ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Friday 13th November 2026 - NEWSLETTER

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy few weeks at St Mary Star of the Sea. Last week, we welcomed our Catholic Schools Inspectorate team into school for our Catholic Inspection. Thank you to all the parents who completed the Parent Voice survey prior to their visit.

This week, we gathered together for a beautiful and respectful Remembrance Day service. The children showed great maturity as they reflected on the sacrifices made by others and joined in prayer and remembrance with reverence and dignity.

As we move through November, the excitement is beginning to build as we start our countdown to Christmas. We have many wonderful events planned over the coming weeks, and we look forward to sharing these special occasions with our school community.

Please keep an eye on your emails and Arbor communications for important information, event details and updates to ensure you don't miss anything.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support

Mrs O'Rourke
Headteacher

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065194633700

https://www.instagram.com/st_mary_star/



Gospel Worship

The parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids reminds us to be ready for God. The bridesmaids did not know when the bridegroom would return, so the wise bridesmaids made sure they were ready!
We don't know when Jesus will return, but we don't need to worry about when. What matters is how we choose to live today. We can live today wisely by getting to know Jesus, praying, making good choices, loving others and following Him.
Spending time with God in prayer is one of the ways we can grow our friendship with Him.
Let's take a few moments of silent prayer to be with God and give Him a special place in our day.
There is no better time to start than right now. We can get to know Jesus today, so that we can love like Him and live as His followers.

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my work may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I may love what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to do what is right.
Guard me, O Holy Spirit,
And help me to live a holy life.
Amen

Week beginning 2nd November 2026		
Attendance target for 2025-2026 is 96%		
Year Group	Attendance	Punctuality
Reception	98.47%	99.23%
Year 1	98.26%	99.57%
Year 2	95.17%	99.31%
Year 3	100%	100%
Year 4	95.67%	99%
Year 5	96.67%	99.67%
Year 6	90.97%	99.35%
Whole School Average	96.36%	

*Well done to **Year 3** for the outstanding attendance this week.*
*Excellent effort from **Year 3** for outstanding punctuality.*

Week beginning 9th November 2026		
Attendance target for 2025-2026 is 96%		
Year Group	Attendance	Punctuality
Reception	95.38%	99.62%
Year 1	94.35%	100%
Year 2	97.93%	99.66%
Year 3	91.05%	99.04%
Year 4	95.33%	99.33%
Year 5	98.33%	100%
Year 6	91.29%	99.68%
Whole School Average	94.76%	

*Well done to **Year 5** for the highest attendance this week.*
*Excellent effort from **Year 1 & 5** for the outstanding punctuality.*

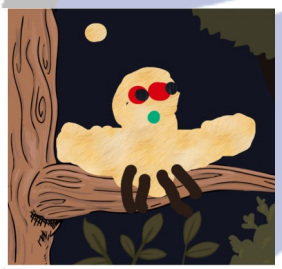
Safeguarding
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs O'Rourke
Deputy Designated Safeguarding : Mr Beaney & Miss Basson

St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School
Magdalen Road, St Leonards on Sea, TN37 6EU
Tel: 01424 427801
www.st-mary-star.e-sussex.sch.uk

Learning from across the school

In **Reception** Class we have been looking at Vincent Van Gough's Starry Night painting. We have made our own versions of the painting using cotton buds to create swirls and collage to create silhouettes. We talked about animals that come out at night and looked closely at owls. We talked about their features and made a picture of an owl in digital art using the chrome books and Purple mash program. We also took part in the whole school Remembrance worship on Wednesday. The children were well behaved and respected the 2 minutes silence. We made two wreaths, using red and purple poppies. Red poppies for the soldiers and purple for the animals who fought and died in wars.

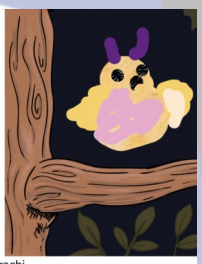




Atticus







Harachi

In **Year 1**, we have been learning about The Gunpowder Plot and writing in character as King James I and Guy Fawkes. We enjoyed role playing and asking questions to Guy Fawkes and King James, as well as identifying objects from the past that Guy Fawkes might have needed. In Art, we explored colour and application by producing a firework scene on canvas, ready for our upcoming Art Exhibition. We have also been learning about the artist Paul Klee and discovering how he created detail, patterns, and textures using different lines and marks. In Geography, we have been learning about the planets in our solar system and ordering them by their distance from the Sun. We even had the exciting opportunity to try real space food ice cream, helping us imagine what it might be like to travel into space! In RE, we have been learning about how God called Mary to do a special job. We enjoyed retelling the story of the Annunciation to deepen our understanding of the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary and the important message he brought.







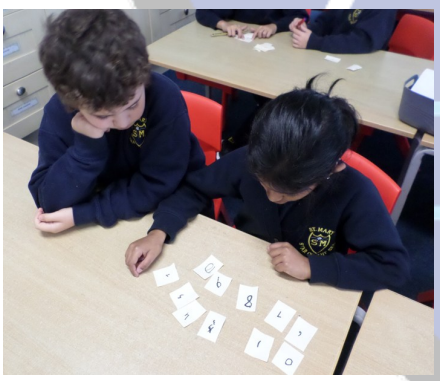
This week, **Year 2** learnt about online safety and discussed ways to keep ourselves safe both online and in the real world. To mark Anti-Bullying Week, we designed our own odd socks and shared ideas about how we can show kindness and respect to those around us. We also enjoyed an exciting school trip to Hastings Contemporary Art Gallery, where we explored a range of artwork and took part in creative activities that inspired our own artistic ideas. In English, we have been exploring character descriptions, using adjectives and adverbs to make our writing more detailed and engaging. In Maths, we have continued developing our confidence with adding and subtracting two-digit numbers across 10, using number bonds to help us solve calculations more efficiently. In Science, we have enjoyed investigating everyday materials and sorting them into different groups. In PE, we have been building our gymnastics skills through a range of balancing activities, improving our control and coordination. In Art, we had great fun creating our own Jackson Pollock-inspired paintings using splatter and drip techniques. In RE, we learnt about prophets and the important role they play, before thinking carefully about the qualities and characteristics a prophet might need. Which we turned into a job description for a prophet.







Welcome back to Term 2, we have had a busy couple of weeks in **Year 3**. The children were happy to show their RE learning to visitors in school and showed how much they could recall about the Mass and its importance for Catholics. In Maths, we have been playing lots of games involving number bonds, to help with our understanding of the column method for addition and subtraction. Our English lessons have focussed on understanding the text of our class book, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' which is proving to be really enjoyable. As always at the start of term we have taken part in many PSHE activities (including some drama) as a reminder of how to be a good citizen and keep ourselves and others safe. In History we learned about the significance of Remembrance Day and made a class display together for our school worship.







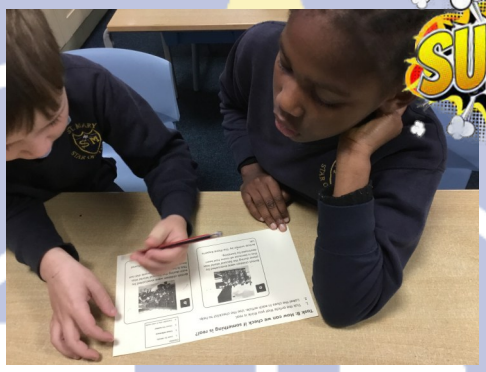






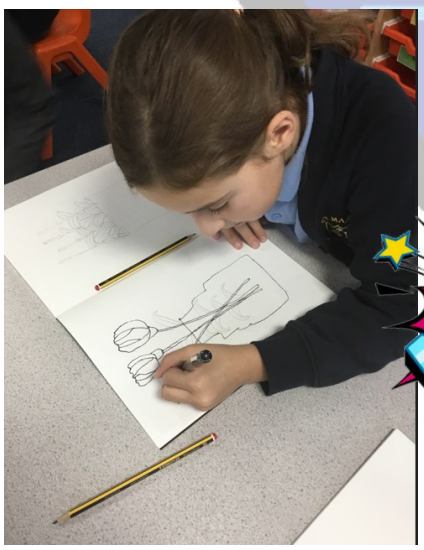
As it was the start of a new term, **Year 4** began with a check-up on our emotional well-being in RSE. We explored how fake news and the media can sometimes give false impressions, and discussed the importance of listening to trusted adults and asking God for help when our confidence or self-belief feels challenged. In Maths, we are using and applying our place value knowledge to add and subtract 4-digit numbers. We continue to work hard on our rapid recall of multiplication facts. In Multiplication and Division, we have been using known facts to work out unknown facts, using our knowledge of x10 and x2 to calculate x12, as well as solving reasoning problems. We have also begun work on our quilts, which is very exciting! We are now learning the key elements of sewing. Discovering the patience and focus needed to thread a needle, tie a knot and sew a variety of stitches. In gymnastics, we have been creating partner balances, adjusting and developing our movements to challenge, while also stretching, lengthening and pointing, improving stance and body position. In RE, we are learning about the role of prophets, those individuals chosen by God to lead people of the Old Testament back to God and point to the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.







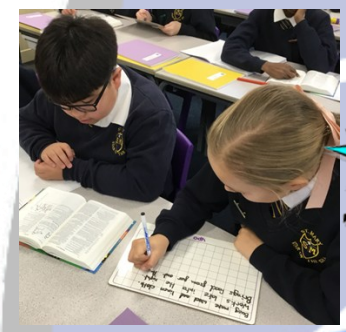
Year 5 have had a very busy and creative start to the term and have immersed themselves in their Art and DT projects in preparation for the upcoming show. In Design and Technology, we have begun our exciting clock project. The children started by evaluating a range of existing clocks, considering their design, purpose and appeal. They then designed their own clocks, shortlisted their ideas to two final designs and selected one to develop further by creating a paper template. In Art, we have been developing our observational drawing and painting skills through a series of still-life studies using watercolours. The children have shown great enthusiasm and creativity. Over the coming weeks, they will continue to experiment with different media, including charcoal, before progressing to work with acrylic paints. In RE, we have begun our new branch, Prophecy and Promise. Through our study of 1 Samuel, the children have been learning about David as a great king, exploring his relationship with God and understanding his importance as an ancestor of Jesus. In PE, we have moved indoors and started our gymnastics unit. The children have been using wall bars and gymnastics equipment to develop their balance, coordination and control. They have enjoyed creating and performing sequences which incorporate different heights, levels and angles. In PSHE, our work through Paradise Street has focused on emotional and physical wellbeing. We have explored the importance of sleep, managing emotions and developing a positive body image. We have also discussed personal safety through the NSPCC PANTS initiative, as well as the importance of online safety and making responsible choices when using social media and digital technology.





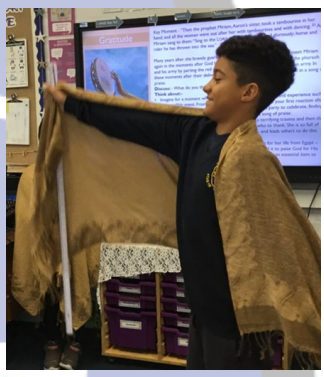


Year 6 have started the new term with a fantastic attitude and plenty of enthusiasm! As part of our exciting new project, Gallery Rebels, we have begun reading 'Framed' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce in our English lessons. We have been answering comprehension questions, making predictions about the story, and exploring the features of newspaper reports. Using these skills, we wrote our own newspaper articles based on the real-life theft of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. In Maths, we have been investigating fractions and developing our understanding through practical problem-solving activities. In RE, we explored the inspirational women of the Bible and created a Wall of Fame to celebrate their contributions and stories. In Art, we discussed famous artists and their influence on the art world, producing detailed fact files about Claude Monet and his work. Meanwhile, in Design and Technology, we evaluated existing box picture frames and shared our own design ideas in preparation for creating our own prototypes. As part of our enrichment programme and commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, we took part in a litter-picking activity around our local community, helping to care for our environment and serve others. We also marked Remembrance Day by reflecting on the sacrifices made by those who fought in past wars and thinking about the importance of peace. It has been a creative, thoughtful and exciting start to the term.









Dates for your Diary!

Tuesday 17th November - New Reception Open Afternoon - 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Thursday 19th November - Year 4 and 5 Mass - 10am @ St Thomas's

Monday 23rd November - New Reception Open Afternoon - 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Monday 23rd November - New Reception Open Evening - 4pm - 5pm

Thursday 26th November - Year 6 Mass - 10am @ St Thomas's

Monday 30th November - SCHOOL CLOSED for children

Tuesday 1st December - New Reception Open Evening - 4pm - 5pm

Friday 4th December - SMSS Art Exhibition - 3:20pm - 4pm - All Welcome

Tuesday 8th December - EYFS/KS1 Nativity to Reception parents @ 2:30pm

Wednesday 9th December - EYFS/KS1 Nativity to Year 1 & 2 parents @ 2:30pm

Thursday 10th December - KS2 Carol Concert at St Thomas' @ 5pm

Wednesday 16th December - Whole School Panto at the White Rock - 1:30pm - 4pm (aprox)

Thursday 17th December - Whole School Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Dinner

Friday 18th December - Last Day of Term 2 - SCHOOL CLOSES AT 1:30PM

Monday 4th January 2027 - First day of Term 3 - All children to attend school

Mr Beaney's Book Corner



My recommendation this week is:

The Cave Downwind of the Café

by Mikey Please

Revisit the Cafe at the Edge of the Woods in Mikey Please's new picture book..

Every night, Glumfoot dreams of delicious meals and every night he is served the same thing: his dad's bogey broth. He is overjoyed one day to discover the new café at the edge of the woods – but when one very hungry ogre decides he'll eat the owner, it's down to Glumfoot to save the chef, and with it, his dreams of ever having a good meal.

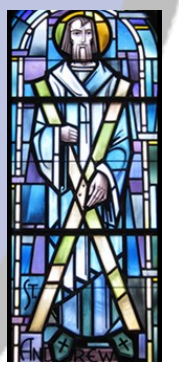
Certificates of Achievement

Well done to the following children for receiving achievement certificates for either fantastic work effort or demonstrating our Gospel Values.

Worker of the Week		
CLASS	**Week 1**	**Week 2**
Reception	***Ariya***	***Leo***
Year 1	***Miraj***	***Amelia***
Year 2	***Mia***	***Isabella***
Year 3	***Eric***	***Elijah***
Year 4	***Teddy***	***Ebrahim***
Year 5	***Bertie***	***Aswith***
Year 6	***Daniel***	***Cassie***
Letting your Light Shine		
CLASS	**Week 1**	**Week 2**
Reception	***Harachi***	***Aoife***
Year 1	***Freya***	***Louis***
Year 2	***Whole Class***	***Nebe***
Year 3	***James***	***Nahom***
Year 4	***Ebube***	***Eliza***
Year 5	***Agnes***	***Tabs***
Year 6	***Joseph***	***Russell***

Week 1 House Winner

ST ANDREW'S



Week 2 House Winner

ST ANDREW'S



Rememberance Worship

For many children, Remembrance provides an important opportunity to reflect on courage, sacrifice and the gift of peace. This week, our school community came together in a moving act of worship led by the Spiritual Council, who thoughtfully helped us remember those who have served and sacrificed in times of war.

Our Spiritual Council led a beautiful and respectful Remembrance Worship for the whole school. Through prayers, readings and reflection, they helped us think about the significance of Remembrance and the importance of working for peace in our world today.

All of the children demonstrated exemplary respect throughout the worship and during the two-minute silence. The school fell completely silent as we paused together to remember those who have given so much for the freedoms we enjoy today. It was a powerful moment of reflection that showed great maturity and reverence from every pupil.

As a Catholic school, we were reminded of our responsibility to pray for peace, show compassion to others and honour the memory of those who have made great sacrifices for future generations.



For the Fallen
By Laurence Binyon

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Harvest Donations to Hastings Foodbank



A huge thank you to all our families for your generous donations to our Harvest Festival collection. Your kindness and support have helped provide much-needed food and essential items for members of our local community.

This week, representatives from the Hastings Foodbank visited school to collect the donations. Our Year 6 Spiritual Council members were delighted to help pack up the items and learn more about the important work the Foodbank does to support local families.

We are incredibly proud of the compassion and generosity shown by our school community. Together, we are living out our Gospel Values by supporting those in need and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ALLERGIES & ANAPHYLAXIS

An allergy is an overreaction of the immune system to a food or substance that's usually harmless. Symptoms can be mild, but for some people they can be very serious. This is known as anaphylaxis.

"HOW TO SAY ANAPHYLAXIS: ANA-FIL-AX-IS"

ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS



- Mild allergy symptoms are treated with antihistamines.
- Anaphylaxis is treated with adrenaline, which is administered via an adrenaline device, injected into the outer upper thigh or using a nasal device.
- Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency and a threat to life.

ANAPHYLAXIS SYMPTOMS

AIRWAY

Symptoms include swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways; tightening of the throat; a hoarse voice; and difficulty swallowing.



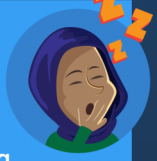
BREATHING

Symptoms include persistent cough; sudden onset of wheezing; breathing difficulty; and noisy breathing.



CIRCULATION

Symptoms include pale and clammy skin; dizziness; feeling faint; sudden sleepiness; tiredness; confusion; and loss of consciousness.



In extreme cases of anaphylaxis, there could be a dramatic fall in the patient's blood pressure. The patient may become weak and floppy, and have a sense of something terrible happening. Any of the ABC symptoms listed above may lead to collapse and unconsciousness and, on rare occasions, be fatal.

WHAT ADRENALINE DOES

Adrenaline reduces swelling, opens the patient's airways and raises their blood pressure. Patients must go to hospital for monitoring, as the reaction could return.



TOP 14 FOOD ALLERGENS:

(However, be aware people can be allergic to anything.)



NON-FOOD ALLERGENS:



LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES - Scan the QR codes to find out more

- AllergyWise®
- EpiPen
- Jext
- ADRENALINE AND AADs

Meet Our Expert

Anaphylaxis UK is the only UK-wide charity operating solely for the growing numbers of people at risk of serious allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. While there's no treatment or cure for anaphylaxis, we believe that by providing information, training and support, there's a brighter future for people living with serious allergies.

anaphylaxis UK

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.05.2026

St Mary Star of the Sea

Primary School

COULD YOUR CHILD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Apply Today and Unlock Additional Support for Your Child

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) have changed in East. Some families who were not previously eligible may now qualify.

Why apply?

If your child qualifies for **Targeted Free School Meals**, they may also be eligible for:

- ✅ Free school meals every day
- ✅ Additional educational support through Pupil Premium funding
- ✅ Support with school trips, activities and other enrichment opportunities
- ✅ Access to Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes
- ✅ Additional support to help your child thrive at school

Important Information

📢 **An application must be made for EACH child.**
Even if one child in your family is already receiving Free School Meals, **siblings are not automatically registered or eligible**. A separate application is required for every child you wish to be assessed.

If your child received Pupil Premium FSM before September 2026, you will need to **reapply** to keep their **Targeted FSM status.**

Who may qualify?

You may be eligible if you receive **Universal Credit** or certain other qualifying benefits. Eligibility is checked by East Sussex County Council.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR CLICK HERE TO APPLY, AND ENSURE YOUR ELIGIBILITY IS IN PLACE.

APPLICATIONS ARE QUICK, EASY AND TAKE 5-10 MINUTES TO COMPLETE

BOSCO

St Mary Star of the Sea
Primary School



OPEN DAYS

COME AND SEE US IN ACTION!

Wednesday 7th October (10am - 11am)
Thursday 15th October (10am-11am)
Tuesday 17th November (1.30pm-2.30pm)
Monday 23rd November (1.30pm - 2.30pm and 4pm-5pm)
Tuesday 1st December (4pm-5pm)

Did you know?

Everyone is welcome at St Mary Star of the Sea, we are a rich, diverse and vibrant community.
In our beautiful school you will find light, airy, modern and well-equipped classrooms, state of the art technology, fantastic facilities, an inspiring library, large play areas, outdoor learning spaces and so much more.
Wraparound childcare is on offer 5 days a week, with Breakfast Club from 7.45am and After School Club until 5:30pm.



ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN

FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

AND THERE ARE ALSO A SMALL NUMBER OF PLACES AVAILABLE IN OTHER YEAR GROUPS.

Contact us to book a visit

BOSCO

This year we're helping to raise funds by participating in a...

design-your-own Christmas card project



The Christmas cards come in a pack of 12 for a great price, and you will also be able to buy gift labels, mugs, magnets, thank you cards, candles and calendars with your designs on!

Help us raise extra funds this year while having fun and creating something you can be proud of!



SCHOOL Christmas Card PROJECT

www.schoolprintworld.co.uk
info@schoolprintworld.co.uk
0114 453 9288