

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

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



Week beginning 31st August 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



Welcome back to School – we are very excited about the first week together and the children have settled into new routines and new classes. It has been great to be back together as a school family.

Church Links

Reflection – This half term we are thinking about Love as our Christian value. We are looking forward to sharing the children's thoughts on 'LOVE'.

Mrs Batchelor joined us for an assembly this morning and she talked about 'Beating the Bounds', which is an organised walk to raise money for St Mary's Church on 19th September. The children can choose to walk 13.7 or 4.5 miles or design their own section of the boundary! Details are in the poster attached.





Things to know



Vision

We treasure each child and enable them to flourish, using their God given potential and establishing a secure foundation for them to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We are a Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum where wisdom and love shape learning and teaching within our community.

Our vision is inspired by scripture:

Loving: John: 15 v12: Jesus said: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

Learning: Proverbs: 18 v15: 'An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.'

Living: 1 Corinthians: 13 v4-8: 'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.'

These principles of loving, learning and living are building a community where the fruits of the spirit (Galatians: 5 v22-23) are made real (vine leaves).

We always start with the book 'Only One You' which fits with our vision and our analogy is that we do swim as a shoal in our school community, we take everyone with us on our journey through learning but each fish is unique, special and has its own skills and talents to share. A great way to see our school vision! Our own fish have arrived as well in the front entrance and the children have loved watching them swim!

The School Day

The gates will open at 8.40am and pick up will be 3.15pm. Children must be on time for school. A reminder that early pick-ups can not happen unless you have a medical appointment (evidence must be provided) Dental appointments should be made outside of school hours please.



Things to know



Staffing

We have been busy over the summer holidays. The KS1 and EYFS open area was repainted and spruced up, the swimming pool has been refilled and cleaned so we are ready to run until October half term and all of the carpets and soft furnishings were cleaned so the school is fresh and clean as we start the year. Thank you to our Premises Manager, Mr Hubbard, for overseeing this and Kat from Riso, our photocopier supplier, who volunteered her time to help us paint the open area.

Class	Staffing
UK (EYFS)	Mrs Gowland (M/T), Mrs Martin-Wells (W/Th/Fr)
Thailand (EYFS/Y1)	Miss Duignan
Italy (Y1)	Mrs Heasman-White
India (Y2)	Mrs Huntley Hart
Australia (Y2)	Mrs Packham
New Zealand (Y3)	Mrs McTiffen and Mrs Ashton-Smith
Sierra Leone (Y3/4)	Miss Taylor
USA (Y4)	Mrs Farrant
China (Y5)	Miss Fuller
South Africa (Y5/6)	Miss Turner
Japan (Y6)	Miss Callender
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Ansell, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Bradbury, Ms Quaranta, Mrs Metaliaj, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Bryan, Mrs S Castle, Mrs Crosbie, Mrs C Castle, Mrs Dona, Mrs Shepherd, Mr Barrett Garlick, Mr Chinery and Miss Lock
Midday Meal supervisors	Ms Cuthbert, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Crosbie, Miss Lock, Mrs Bryan, Mr Chinery, Mr Barrett Garlick, Mrs Castle and Mrs Metaliaj
Forest Schools	Mrs Cullen
Pastoral support	Mrs Flinders (Learning Mentor/ELSA), Mrs Corr (Inclusion Manager M/W/F), Anna (Play Therapist – Fridays) and Mrs Nethercleft (Articulate)

SEND

Mrs Corr is Inclusion Manager and is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Mrs Flinders is Learning Mentor/ELSA and is in school every day. Mrs Callender will be running phonics and reading interventions for some children requiring intervention in Y1/2/3.



Things to know



PPA

Planning, Preparation and Assessment cover - Mrs Burbidge is teaching PE for KS2 and Miss Bell is teaching Spanish in KS2. Mrs Gowland will be covering PPA in KS1/EYFS.

Support Staff

Mrs Adams is School Secretary, Mrs Worley is the School Bursar, Mrs Sheppard is our Receptionist, Mrs Hancock is our school librarian, Mrs Miller is the School Business Manager. Mr Hubbard is our Premises Manager.

Governing Body

Mr Edge and Mr Clark lead the Governing Body as co-chairs with a team of Governors who are all volunteers - Fr Paul, Dr Leach, Ms Ellis, Mrs Heath, Mr Campbell, Mrs Batchelor, Mr Edge, Mr Campbell, Ms Wetherlit, Mr Shepherd and Mrs Sheppard. We do have a vacancy for a Parent Governor at this time.

Mrs Moran is the Clerk to the Governors. If anyone wishes to find out more about what they do or raise any issues that they may have. If you would like more information then please email clerk@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Worries or concerns

We are always keen to help if your child isn't happy at school. Please contact the class teacher in the first instance through seeing them at the end of the day on the playground, email or a telephone call. If you still need support then please contact the Acting Deputy Headteacher - Mr Hollisey-McLean who will deal with all other enquiries and meet with you and the class teacher - nholliseymclean@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk and if you still can't resolve your concerns with the class teacher and the DHT, then please do email head@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk. We are here to help and do our very best for your child.



Things to know



Contact with teachers

All teachers are contactable via the class email addresses. They will respond within working hours only (this is 8am - 5.30pm) and will try to respond within two working days to emails. No contact should be made to any staff member via personal telephone numbers or social media or Class Dojo. Staff won't reply if things come through on personal devices – use school channels only.

uk@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
thailand@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
italy@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
india@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
australia@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

NZ@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
SL@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
USA@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
China@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
SA@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk
Japan@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Curriculum

UK, Thailand class will be starting the year with the topic 'All About Me', Italy, India and Australia class are learning about Superheroes, New Zealand, SL and USA are learning about 'Rumble in the Jungle', China, SA and Jap are exploring 'The World at War'. More detail about the curriculum for all subjects will be available on our website from next week. This is under classes on our website and will have a newsletter, knowledge organiser and homework grid.



Things to know



Wraparound Care

Early Birds has started and if your child is attending Early Birds then they must be at the side gate at 8am. They will be collected by Mrs Parsons and Mrs Metaliaj.

We still have spaces so please email wraparound@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk if you are interested.

Roosters after school club has started and is being run by Ms Cuthbert, Mrs Castle, Mrs Hayes and Mrs Bryan. We still have some limited spaces available so please email wraparound@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk if you are interested.

Clubs

Most external clubs will start next week but please check with the provider to be certain. Internally run club details will be sent out to parents next week.



Social Media

We have a school Facebook account for parents – if you wish to follow us – it is useful for updates about the school.

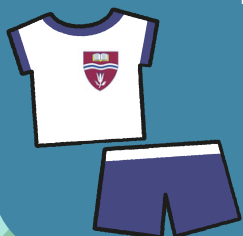


Uniform

A brilliant start to the year so thank you to parents for supporting the school with this as the children need to be in uniform every day. Trainers - anything labelled Nike, Adidas etc are not part of school uniform (only for PE). The teachers will come and chat with you if your child is wearing trainers as it is important to start the year in correct uniform. A reminder that if you are entitled to Pupil Premium then the school may be able to help with the cost of shoes. Please be reminded that acrylic nails, jewellery and make up are not part of school uniform and should not be worn at any time.

PE Kits

The children in **KS2** will continue to come to school in their PE kits this year. A timetable will be shared with you shortly. PE kit for all is to consist of navy blue shorts or joggers, a plain white or school logo tshirt and trainers suitable for running (not skater style or high top trainers please).





Things to know



Summer Holidays

We have been busy over the summer holidays. The KS1 and EYFS open area was repainted and spruced up, the swimming pool has been refilled and cleaned so we are ready to run until October half term and all of the carpets and soft furnishings were cleaned so the school is fresh and clean as we start the year. Thank you to our Premises Manager, Mr Hubbard, for overseeing this and Kat from Riso, our photocopier supplier, who volunteered her time to help us paint the open area.



Inset Day

On Tuesday 1st September, the teachers met together to look at 'Behaviour and management of behaviour within our school', our new Spelling approach and curriculum plans for this academic year. On Wednesday the staff and Governors met together and have now received their safeguarding training, health and safety training and looked at the schools priorities for the upcoming year. As part of our training we talked about Benedict's Law on allergies and Martyn's Law about terrorism in public places. We will be sending a separate letter out to parents about this over the next week.



Attendance

Attendance has been very good so far as has time keeping so thank you for all of your efforts with this. Ensuring attendance at school is a parent/carers legal obligation and we are keen to support parents with this. Attendance will be a priority as consistent attendance is the key to making steady progress for the children who attend St Mary's.

TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE ST MARY'S

SATURDAY

19th SEPTEMBER

2026

Join us and **Beat the Bounds** *of Pulborough*

Join neighbours, friends and family as we walk the ancient boundary of Pulborough and launch the **Strength in Stone, Spirit in Community** appeal.

TWO EVENTS ♦ ONE DAY ♦ ONE COMMUNITY

PART ONE ~ THE WALK

Beating the Bounds Community Walk

🕒 9am Start

13.7 mile circular walk taking most of the parish boundary (avoiding the A29)

— OR —

Choose the shorter 4.5 mile walk around Pulborough.

Walk with family, friends, colleagues, or a local group.

Everyone is welcome!

Starting from St Mary's Pulborough

PART TWO ~ THE EVENING

Evening Celebration at St Mary's Church

🕒 5.30pm Start

- ♥ Hog Roast
- ♥ Sound & Light Show
- ♥ Refreshments
- ♥ Speeches

Beating the Bounds
Pulborough
2026

Friends
OF PULBOROUGH PARISH CHURCH

The Friends of Pulborough Parish Church, operating under the umbrella of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Pulborough. Registered Charity No: 1132137

Register today

Scan to register for the walk and evening celebration
www.friendsofpulboroughparishchurch.org

