

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 7th September 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



This has been our first full week together and our new EYFS children are now staying for full days. It's a great start to the term and we are so grateful for the support we have received from parents.

Living Church Links

Positive behaviour in the classroom is essential to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow and achieve their God-given potential. Today, we talked about our Golden Rules and explored how we can all play our part in creating a calm, respectful environment where everyone can learn. We discussed how classrooms are different from home and why we need clear expectations and rules to help us maintain our focus on learning. By following our Golden Rules, showing respect for one another and making positive choices, we can create classrooms where everyone feels safe, valued and ready to learn.





News

Thank You

Mrs Hatcher has asked us to pass on her thanks and gratitude for the kind words, cards and gifts she received at the end of last year. She is going to miss everyone but she's really grateful for the warm wishes she received from parents, children and staff for the next part of her journey.



Hot School Meals

Thank you for your patience and support while ISS Education have worked through the teething problems experienced with the new FEED app for ordering hot school meals. We are pleased to say that these issues now appear to have been resolved, and the app is running smoothly. However, if you are still experiencing any difficulties, please contact the school office and our staff will be happy to investigate this for you. The new menu also seems to be a great improvement, and the children have really enjoyed the meals they have tried so far!

Parking



Please could we ask all parents and carers to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children from school. We have received a complaint from a resident in Dennis Court regarding parking and we would appreciate everyone being mindful of our local residents and keeping the roads as clear as possible. There is parking available at the Sports and Social Club, which is just a short walk from school. Where possible, please use this facility to help leave spaces on the surrounding roads for those who live nearby. Thank you for your continued cooperation and consideration.



News

Attendance

As you may have seen over the summer, school attendance remains a key priority for the Government, with schools now under increased responsibility to ensure attendance is recorded accurately and consistently. This means we may need a little more information when a child is absent due to illness and we are unable to authorise an absence where there is insufficient information or where we have reason to believe the absence is for a holiday.

We really appreciate your support and communication if your child is experiencing difficulties attending school. Our pastoral team is experienced, approachable and here to help, particularly where anxiety or other concerns are making attendance challenging.

The Local Authority will also be providing us with a new attendance target for the school. We will share this with families as soon as we have further information.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every child attend, learn and thrive.

Do I need to keep my child off school?					
HSC Public Health Agency					
Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		





News

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Letters have been sent to parents with further information about the role. If you are interested in finding out more or would like to express an interest, please do get in touch with the school.



Elections!

As part of our British Values learning, the children have been exploring the importance of having a voice and taking on responsibilities within our school community. They have been learning about the roles of our School Council, Eco Council and Wellbeing Warriors, and how these groups help to make a positive difference across our school. Ask your children who they have elected for these roles in their classes!

Parent Voice



We are looking to establish a parent working party to support us in reviewing our curriculum. If you have relevant experience, knowledge or simply an interest in education and would like to get involved, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

More details will follow shortly, but please get in touch with the school office if you would be interested in taking part.



Things to know



Dates for your diary

Wed 16th Sept – Year 3 / 4 visit to Parham House

Fri 18th Sept – Flu vaccinations – whole school

Fri 18th Sept – Weekly visits to St Mary's Church begin with Year 5 / 6

Sat 19th Sept – Walk the Bounds (see separate poster)

Mon 21st Sept – China, SA and Japan Evacuee Day

Mon 21st Sept – Fairtrade fortnight begins

Wed 23rd Sept – Parliament week starts

Wed 23rd Sept – Smartphone workshop in school for Year 5 / 6

Fri 25th Sept – Drama for All workshops – the value of oracy

Fri 25th Sept – Year 3 / 4 visit to church

Sat 26th Sept – Harvest Fayre – 11 – 5pm

Mon 28th Sept – Bikeability Mon-Thur Year 6 and Fri Year 5

Wed 30th Sept – Meet the Teacher - 3.30pm for EYFS and KS1, 3.45pm for KS2

Wed 30th Sept – Sex & relationship meeting for Y6 parents (after 'Meet the Teacher')

Thur 1st Oct – Black History Month / National Poetry Day

Fri 2nd Oct – Harvest Eucharist – Please bring in tins, produce, dried goods, hygiene products. Parents are welcome

Wed 7th Oct – 6 week in meeting for EYFS parents

Fri 9th Oct – Year 1 / 2 to church

Thur 15th Oct – PTA AGM – 3.30pm – Please come along!

Fri 16th Oct – Individual & Sibling School Photos – full school uniform please

Fri 23rd Oct – INSET DAY

Mon 26th Oct – HALF TERM

Tue 3rd Nov – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Thu 5th Nov – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm

Fri 6th Nov – UK/Thailand to church

Fri 6th Nov – Firework Evening PTA



Celebration Assemblies

Please come and join us at 9am on these dates so the children can share their learning with parents / carers.

Japan – Thur 24th Sept SA – Thur 1st Oct

China – Thur 8th Oct USA – Thur 15th Oct

SL – Thur 22nd Oct Australia – Thur 5th Nov

India – Thur 12th Nov Italy – Thur 19th Nov

NZ – Wed 25th Nov Thai (Year 1's) – Thur 26th Nov

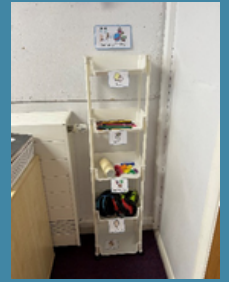


Learning Curriculum

Emotional Regulation



It has been lovely to spend time in our classrooms and see the many ways staff are supporting inclusion and wellbeing. We have seen sensory corners, Colour Monsters and a range of check-ins and adaptations helping children to communicate how they are feeling and access the support they need. Our priority is to ensure that every child feels safe, supported and settled as they start their new classes.



Team Building

Our South Africa class have been busy building relationships and developing their teamwork skills through a fun spaghetti tower challenge! The activity encouraged the children to communicate, share ideas and work collaboratively, while learning how to work effectively with others.





Learning Curriculum

Jaws and Claws

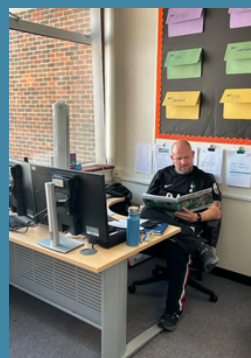
Year 3 and Year 4 have had an exciting Super Starter for their new topic, Rumble in the Jungle! The children had the amazing opportunity to get up close to a range of fascinating creatures, including frogs, snakes, cockroaches, millipedes, toads and lizards. What an unforgettable experience – there were certainly some brave faces! It was a fantastic way to bring their new learning to life.



Drop Everything And Read

We have started the new school year with a strong focus on reading for pleasure. Our Buddy Reading sessions are already underway, with children enjoying sharing books and reading together.

We have also reintroduced DEAR – Drop Everything and Read, giving children regular opportunities to enjoy books, discover new authors and, most importantly, find the stories and books they LOVE!





Loving Celebrations

House Cup

The school uses ClassDojo as a positive encouragement tool to build a supportive learning environment and keep parents connected. Children can earn ClassDojo points by demonstrating positive behaviours, hard work and school pride throughout the day and by demonstrating school values:

- Showing the core Christian and community values upheld by the school.
- Positive behaviour: Displaying kindness, respect, and good conduct around the classrooms and school grounds.
- Effort and focus: Putting great energy into their daily lessons and tasks.
- Achievements: Celebrating individual successes, academic milestones, and excellent work.
- Teachers track these points digitally in real-time, allowing families to see updates and celebrate their child's daily successes from home.



This week's winners are -
St Mary's (Blue)



Celebrations



Vine Leaves

Harry (Ita) - Kindness - for stopping what he was doing to go back and help a friend who had fallen over, even helping him put his shoe back on. What a thoughtful and caring thing to do. **George (NZ) - Friendship & Love** - for successfully helping his friend regulate by sitting alongside him and offering his teddy. **Alfie (Chi) - Service** - for knowing when an adult or child needs help and always offering. **Hudson-Blue (Ita) - Kindness** - for taking a new child under his wing and supporting them to settle into life at St Mary's. **Everly (Ita) - Service** - for taking great care of our classroom and always being willing to lend a hand. **Nellie (Ita) - Wisdom** - for making thoughtful contributions to our lessons and worship sessions. **Izarra, Amber, Callie and Nevaeh (USA) - Perseverance** - for showing great effort and a great attitude to their learning



Kindness Shield

September - Willow (SA) - What an asset to Year 6 you are! You are kind, compassionate and empathetic and we see this through your interactions with lots of different children. You do this with a smile on your face and love in your heart and to be such a kind and caring young lady is a real blessing.



Celebrations



Achievements



Miller (Jap) - has painted a beautiful portrait of Chichester cathedral.



Nelly (USA) - has passed Level 3 at swimming



Callie (USA) and Ben (USA) - completed their RYA youth sailing award Stage 1



Penelope (Ita) - was awarded 'Yesdy Tackles' at her first rugby training for great involvement and good listening

