

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

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



Week beginning 13th July 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



The end of year comes with mixed emotions - we have had a year of cherished experiences where children have flourished in their current year groups. As we head towards a new academic year, we have so much to look forward to. As you start your summer holiday, may we take this opportunity to say thank you for your support, determination and patience.

Living Church Links

Leavers Service - On Thursday, Year 6 and KS2 made their way to the parish church of St Mary's. The leavers' service was a way of celebrating the children's time at a church school. The children filled the church with their singing and each Year 6 child was presented with their bible and an It's Your Move booklet, which will help with their transition to secondary school. Thank you to Fr Paul, Mr Holloway, Mr Hancock and the governors for such a lovely celebration.





News



Attendance

This weeks attendance was 94.2% - our target is 96.4%

94.2%

As we prepare for the new school year, we would like to remind families of our attendance procedures. We have recently seen an increase in children being reported as unwell when we are aware they are on holiday. This places both families and the school in a difficult position and we kindly ask that absence reasons are always provided honestly and accurately.

In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, the school is required to refer unauthorised holiday absences and cases where there is insufficient evidence to support a prolonged or queried illness absence, to West Sussex County Council (WSCC). This is not a decision made by the school but a statutory duty that we are obliged to follow.

We appreciate your support in helping us ensure that attendance records are accurate and that we meet our legal responsibilities. If you have any questions about attendance or need advice before requesting leave, please contact the school office.

Meal Provider - September

Please keep an eye on your inbox over the coming days for a separate letter about our new school meals provider, ISS Education / FEED and their new online ordering system. The letter will explain how to register your child, order meals ready for September and will include the new menu along with a helpful parent set-up video. We encourage all families to read the information carefully and register as soon as ordering opens in August to ensure everything is in place for the start of the new school year.



FEEDING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY



News



Safeguarding



During the school holidays, the school's safeguarding team monitors the safeguarding email inbox once a week. If you have an urgent safeguarding concern, please do not wait for a response from school.

- If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.
- For other serious or urgent safeguarding concerns, please contact Integrated Front Door Children's Services directly on 01403 229900. You can also request support or raise concerns online by clicking [HERE](#)
- Children and young people can contact Childline free and confidentially on 0800 1111.
- Parents and carers can access advice and support from the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000.
- If a child or young person is struggling with their mental health, they can text YM to 85258 to access free, 24/7 crisis support. Parents and carers seeking advice can also contact the YoungMinds Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544.



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](#)



News



Summer Reading Challenge

Bev from the West Sussex Library Service joined us recently 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!





News



School Games Mark



The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme that celebrates schools' commitment to developing competitive sport within their school and community. We are delighted to have been awarded a Gold Award again this year, which highlights our continued dedication in providing our children with as many opportunities as possible to participate in and experience a large variety of sports and competitions both in school and our wider locality. Huge thanks to Mrs Burbidge for her work towards achieving this award.

Sensational Growth

On Thursday 10th September at 9am, we have a Parent Tea and chat. Sensational Growth will be focussing on emotional resilience around children and anxiety. They will be able to give parents strategies for engaging with their children especially if children are overwhelmed or need support. This will be a great session to get support for families.

<https://www.sensationalgrowth.co.uk/>

Kallax Units

We are looking for IKEA KALLAX storage units for our Early Years classrooms. If you have one in good condition that you no longer need and would be happy to donate, we would be very grateful.

If you are able to help, please contact the school office at

office@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk.





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.

Complete until the new school year!

Dates for your diary

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

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

Wed 22nd Jul - Leavers' Assembly

Wed 22nd Jul - Last day of school



Autumn Term 2026

Tue 1st / Weds 2nd Sep - Inset Day - Staff Training

Thur 3rd Sep - Children back to school

Mon 7th Sep - Swimming lessons recommence

Weds 9th Sep - Forest School sessions commence for UK Class

Thurs 10th Sep - Parent Tea & Chat - Emotional Resilience 9am

Fri 11th Sep - Non-uniform for Harvest Fayre contribution

Fri 11th Sep - Meet our Inclusion Manager - Mrs Corr - tea & cake provided! 2pm

Weds 16th Sep - Year 3 / 4 school trip - details to follow

Fri 18th Sep - Flu vaccinations

Fri 18th Sep - Visits to St Mary's church commence, Year 5/6 worship assembly

Sat 19th Sep - Church Boundary walk

Mon 21st Sep - Fairtrade Fortnight

Fri 25th Sep - Visit to St Mary's church - Year 3 / 4 worship assembly

Sat 26th Sep - Harvest Fayre at Glebe Field

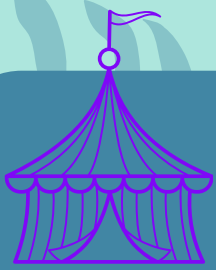
Mon 28th Sep - Bikeability - Year 6 (Year 5 on Friday)

Weds 30th Sep - Meet the Teacher

Celebration Assemblies

Our final celebration assembly of this school year -

22nd July - Japan & SA 9.30am



✦ Curriculum ✦

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Well, what can we say Year 6?! The weeks and weeks of hard work and dedication finally culminated in four successful shows of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory that everyone can be hugely proud of. How lovely it was to see what talented actors, actresses and stage hands we have amongst us!

We cannot begin to explain just how much effort goes into these productions each year from the team of volunteers who erect the Big Top circus tent on the field and set up all the technology, sound & lighting to the ex-pupils and Mr Hancock in the band who give up hours & hours of their personal time to rehearse in school and perform each night in the tent. To our team of staff who have worked tirelessly and put in so much effort to make memories that will last our children a lifetime; we are so very grateful. Thank you to you all.

This year marks Mr Hancock's 40th and final production with St Mary's. We couldn't be more grateful to him for making these occasions so special and memorable over the years.





Curriculum



Art

Art Exhibition - many of our gifted and talented artists have got their art workj displayed at Fittleworth Village Hall as part of the West Sussex Art Society exhibition. Once this artwork is returned we will display it in our front entrance hall.

Drama



David from Perform visited us this week to run drama workshops for our KS1 children. They had a fantastic time being mermaids and pirates whilst helping 'Peter Pan' look for his treasure.



Design Tech



USA class have been working very hard to complete their project on sewing cushions - they've designed them to include artefacts or objects from the Romans, which was their recent topic.



It's Your Move

SPLASH! - It's Your Move - we were very grateful to have Splash! in school this week to talk to our Year 6 children about their upcoming transition to secondary school and tackle some of the questions and scenarios they might come across.



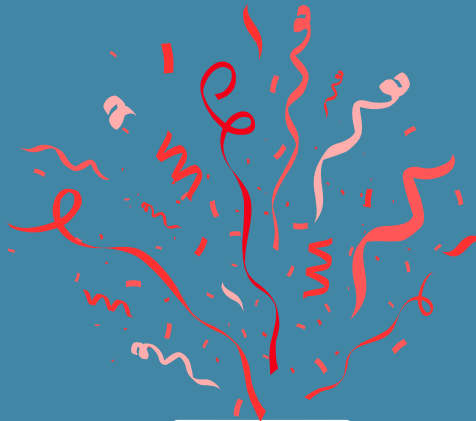


Celebrations

Loving House Cup

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

Amelie Joy (SA) - Friendship, Kindness and Service - for being an all round superstar. Never an unkind word said. A great friend to all and always doing the right thing. **Josh (Mex) - Service** - for helping an elderly neighbour who was in difficulty. **Elliot (Mex) - Perseverance** - for never giving up even when things are tricky, he's focused and always tries his best. **Flora (Mex) - Friendship** - for being a good mediator and friend to her classmates. **Theo (Ita) - Humility** - for inviting others into your group when you noticed they were left out

Kindness Shield



Luna (NZ) - July - Your smile lights up a room! You are so kind to all and I can always rely on you to help. You look out for others and never fail to amaze with the compassion you show. You are mature beyond your years and we know we can always rely on your keep up the good work.



Roman (USA) -
received Player of the
Match at cricket this
week



Arlo (USA) - received
Player of the Match
at cricket last week





SUMMER SOCCER CAMPS

BOOK NOW!!



OUR FUN SOCCER CAMPS ARE PACKED WITH EXCITING GAMES, SKILL-BUILDING ACTIVITIES, AND FRIENDLY COMPETITIONS THAT KEEP KIDS ACTIVE, SMILING, AND LEARNING EVERY DAY.

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