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

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



NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 16th November 2026

Message from Mrs Copus

It has been another busy week with plenty going on across the school. We marked Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week and welcomed our Community Wardens for Road Safety Week, who spent time talking to the children about how to keep themselves safe when out and about. Next week, we look forward to beginning our Christmas festivities. On Friday morning, the children will be making their Christingles, followed by a special Christingle service in the afternoon. We are looking forward to sharing this special time together as we begin the countdown to Christmas.

Living

Church Links

Your child will have come home with a Children's Society Christingle collection box this week. If you are able to fill it with any loose change and return it to school, we would be incredibly grateful. All donations will be passed on to The Children's Society to support the wonderful work they do with children and young people.
Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity!

News

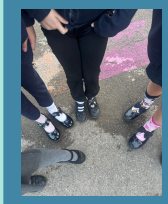


Odd Socks Day



Odd socks were proudly on display at St Mary's as part of our learning about Anti-Bullying Week and the importance of mental health and wellbeing. This week, our School Council introduced the theme 'Breaking the Silence!'. Working alongside Miss Duignan and Mrs Huntley-Hart, the children explored what bullying means, how we can all help to 'break the silence' and the support available at St Mary's if they are ever worried or concerned about someone's behaviour. The children had some thoughtful discussions and are now busy creating posters to share their important messages. We look forward to showcasing their work and celebrating the positive messages they have been sharing throughout the week!





Road Safety Week

We were delighted to welcome our Community Wardens to worship this week to talk about Road Safety Week and the important role they play in our community. The children learned about how to keep themselves safe when crossing the road, as well as staying safe when using bicycles and scooters. We finished with a question-and-answer session, giving the children the opportunity to share their thoughts and ask questions. This afternoon, the Community Wardens joined us again at home time to hand out reflective slap bands to help the children stay safe and be seen when out and about. A big thank you to our Community Wardens, Lottie and Carol, for giving up their time to visit us and for all the wonderful work they do in our community!

Parking

We would like to remind all parents and carers to please park considerately and safely around school during drop-off and pick-up times. We have recently received a complaint from a local resident regarding parking in the area, and the District Wardens have been out and about this week monitoring the situation. Please be mindful of our neighbours, avoid causing obstructions and ensure that driveways and access points are kept clear at all times. As a reminder, parents and carers are welcome to park at the Social Club and walk across the recreation ground to school. This is a convenient alternative and helps to reduce congestion around the school gates.

Things to know

90.3%

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.

Reaching Families

Reaching Families can help with benefits advice - please see information from them below -

Our Benefits Advice Service provides information, advice and support to parent / carers of children and young people with SEND, about DLA, PIP and Carers Allowance.

We offer benefits advice sessions; a 1-hour phone call to talk through how to make an application, answer any questions on eligibility, discuss what information to include on the form, and what evidence to provide, and how to request a Mandatory Reconsideration.

Parents and carers can book a session online here; Select a Date & Time - Calendly

We also offer a claim checking service to parents and carers who have already drafted an application and would like us to read it and provide any suggestions on how to submit a stronger claim.

To ask for a claim check, please see link to our website: Reaching Families Benefits Advice Service

If someone needs help to make a booking, they can email us at: benefits@reachingfamilies.org.uk

Our advice service is open to all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, up to the age of 25 years old, and living in West Sussex.

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

Celebration Assemblies

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

Italy – Thur 19th Nov NZ – Wed 25th Nov
India - Thur 26th Nov (main hall)
Thai (Year 1's) – Thur 26th Nov (small hall)

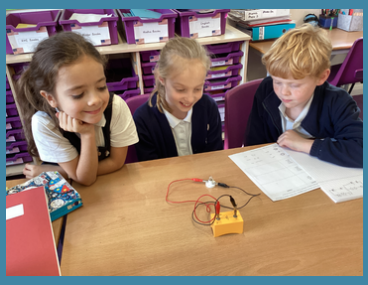
SPRING TERM DATES

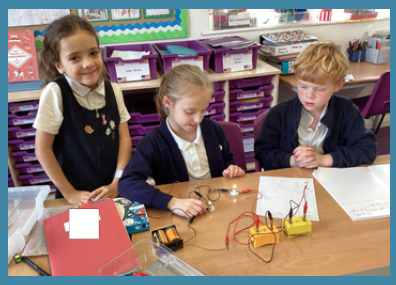
Japan - Thurs 14th Jan South Africa - Thurs 21st Jan
China - Thurs 28th Jan USA - Thurs 4th Feb
New Zealand- Weds 10th Feb Sierra Leone - Thurs 11th Feb
India - Thurs 25th Feb Italy - Thurs 4th Mar
Australia - Thurs 11th Mar Thailand - Thurs 18th Mar
UK - Thurs 25th Mar

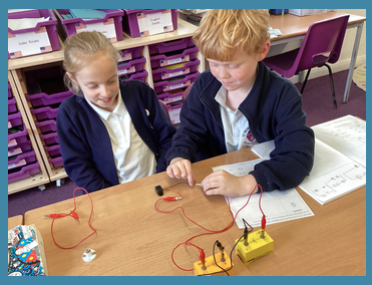
Learning Curriculum

Science

This week, USA Class have been exploring electricity and investigating how to make complete circuits during their Science lessons. The children got hands-on using cells and crocodile clips to build their own circuits, successfully powering bulbs and motors. They also experimented by adding additional bulbs and cells to their circuits to see what happened and how this affected their results. There was lots of curiosity, experimenting and scientific thinking as the children explored how electricity flows through a complete circuit.







Celebration Assembly - Italy Class

Italy Class treated us to a wonderful celebration assembly, showcasing just how much learning has been taking place in Year 1!

The children confidently shared their learning across the curriculum. We enjoyed a song all about superheroes, heard about Creation and a Bible story, and were impressed by their knowledge of repeated addition and doubles in Maths. The children also proudly shared some of their writing.

We are incredibly proud of all the children and the effort, enthusiasm and confidence they showed during their very first Year 1 Celebration Assembly. Well done, Italy Class!



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.

1743

2235



1857

2177

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

Loving Celebrations

Vine Leaves

Dylan (Ita) - Service - for always being on hand to help with a job in the classroom! Amelia (Aus) - Courage - for accepting the part as a narrator in the upcoming nativity despite being very apprehensive about having such a big role Danny, Freddie, Theo S and Theo M-R (Aus) - Perseverance - for working very hard to improve their handwriting since the start of year 2. It so wonderful to see the improvement in their books. Daniel (USA) - Service - for sharing information with the office staff each morning in such a polite and helpful manner. Elena (NZ) - Friendship - for helping another child's mornings much easier. Alfie (China) - Kindness - for his caring nature in helping another child on the playground that had fallen. Avish (Italy) - Perseverance - for a noticeable improvement in his learning behaviours and increased independence in class. Huntley (Thai) - Kindness and Friendship - for engaging with forest school sessions in such a positive way and collaborating with others to complete tasks, i.e. creating a worm farm and building a den.

Achievements



CJ (Ind) - did his first karate grading and earned his red belt

Lyra (Aus) - commpleted her 25m badge at swimming

Loving Celebrations

Isabella (Jap) - completed her karate grading at the weekend and achieved her green belt



Amelia (Aus) - completed her karate grading at the weekend and achieved her yellow belt

Sophia (Aus) - achieved her green belt in her karate grading

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S PTA

SANTAS GROTTO

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER

PULBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

5-8PM

COME ALONG AND SEE SANTA
IN OUR FESTIVE GROTTO

EACH CHILD RECIEVES A PRESENT
FROM SANTA

£4 PER CHILD

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO BOOK



BEST START IN LIFE | FAMILY HUBS



Come and meet one of our Best Start Inclusion Practitioners

Parent/Carer Drop-in

for children aged 0-5 with emerging SEND needs

10th, 17th and 24th November

1st, 8th and 15th December

1pm-3pm

at

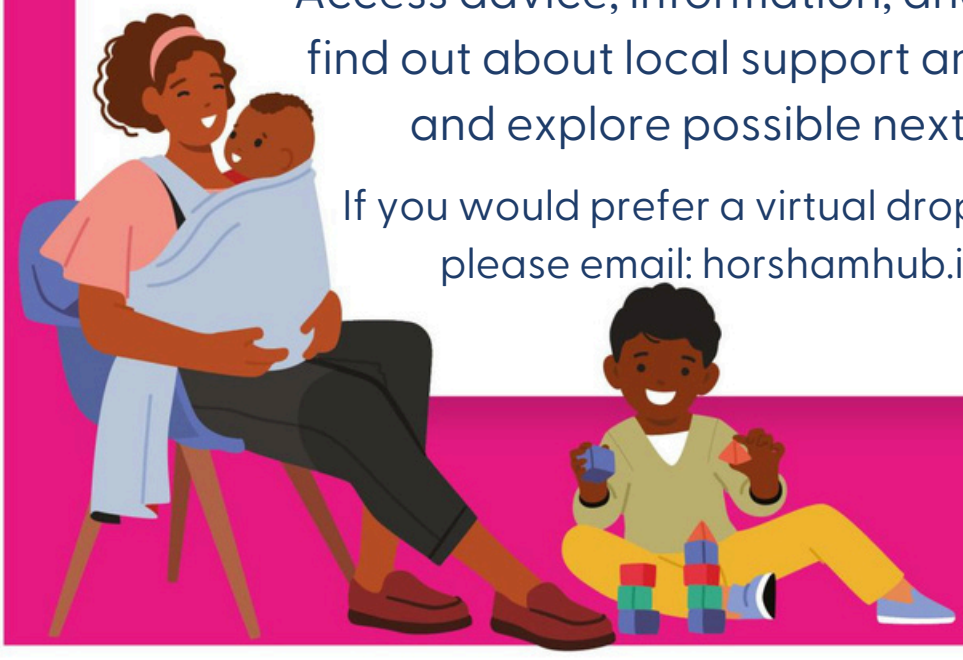
Horsham Best Start Family Hub

No appointment needed, everyone is welcome

No diagnosis or referral is needed, just come along and have a chat

Offering a friendly, supportive space for parents and carers to talk about any concerns they may have regarding their child's development or learning. Access advice, information, and guidance, find out about local support and services, and explore possible next steps.

If you would prefer a virtual drop-in via Teams or a call, please email: horshamhub.info@westsussex.gov.uk



west sussex county council

Children first

WS33890 03.26