

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 5th October 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



The weather has definitely changed this week but our enthusiasm and passion for learning has not cooled at all and the children have had many experiences. A few to share is the Little Lifesavers work with Year 5 and Year 6, lifesaving is an invaluable skill for the older children to learn. We welcomed SPLASH to our worship and we greatly value our links with them and the values that they teach. This week it was courage and bravery in asking for help! Thank you to all parents for your support over the last few weeks. We are nearly at half term!

Living Church Links

Today Italy, India and Australia class had worship at the Church with Father Paul. Father Paul explained the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10). The story shows us that Jesus loves everyone, knows who you are, and can help you change your heart to do the right thing.





News

'6 week in' Meeting

It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'Six Weeks In' meeting this week for parents / carers of our youngest children in Reception. As we continue to support the children in settling into school life, we know how important it is to maintain open and regular communication with families. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to share how your child is getting on, explain the schemes of work and approaches to learning we use in school and listen to any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your continued support!

SPLASH Assembly

We were delighted to welcome SPLASH to our worship this week, where we explored the importance of asking for help and showing bravery and courage. The children watched as Nick struggled and was reluctant to ask for help. Ivy (Ita) came to his aid and helped him to fold up the blanket. This gave us the opportunity to think about how we can ask for help when we need it and how we can be brave enough to support others. We heard the Bible story from Philippians 4:6-7 and thought about how we can use prayer to ask God for help. Together, we shared our ideas about how we can help others and added them to our 'Helping Hand'. We finished our worship by singing together and using the SPLASH prayer drill to pray as a community. It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on how we can show courage, ask for help, and be there for one another.



Prayer Meeting

We are looking forward to hosting a Prayer Meeting on Wednesday 14th October at 2.45pm. Amy-Jo Kidwell is going to host this and everyone is welcome.





Things to know



Attendance

93.0%

Attendance continues to be a key priority, and we will now be sharing our weekly attendance percentage with families. Please remember to provide sufficient information when your child is absent due to illness and that holiday absences cannot normally be authorised. If you are experiencing difficulties with attendance, please speak to our friendly and supportive pastoral team – we are here to help.

Author Visit - Lindsay Galvin

We are delighted that Lindsay Galvin is coming to talk to the KS2 children on Thursday 22nd October. She has written so many fantastic books that are in our library and it is such an opportunity to meet her. The teachers have sent home information regarding buying a signed copy of one of her books or you can send cash on the day.



Staff Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a SEND Teaching Assistant to join our team. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit our website for further details about the role and how to apply.

Open Days



Do you have a little one who is due to start primary school in September 2027? Applications opened on Monday 5th October 2026, so now is the time to start thinking about your child's school place. Our upcoming Open Days are a wonderful opportunity to bring your child to look around, meet our team and discover what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. You can book a space on any of our open days by clicking [HERE](#).



Things to know



Dates for your diary

Wed 14th Oct - Prayer Meeting 2.45pm

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

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

Thu 22nd Oct - Author Visit for KS2 - Lindsay Galvin

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



School Photographs

A reminder that Yellow Photography will be in for individual and sibling school photographs on Friday 16th October - please ensure that your child is in full, clean school uniform including school shoes. If your child is in India, Australia, NZ and USA classes and would normally come into school in PE kit on a Friday, please ensure that they wear their uniform into school and bring a PE kit in with them to change into afterwards. The session will start promptly at 8.45am.

Celebration Assemblies

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

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

Little Lifesavers

What a phenomenal charity Little Lifesavers is! This week, their volunteers have been working with our Year 5 and Year 6 children to equip them with the essential skills and knowledge needed to save a life. These are incredibly important skills, provided free of charge, and we are delighted to have given dedicated curriculum time to this vital learning. Our children have embraced the sessions brilliantly and now have greater confidence in knowing what to do in an emergency. We are so proud of them!

The charity is currently looking for new volunteers to help deliver sessions in schools. The process is simple and takes around 3-4 hours online, and no CPR experience is needed as full training and equipment are provided.

If you'd like to get involved, please see the attached leaflet or visit

www.littlelifesavers.org or email info@littlelifesavers.org.

(Volunteers don't need to be parents, so please feel free to share with others who may be interested.)



Little LifeSavers

PE - UK Class



UK Class have been busy developing their skills and confidence in PE! We began by practising getting changed independently and remembering which clothes belonged to us. Once in the hall, we took part in our traffic light warm-up and discussed why warming up is important before exercise. We then explored the tuck, straddle and pike positions before bringing out the parachute! Working together, we made it rise and fall and enjoyed playing games that involved running underneath it.





Learning Curriculum

Buddy Reading

Our buddy reading sessions have restarted this term! These sessions bring together an older and a younger class to share books and enjoy reading together. It's a lovely opportunity to nurture a love of reading while building friendships and strengthening relationships between children across the school. This week, USA Class and India Class shared stories together.



Music - Clarinets

We are delighted to be working with West Sussex Music, who are providing whole-class clarinet lessons for all children in Year 4 throughout the Autumn Term. The lessons are free for the children to take part in. The children have been thoroughly enjoying their lessons so far and are already beginning to master the basics of playing the clarinet. We are looking forward to seeing their confidence and musical skills develop over the coming weeks. Towards the end of the year, the children will have the opportunity to showcase their learning in a small performance. More details will be shared with families nearer the time.





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 weeks winners are -
St Matthew's (Red)



Loving Celebrations



Vine Leaves

Grace (Ita) - Wisdom - for making valuable contributions to our lessons and for being able to articulate your thinking so well. **Archie (Aus) - Perseverance** - for continually trying even when you find things tricky. **Amelia (Aus) - Compassion** - for always thinking of others and checking in on her friends in class. **Matilda (Aus) - Resilience and Perseverance** - for being open and honest and really trying to work through any worries. **Santi (SL) - Perseverance** - for having such a positive attitude to maths and contributing so many fantastic answers. **Darcy (Jap) - Perseverance** - for trying so hard to improve her reading skills on a daily occurrence and filling in her reading log beautifully. **Peri (SL) - Service** - for using such wonderful manners daily when talking with adults. **Luca (Thai) - Perseverance** - for his engagement and enthusiasm during a colour mixing art lesson. **Ava-May (Ind) and Arabella (USA) - Truthfulness** - for finding a coin in the open area and handing it to an adult.

Class Assembly

China Class shared their learning with their parents / carers on Thursday. They confidently talked about their World War II and history learning, explored the circulatory system in Science, shared their knowledge of the planets in Spanish and demonstrated their understanding of place value in Maths. A special well done to everyone for their confidence and for beautifully sharing the song about forgiveness. We are very proud of you!





Loving Celebrations



Achievements



Sienna (Chi) - came 4th in a dance competition in the 'Fast' category



Sienna (Chi) & Ada (SA) - came 1st in a dance competition in the pairs Rock and Roll category



Eliza (Aus) - entered a gymnastics competition and came 1st in bars, vault and beam plus 2nd on floor



Hattie (Ind) - completed Stage 2 swimming



Nellie (NZ) & Pollyanna (Thai) - came 3rd in the scarecrow competition at the Harvest Fayre



Tom (Ind) - was awarded 'player of the week' trophy at Pulborough u9's rugby





Saturday 31 October
4.30 - 6pm
Pulborough Village Hall

What's happening

- ★ Magician
- ★ Arts and crafts
- ★ Delicious food
- ★ Raffle
- ★ Dancing & games
- ★ Face painting
- ★ Best dressed adult competition

£5 PER CHILD
Under 2's free



Scan to book
tickets



For more details email
isla@pdcca.org.uk



Tickets are also available from
Isla Moran at the Pop-In



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



Our charity is looking for dedicated individuals to join us in our mission to make a positive impact in local communities across the UK.

Would you like to learn how to deliver our scripted, 70 minute, CPR and lifesaving skills session and then visit schools to teach it to schoolchildren in years 5-8?

No previous first aid/CPR skills are necessary!

Contact us today to learn more about this exciting volunteer opportunity.

Email: caroline@littlifesavers.org

www.littlifesavers.org

Volunteers Needed to Teach Simple CPR in Schools

Join our charity and learn bystander CPR skills for yourself, then practice them by teaching local school children in 70-minute face-2-face sessions



Our volunteers:

- are from all backgrounds
- are DBS checked
- need no previous CPR training
- deliver a simple, scripted, video supported session
- join together in small groups to teach in local schools when they can



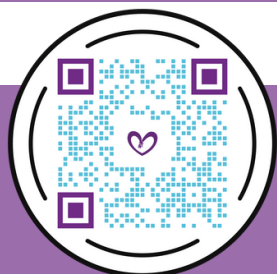
We'll provide:

- online signup and training
- manikins to teach with
- video support for sessions
- e-certificate for CPD purposes
- feedback opportunity
- organisation of sessions
- resources, information & support



Why volunteer:

- *2 of the 24,000+ children we've trained have saved lives -as has a volunteer*
- *practice through teaching increases confidence to do CPR if needed*
- *it's flexible*
- *meet new people*
- *gain a sense of achievement and make a difference*



Scan the QR code or visit
www.littlelifesavers.org/volunteer/
 to find out more.

Want to help, but can't volunteer?
No problem:

We know not everyone can be available to volunteer in the week, but there are lots of other ways you can help us to keep teaching lifesaving skills to children:

Share this leaflet with your friends and colleagues so they can volunteer and help too.



Volunteer Leaflet



Follow and say hello on social media:

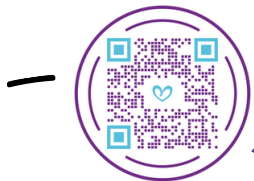
 LittleLifeSaversCharity

Tell your own children's schools about our free sessions.



School Leaflet

Our sessions are made free for the children by time and money generously donated by the public. We receive no grants or income other than donations.
Please help us to be here next year by:



Shopping online via

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/littlelifesavers/

They donate each time you shop, at no extra cost to you.

Joining our Founder's Coffee Club. Just a fiver creates a Little LifeSaver - the price of a nice coffee.

www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/buymeacoffee



Do you know a business who might partner with us? If so, please email:
info@littlifesavers.org

Could you hold or participate in a fundraiser for us? From a coffee morning to a sponsored walk, whatever you love to do, help us be here next year for the children. email your idea to info@littlifesavers.org

Thank You for helping us create a Nation of LifeSavers

PARENTING MENTAL HEALTH COURSE - CRAWLEY

FREE!

A 6 week course for parents/carers to gain knowledge and understanding around supporting your child/ren & young people's mental health, offering a safe space to reflect and gain peer support along the way.

Topics covered include; 5 ways to well-being, self esteem, anxiety, emotional regulation, communication, parenting styles, attachment, teenage brain re-wiring and parental self-compassion.

This course is open to any parent/carer of a child aged 5-18 living or attending school in West Sussex and able to commit to the 6 sessions.

DATES

Thursday 5th November
Thursday 12th November
Thursday 19th November
Thursday 26th November
Thursday 3rd December
Thursday 10th December

LOCATION

Crawley Community
Action,
The Orchard,
1-2 Gleneagles Court
Brighton Road,
Crawley
RH10 6AD

TIME

10am - 12.30pm
weekly

Refreshments
provided



To secure your place or for more information, please email:
[parentingsupport @westsussexmind.org](mailto:parentingsupport@westsussexmind.org)