ST MARY'S SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

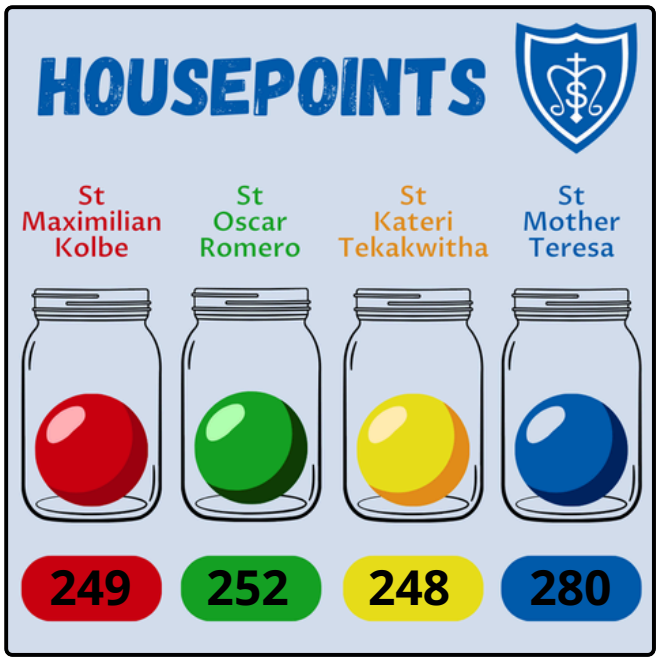
Autumn 3 - 9th October 2026

FROM MRS COLE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks in school! Last week we loved welcoming grandparents and special friends to come to classes and enjoy a 'cuppa' and a biscuit in the parish hall. Pupils, staff and grandparents alike enjoyed the afternoon, and I was very proud of the Yr6 children who helped set up, showed visitors to classes and served them with drinks and biscuits. They were wonderful ambassadors for St Mary's and showed how ready they are for Yr6. Thank you very much to grandparents and others for the generous donations for refreshments, we raised £90.10 , which has been split equally between Macmillan and Breast Cancer Now. Friday was our Harvest Festival celebration, beautifully led by pupils in Marine, Blake and Craigweil Classes. Thank you all for your generous donations of food for Bognor Regis foodbank and 'Brightening Up' non-uniform contributions which raised £187.13 for CAFOD. These donations enable us to help our local community and global neighbours, part of our Catholic Social Teaching principles of the Common Good and Dignity for the Poor.





We are very excited that on Monday 19th October our Bishop-elect Stephen Wang will be installed as Bishop for Arundel and Brighton in Arundel Cathedral. Children will have the opportunity to watch part of the service in school. We are very much looking forward as a diocese to having a Bishop once again.

I am delighted to have a new School Council up and running. The competition to be elected was tough, teachers were very impressed by the quality of speeches. Please see below for names of the new council.

Next week Yr6 are off to PGL on the Isle of Wight for their residential trip. This is always a fantastic experience for children, they grow so much over the four days and really bond as a year group. We wish them a safe and happy trip.

Welcome to Joey (Yr1 Ocean Class), Lea (yr1 Seagull Class) and Mia (Yr3 Marine Class) and their families, who joined us last week.

Tuesday 10th November is our open afternoon for all families with children due to start in Reception next September. Please come along if you have a child due to start, and spread the word to families and friends you know who also have a child due to start.

Parents evenings are coming up quickly-please do book your appointment with your child's class teacher, they will be going live on Monday. Mrs Lockwood is also available if your child has special educational needs or you have concerns (speak to your child's class teacher first). Thank you all for your support and engagement with us, working closely with parents makes such a big difference to children.

Wishing you all very happy weekend.

Mrs Cole

GRANDPARENT'S CELEBRATION





HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS



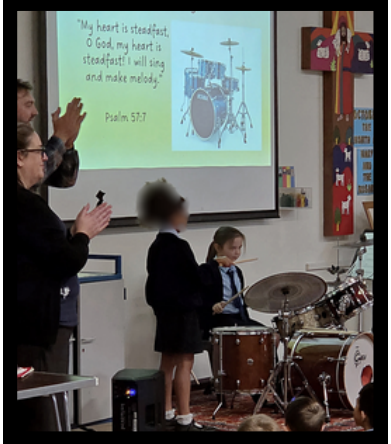


Monday October 12th is the first Feast Day of one of our newest saints, Saint Carlo Acutis. We can all learn practical lessons from him about faith, technology and how we live our daily life. He is a true modern example to us all.










We had a wonderful assembly this morning showcasing the talents of the children who have been taking part in drumming lessons at school! A huge well done to everyone who took part, it was thoroughly enjoyed by the rest of the school!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

Beach - Ola & Cole

Blake - Marnie & Dominik

Ocean - Kevin & Elena

Hotham - Gabi & Tinahse

Marine - Flip & Marion

Regis - Antoni & Ansh

Craigweil - Derren & Sophia

Wheatland - Willow & Sophia

Tomorrow is World Mental Health Day!

It reminds us why good mental health is so important, and how we can prioritise it in our lives and communities. It's also a moment to talk openly and listen to what others are experiencing.

The theme for 2026 is "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change" (World Federation for Mental Health).

Conversations about mental health make a difference. And they matter most when we listen to people's experiences.

20 APPS PARENTS & CARERS NEED TO KNOW

Snapchat

Messages and photos disappear, which means there is often no evidence of what has been sent. Children can be pressured to send images because they believe they will not be saved. Location sharing can show where a child is in

Roblox

Although it looks like a children's game, it includes chat features. Children can be contacted by strangers and slowly groomed through friendly game play.

Kik Messenger

Accounts can be [illegible] anonymous. It is [illegible] to move conversations away from apps parents may check.

Fortnite

Voice chat allows children to talk to strangers during games. Language and behaviour are often inappropriate.

TikTok

Children can see adult content, receive sexual comments, and be contacted by strangers. Live videos allow real-time interaction, which can quickly become unsafe.

Telegram

Messages and groups are encrypted, making them difficult to monitor. It is used to share sexual images, harmful material, and to keep conversations hidden from adults.

Hoop

The app connects directly to Snapchat and encourages children to add new contacts quickly, including people they have never met.

Reddit

Users are anonymous and content is largely unfiltered. Children can easily access sexual, violent, or extreme material.

Instagram

Private messages allow strangers to contact children directly. Many children run secret or secon accounts that parents do not know about. There is strong pressure around appearance and popularity.

Omegle

Children are matched randomly with strangers for video or text chat. There is no effective safeguarding, and sexual content is common. This is not suitable for children.

LiveMe

Children can broadcast themselves live to anyone watching. Viewers can comment in real time, including adults.

BeReal

The app prompts children to take photos instantly, which can lead to oversharing without thinking about safety.

WhatsApp

Private chats and group chats are often used for school or friendship groups, but bullying, exclusion, and sharing of images can happen quickly and spread widely.

Yubo

The app is designed to meet new people. Children can live stream and chat with strangers, which can quickly become sexual or exploitative.

Calculator+

These apps look like calculators but are used to hide photos, videos, and messages that children do not want adults to see.

Twitch

Children watch and interact with live streamers through chat, which often includes adults and unmoderated comments.

Discord

Children join private chat servers linked to gaming or interests. These spaces are often unmoderated and can include adults, sexual content, or harmful language.

Monkey

Children are placed into random video chats with people they do not know. They have no control over who appears on screen.

YouTube

Children can be exposed to adult content through suggested videos, comments, and live streams, even when watching innocent clips.

Bumble

This is a dating app. Despite age limits, some under-18s access it to talk to adults looking for relationships.







CHILDREN FROM MARINE CLASS TAKING PART IN THE ROSARY CHALLENGE



We would like to invite all prospective parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2027 to come and view our wonderful school.