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

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



NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 9th November 2026

Message from Mrs Copus

This week, we have been taking time to reflect on our classes and consider the findings of our recent Ofsted report. Teaching is an incredibly demanding profession, requiring staff to balance the diverse needs of all children, deliver the full breadth of the National Curriculum, ensure that meaningful learning takes place and identify and address any gaps in learning. We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the dedication, commitment and hard work of our teachers and support staff, who work tirelessly each day to make this happen. Please remember the many challenges involved in meeting the needs of every child and recognise just how inclusive and supportive we strive to be as a school. It is something we should all be proud of.

Living Church Links

On Sunday, Mattie and Bowie (Jap) attended the Remembrance Service at the church, where they proudly laid the wreath on behalf of us all at school. Thank you to them both for doing so. We would also like to thank Mrs Corr, Mrs Adams, Sarp, Mattie, Bowie and Freddie for representing St Mary's at the Remembrance Service in the Memorial Garden on Armistice Day.

News

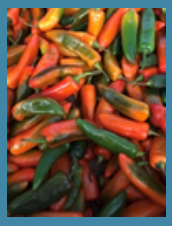
National Recycling Week

Miss Callender spoke to the whole school about National Recycling Week, highlighting the importance of recycling and looking after our environment. The children explored simple ways they can make a difference and support recycling at home, helping us all to do our bit for a more sustainable future.

Pulborough Pantry

Pulborough Pantry is a wonderful local initiative that aims to reduce food waste while supporting those in our community who may be in need.
The Pantry is open to everyone and operates at the following times:
Tuesdays: 9.00am – 11.00am
Sundays: 4.40pm – 5.00pm
The team can also signpost visitors to other organisations and sources of support, such as Horsham Matters, should further help be needed.
Please help spread the word by sharing this information with your wider family, friends and neighbours. The Pantry is open to all, and everyone is welcome!

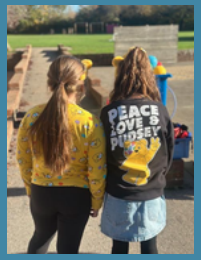




Children in Need

What a fantastic array of pyjamas and spots we had in school today as we came together to support Children in Need. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved and showing their support for such a worthwhile cause. A big thank you to everyone who took part and to all those who made a donation. Your generosity is very much appreciated - we raised a fantastic £234.10!













Things to know

Attendance

96.1%

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

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our fireworks evening on Friday. It was a fantastic turnout, and there was a lovely atmosphere throughout the event. We would also like to say a very special thank you to Aurora and our wonderful PTA, who went above and beyond to organise and make the evening such a success. We are incredibly grateful for all their hard work, time and dedication.

Anti-Bullying Week

We are inviting all children to wear odd socks to school on Monday 16th November as part of our support for Anti-Bullying Week. Odd Socks Day is a fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique, while raising awareness of mental health and the importance of kindness, acceptance and inclusion linking our activities with the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Andy and the Odd Socks from CBeebies.

Let's celebrate our differences, stand together against bullying and remember that it's good to be different!



Things to know

Dates for your diary

Mon 16th Nov – Anti-Bullying week – wear odd socks to school
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

School Photographs

A quick reminder that the deadline for ordering individual and sibling school photographs is Tuesday 17th November. To place your order, please visit www.smileyellow.com and use the passwords provided on your child's proof card. Please ensure orders are placed before the deadline. Thank you!

Celebration Assemblies

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

India - POSTPONED (new date to follow)
Italy – Thur 19th Nov
NZ – Wed 25th Nov Thai (Year 1's) – Thur 26th Nov

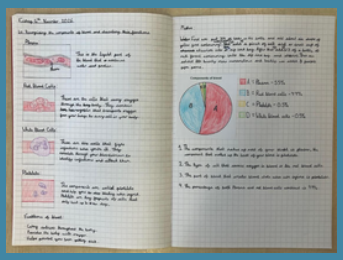
Learning Curriculum

Science

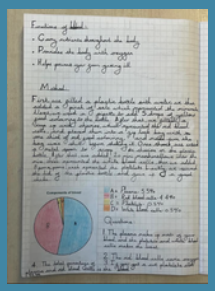
Components of Blood - South Africa, Japan and China have been learning about the circulatory system in Science this term. They have been extending their knowledge of the components of blood in an active, memorable and engaging practical activity! The children used water and yellow food colouring to represent plasma, Cheerios coated in red food colouring to represent red blood cells, mini marshmallows to represent white blood cells and purple pom poms to represent platelets. They learnt about the functions of the different components and the ratios that are present in the human body.













Welly Walk

Australia, India and Italy classes enjoyed exploring Pulborough village, taking part in a local walk to identify and spot important landmarks. This activity marked the beginning of their new topic, Journeys.
The walk provided a wonderful opportunity to bring learning to life, linking our Geography and English curriculums, alongside our class text by Michael Morpurgo. It also formed part of our outdoor learning, allowing the children to explore their local environment and develop their understanding of the world around them.





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 Richard's (Green)

Loving Celebrations

Vine Leaves

Lucas (Ind) and Adeline (Uk) - Service - for collecting all the empty rockets after the firework event. Logan (Ita) - Wisdom - for making connections in our maths lessons and sharing these with the class. Alesio (NZ) - Compassion - for happily giving up desk space to another child when he heard that it would help them. Zara B and Ada (SA) - Service - for using their initiative and stepping in to help with a job when needed. Josh (SA) - Generosity - for bringing in extra t-shirts for other members of the class to use for our DT project this week. Bailey (Chi) - Perseverance - for trying his best this week and listening to adults around him. Ben (Chi) - Courage and Wisdom - for being prepared to finish learning even though it overlapped with his break time. Bowie, Mattie, Sarp and Freddie (Jap) - Service - for representing our school so beautifully at the Remembrance Services this week. They demonstrated respect, thoughtfulness and compassion throughout, making us all incredibly proud.

Kindness Shield

We are delighted to announce that Matilda (Ind) has been awarded our Kindness Shield for November. The award recognises the wonderful kindness and consideration she shows towards others. It reads: "Having looked at the kind of person you are, I can see how much being kind means to you. You think about others, especially your friends and family, and you want the best for everyone. Keep the rainbow dress out for all to see...Keep being you!". A huge well done, Matilda! We are so proud of you and the kindness you show to those around you. Keep shining!

Loving Celebrations

Achievements

Ada (SA) - competed in the Olympus Championships for dance this weekend winning many trophies!





Sienna (Chi) - competed in the Olympus Championships for dance this weekend winning many trophies!

Lyla (Ita) - competed in the Olympus Championships for dance this weekend winning many trophies!



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2026



SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER | **11:00 AM - 2:00 PM** | **FITTLEWORTH VILLAGE HALL RH20 1JB**



CHILDREN'S CRAFTS

SANTAS GROTTO

TEAS/COFFEE & CAKES

HOT CHOCOLATE

VARIOUS STALLS

RAFFLE



MINIEXPLORERSNURSERIES.CO.UK