

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

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



NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 19th October 2026

Message from Mrs Copus



We are half way through the Autumn term and I know that staff, pupils and parents are all looking forward to the half term break. Please enjoy the week together, make memories, spend time with friends and family and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 2nd November.

Living Church Links

There will be a Remembrance Sunday service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 8th November 2026, and we would love to see as many of our school families there as possible. On Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November, children who are members of uniformed organisations, such as Cubs, Brownies and Beavers, are welcome to wear their uniforms to school for our Remembrance Assembly.





News

Author Visit - Lindsay Galvin

Today, we were delighted to welcome author Lindsay Galvin to our school! She delivered a fantastic assembly for KS2, sharing insights into some of her most popular books and bringing her stories to life through fun and interactive role play. The children were thoroughly engaged and asked lots of thoughtful questions, showing great enthusiasm for reading and storytelling. At the end of the session, they also had the exciting opportunity to purchase signed copies of her books. A big thank you to Lindsay for such an inspiring visit!



Staff CPD

The staff welcomed Jane from West Sussex Music to their staff professional development meeting this week and they looked at the inter related dimensions of music. The staff were able to focus on musical vocabulary whilst practising with the glockenspiels and percussion instruments.



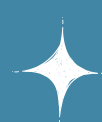
Open Morning

It was lovely to welcome so many prospective families to our Open Morning this week! It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school and give visitors a glimpse of life here. Our Year 6 children did a fantastic job of showing families around, sharing their knowledge of the school and making everyone feel welcome. We are very proud of the confidence, enthusiasm and maturity they demonstrated. Thank you to everyone who came along to visit us!





Things to know



91.7%

Attendance

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.

Coats

As the weather begins to change, please ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day, preferably a waterproof one. We aim to get the children outdoors as often as possible to enjoy some fresh air, exercise and outdoor play, whatever the weather. Having a suitable coat will help keep them warm and dry so they can make the most of these opportunities. Thank you for your continued support!

Poppy Appeal

Some of our prefects will be supporting the Poppy Appeal by selling poppies and other remembrance items on the front playground at the end of the school day. Donations can be made in cash, or you can use the QR code available to pay by card. Thank you for supporting this important cause.





Things to know



Dates for your diary

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 walk to church

Fri 6th Nov – Firework Evening PTA

Fri 13th Nov – Children In Need Day – spots or pyjamas – No football kits

Mon 16th Nov – Anti-Bullying week – odd socks to support this

Fri 27th Nov – Christingles

Fri 4th Dec – Advent Eucharist – Parents are welcome

Fri 4th Dec – Christmas Grotto at the Village Hall PTA

Tue 8th Dec – Ital/Ind/Aus Christmas Production 2pm and 5pm

Wed 9th Dec – Ita/Ind/Aus Christmas Production 5pm

Tue 15th Dec – UK/Tha Christmas Production 2pm and 5pm

Wed 16th Dec – Christmas Meal and Disco

Thur 17th Dec – Pantomime for the whole school

Fri 18th Dec – Christmas jumper day and Christmas Eucharist – TERM ENDS

Mon 4th Jan – Back to School



Celebration Assemblies

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

Australia – Thur 5th Nov

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

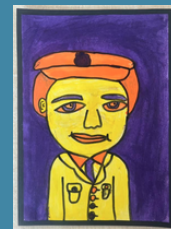
NZ – Wed 25th Nov Thai (Year 1's) – Thur 26th Nov



Learning Curriculum

Black History Month

Inspired by Black History Month this October, Year 6 have been exploring the lives and achievements of famous Black figures through their art lessons. Using their Pop Art skills, the children have created colourful portraits in a variety of styles, celebrating the individuality and contributions of each person. Their work reflects an important message: while skin colour is an important part of our identity, it is just one aspect of who we are and does not define us entirely. Well done Year 6, for producing such thoughtful and creative artwork!



Super Hero Day

The children have had a fantastic time celebrating Superhero Day! They began by exploring their superhero maths challenge booklets and sharing their own superhero identities during a fun “Who Am I?” show and tell. They then took part in superhero workout exercises before learning some valuable first aid skills, including how to call 999 and how to apply bandages and slings. The children also got creative with some fantastic handprint superhero artwork. To round off the day, they enjoyed watching The Incredibles together in their classes. It has been a fun-filled day of learning, creativity and superhero adventures!





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

Michael (SA) - Perseverance - for his hard work and determination in his times tables. Isabella (Chi) - Perseverance - for always doing her best in all subjects. Aurelio (SA) - Perseverance - for working incredibly hard during our learning on multiplication, listening carefully to feedback to help you improve. Mia T (SA) Creativity - for producing some beautiful pieces of artwork, demonstrating exceptional talent in this subject. Rupert (SA) - Wisdom - for making huge strides forward this term and should be proud of the progress you have made with your independence. Daisy M (NZ) - Service - for always helping to look after our classroom and school environment. Bella and Flora (Jap) - Service - for trying their best to keep the Library tidy while Mrs Hancock was away. Louis, Amber, Amelie and Callie (USA) - Wisdom - for regularly bringing in weekly homework. Alice (Tha) - Perseverance - for trying so hard in her handwriting. It has been delightful to see such beautiful letter and number formation Savannah and Stephan (Chi) - Perseverance - for completing questions with accuracy and speed in maths.

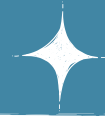
Celebration Assembly

Sierra Leone class treated us to a wonderful assembly all about the rainforest! The children shared their beautiful artwork inspired by Henri Rousseau, performed a song in Spanish and presented a talk story for the audience. They also read their persuasive letters to the President of Brazil, explaining why the rainforest needs to be protected. It was lovely to see the children sharing their learning, creativity and enthusiasm with such confidence. Well done, Sierra Leone!





Loving Celebrations



Achievements



Sophia (Aus) - received a certificate for swimming 10m breaststroke



Tom (Ind) - completed Level 4 swimming



Ava (Chi) - completed Level 5 & 6 in Trampolining



Oakley (SL) - completed Level 3 swimming



Vince (SL) - passed his kickboxing grading and received his orange blake-stripe belt

