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

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



NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 2nd November 2026

Message from Mrs Copus

We hope you all had a lovely half term! It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week and see the children reunited with their friends, enjoying their learning and settling back into school life. We are very much looking forward to the PTA firework event this evening and hope to see lots of our families there for what promises to be a fantastic community celebration. Thank you to our PTA and everyone involved in organising this special event!

Living Church Links

UK and Thailand classes visited St Mary's Church for their worship assembly today. Fr Paul shared the Parable of the Lost Coin with the children, inviting them to take part and engage with the story. A big thank you to the parents who kindly volunteered their time to help walk the children safely to and from the church.





News

Dogs on Site

A friendly reminder that dogs, except service animals, are not permitted on school premises at any time. We kindly ask all parents, carers and visitors to respect this rule and not to bring them onto the playground at the beginning / end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe school environment for everyone.

PTA Autumn Colouring Competition



A big thank you to all the children who took part in the PTA Autumn Colouring Competition over the half-term break. We were delighted with all the wonderful entries and are pleased to announce that our winners are Albie from UK Class and Mia from South Africa Class. Both children were presented with their prizes by Mr Hollisey-McLean this afternoon. Well done to our winners and thank you again to everyone who took part!





Armed Forces Visit



We were delighted to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Dave Crosbie from the British Army's Anglian Division into school this week. He spoke to the children about his role in the Armed Forces and shared how he personally commemorates Remembrance Day on 11th November. The children really enjoyed learning more about his experiences and the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Things to know

94.5%

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.

Fireworks

Excitement is building for the PTA Firework Display this evening! We are looking forward to a fantastic evening of fun and celebrations.
A reminder that the gates will open at 5.45pm with the display starting at 7.00pm. There will be plenty to enjoy, including a bar, BBQ, sweet treats and a glow stall, where you can pick up some fun glow-in-the-dark goodies! There will also be a limited number of tickets available to purchase on the gate, so don't miss out. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Poppy Appeal and Remembrance

Our prefects are supporting the Poppy Appeal and will continue 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. 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.



Things to know

Dates for your diary

Fri 6th Nov – Firework Evening PTA
Sun 8th Nov - Remembrance Sunday service at St Mary's Church
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 Assembly

Australia Class delighted us with their class assembly this week, sharing a wonderful range of learning from across the curriculum. The children presented some fascinating facts about David Attenborough, performed superhero poems, demonstrated human number bonds to 10 and showcased their Andy Warhol-inspired pop art. They finished on a high note with a fantastic performance of You've Got a Friend in Me, accompanied by Makaton signs. Well done, Australia Class, for such an entertaining and engaging assembly!

Celebration Assemblies

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

India – Thur 12th Nov Italy – Thur 19th Nov
NZ – Wed 25th Nov Thai (Year 1's) – Thur 26th Nov

Learning Curriculum

RHE



This week, we welcomed PC Scott into school to speak with our Year 6 children about knife crime and the dangers and risks associated with it. The session focused on the importance of making safe choices, understanding how to keep themselves and others safe and knowing who they can turn to for help and support if they ever have any worries or concerns. Our thanks to PC Scott for taking the time to deliver such an important and valuable message to our pupils.



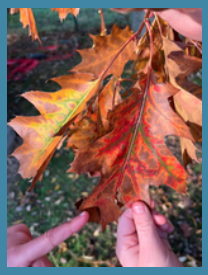
Outdoor Classroom Day

Mrs Ashton-Smith kicked off our Outdoor Classroom Day by leading a whole-school assembly, during which she spoke about the joy and wonder of the natural world, focusing on sweet chestnut and horse chestnut trees. The children then enjoyed taking part in a range of outdoor activities, making the most of the opportunity to learn and explore outside.









PE



This week in PE, Mrs Burbidge introduced KS2 children to blindfolded goalball. This exciting activity requires a range of skills and encourages teamwork, careful listening, communication and creative thinking. The children participated enthusiastically, adapting brilliantly to the challenge and learning to rely on their other senses to guide them. Well done, everyone!



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 Mary's (Blue)

Loving Celebrations

Vine Leaves

Harry (Ita) - Courage - for recovering so well from your operation and for telling us all about it! Penny and Bea (Ita) - Perseverance - for trying so hard to push yourself in class, especially when writing in English. William, Noah, Dylan, Jasper and Archie (Aus) - Perseverance - for always trying so hard and attempting all phonic activities enthusiastically.

Achievements

Alexa (Jap) - made it into the Sussex County gymnastics squad for the 2nd year running



Malakai (Chi) - Completed his Stage 3 swimming

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS MAGIC

A LUNCHTIME TO REMEMBER

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:
Wednesday 16th December

Christmas lunch is one of the highlights of the school year – a chance for pupils to enjoy a festive lunch with friends.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH TODAY!

BOOK THROUGH THE FEED APP ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER AND HELP MAKE THIS SPECIAL SCHOOL OCCASION ONE TO REMEMBER.

WE'VE CREATED A SPECIAL MENU TO MAKE THE OCCASION EXTRA DELICIOUS. WE'D LOVE YOUR CHILD TO JOIN US!

west sussex county council

Feeding Excellence Every Day

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS MAGIC MENU

MAIN COURSES

FESTIVE VEGETABLE GRATIN
With Roast Potatoes

ROAST TURKEY
With Chipolata, Roast Potatoes & Gravy

ROAST HALAL CHICKEN
With Plant-Based Sausage, Roast Potatoes & Gravy

JACKET POTATO
With Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna or Tuna Mayo

All served with Carrots & Cauliflower

DESSERT

CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE SPONGE

OR

FRESH FRUIT
With Yoghurt

PLANT-BASED AND SPECIAL DIET OPTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FEED APP.

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government

NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat

Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease

If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome

Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo

They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox

Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles

They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea

Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Petworth UKRAINE RELIEF

Are collecting Christmas shoe boxes again

We would love to send over shoe boxes for wartorn families to brighten up their seasonal celebration ♡

Any ages • Male and Female ♡

- New small toys/soft toys
- New colouring books & pencils
- New children's socks & pants 1yr-16yr
- Older children's goodies
- New toiletries (Men's-Women's-Teenager's)
- Makeup for teenagers
- Sanitary packets
- Adult thermal socks/adult underwear
- New hats & gloves
- Sweets/Energy bars
- New backpacks or alike

Please label your box accordingtg to age and sex ♡

Please do not include –

- Sealed liquids only
- Batteries
- Medication
- Knives
- Out of date items

✓ Wrap the shoebox lid **separately** so we can check the contents



✓ Write on the box; **age and sex of child** it is suitable for

