Reading Challenge

Bev from the West Sussex Library Service joined us this week to tell us about the Summer Reading Challenge, which returns this year with the exciting theme, Read to the Beat!

The challenge launches at our local libraries this Saturday and runs throughout the summer holidays. It's completely FREE to take part and is a fantastic way to encourage children to keep reading over the summer holidays while having lots of fun.

Children can sign up now and then visit the library from Saturday onwards to collect their starter pack and begin their reading adventure. Please see the attached flyer for full details on how to register.

We're incredibly proud that last year St Mary's had the highest number of children completing the Summer Reading Challenge in West Sussex, earning their medal and certificate – an amazing achievement! We'd love to see our pupils retain that title this year, so we encourage as many families as possible to get involved.

As always, every child who completes the challenge and brings their certificate into school in September will be awarded Dojo points to celebrate their fantastic reading achievement.

We're also happy to share that Mrs Adams, our school secretary, will be volunteering at the library on various days throughout the challenge. She'll be based mainly at Billingshurst Library and would love to see lots of our St Mary's children there over the summer.

Happy reading and good luck with the challenge!





## Staffing

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed an interim Deputy Headteacher. Mr Nathan Hollisey-McLean will be joining us from September and working with us for the Autumn Term. This is an interim placement and we will readvertise the position in the Autumn Term.

## Whatsapp



We are asking for your support with an issue affecting the well-being, friendships and learning of some of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. We have become aware that an increasing number of children are using WhatsApp, despite the app having a minimum age requirement of 13. Unfortunately, its use has led to incidents involving exclusion, unkind language and misunderstandings that are carrying over into school and disrupting learning. We kindly ask parents and carers to remove WhatsApp from their child's device if they have it, regularly monitor online activity and use parental controls to help keep children safe online. Thank you for your continued support.

## Child Safety

We were joined by our local PCSO's this morning for an educational talk about child safety during the summer holidays. They discussed river safety, railway safety and the illegal use of e-scooters on public highways and land. We'd like to thank them for their time.





# News



## Mental Health



We all know that supporting young people's mental health is more important than ever. This website provides a range of helpful information, advice and resources for children, young people and their families - click [HERE](#)

## Child of Sussex Award

We are incredibly proud of Daisy in Year 6, who received the Community Award at the Child of Sussex Awards 2026! The award was presented by Tom & Jack from More Radio at Knockhatch Adventure Park. Daisy was recognised for her remarkable dedication to the care community and for creating the inspiring 'Through the Eyes of a Child' initiative. A huge congratulations to Daisy, this award is so thoroughly deserved.

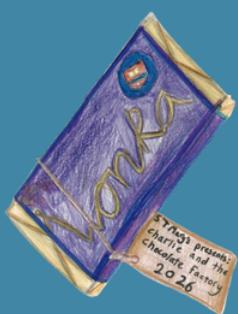


## Whole School Photo



Your children will have come home this week with a proof of our recent whole school photo. The deadline for orders is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

## Production Tickets



Tickets for our Year 6 Production, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, are now on sale. You can purchase tickets via your MCAS app or visit the school office.



## 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.

#### July cut off dates

Thurs 09/07 for w/c 20/07

### Dates for your diary

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Jul - Move Up Afternoon

Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Jul - Year 6 production 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' 1pm & 6pm

Thur 16<sup>th</sup> Jul - Year 6 production 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' 6pm

Thur 16<sup>th</sup> Jul - Year 6 Leavers' Service St Mary's Church, Pulborough

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jul - Year 6 production 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory' 6pm

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Jul - Year 6 Leavers' Prom 6-8pm

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jul - China & Mexico class - Bowls Club visit

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul - Leavers' Assembly

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

8<sup>th</sup> July - **India**

9<sup>th</sup> July - **UK**

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

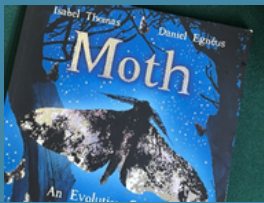


# Curriculum

## Design Technology

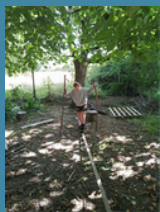
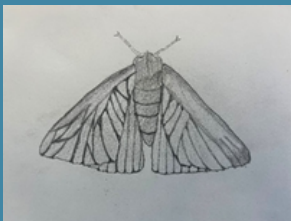


SL class have been sewing their own cushions inspired by Roman Shields - just look at their results!



## Art

South Africa were looking at evolution and studied the peppered moth and how it has adapted to suit its changing environment. We listened to the book 'Moth' by Isabel Thomas and created observational drawings in sketchbooks.



## Forest School

Mexico class had a fabulous day at Forest School, making birds nests, natural art, woodpecker call discs, lime leaf flapjack and so much more! We can't wait for next week.

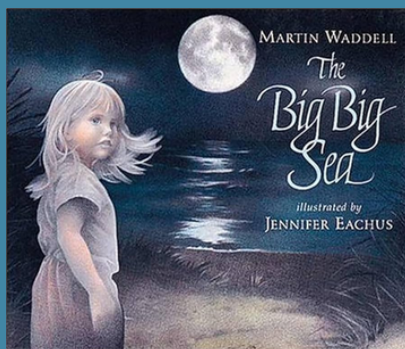




# Curriculum

## Outdoor Learning

UK class had a day outside for their learning today. They explored our on site pond area together, using nets to see what they could find - a baby newt! They then spent time in the garden making some fish out of willow. They've been out at their 'beach' again, playing with the sand and water whilst taking a dip in the 'sea'. They then finished off the week by having some hot buttered toast, just like the little girl in *The Big Sea* by Martin Waddell, which they have been reading.



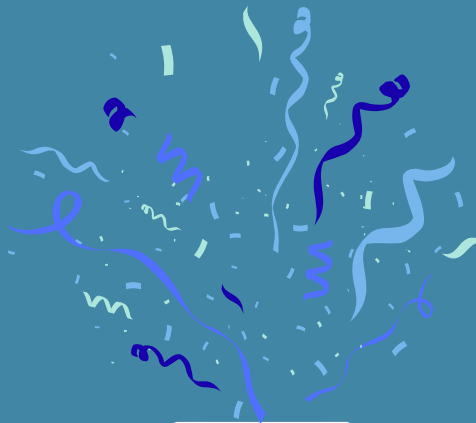


# Celebrations

## 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

Dino and George (Chi) - Friendship - for always including others in their games. Oliver, Freddie and Vinnie (Mex) - Generosity and Service - for cooking at Forest School, making extra so there was enough for everyone and serving everyone else before having any themselves. Mattie (Mex) - Compassion - for voluntarily helping someone to build a birds nest when she saw they were struggling to make everything balance. Zachary (Aus) - Friendship - for being a kind and supportive friend Isaac (Aus) - Generosity - for making hats for some of the children in class. Amelia (SA) - Friendship - for helping her peers during a maths lesson. Peri (Aus) - Creativity - for doing some very impressive drawing during some quiet time this week Wynter (USA) - Perseverance - for trying very hard with her diary entry as a gladiator Julian (USA) - Perseverance - for working hard to complete his maths, history and art this week.

## Class Assembly

Thailand celebration assembly was a celebration of their time in class this term. The children were able to talk openly about their learning. They talked about their shadow puppets linked to The Hungry Caterpillar and performed the story. They sang about doubles, they shared their favourite memories and came across as so confident in their learning.



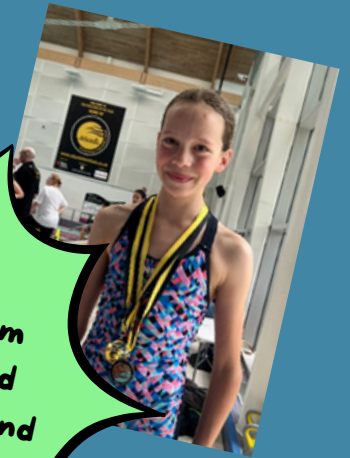
# Celebrations



## Achievements



Lyla (UK) - competed in a dance competition and came 1<sup>st</sup> in pairs, 5<sup>th</sup> in solo & 7<sup>th</sup> in slow!



Mattie (Mex) - competed in a swim gala and won a gold medal, silver medal and got 5 PB's!



Archie (SA) - received the Players' Player award at Pulborough FC & Clubman award at Billingshurst FC!

Ada & Sienna-Jane (USA) - competed in a dance competition and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in pairs!



Sophie M (India) - graded in karate and gained her second orange belt

Join thousands of children taking part in the  
**Summer Reading Challenge**  
in all West Sussex Libraries from Saturday 4 July.  
Watch our [Read to the Beat video](#) to find out more!

- Fill in the [online registration form](#) at [libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src](https://libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src).
- Tell library staff the **secret code word**.
- Pick up a book and start reading!
- **Collect rewards** for reading library books and completing 'Make the Challenge Your Own' goals!
- Read **any library books** you like - it's up to you!
- Look out for fun events and activities at your local library!



It's **FREE** to join the library and **FREE** to take part.  
**Let's get reading!**



# Young Explorers Club

28 & 30 July | 25 & 27 August 2026

We have a variety of fun-filled activities for Children age between 8-12 to learn something exciting, and have fun.

## Our activities

- Animal handling
- Woodland activities
- Craft

## Our features

- Qualified instructors
- Animal facilities
- Outdoor space

## Cost

- £40 per day
- £70 for 2 days



Scan to book  
your session(s)