



ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 18th September 2026 - NEWSLETTER

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Great are the works of the Lord.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another wonderful week at school, and it has been a pleasure to see our children settling into the new academic year so positively.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions this week. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for staff and families to work together in supporting each child's learning journey, and we greatly appreciate your engagement and support. Year 4's meeting will be held next week.

Our Reception children have also made an excellent start to school life. They have settled beautifully into their new routines, embraced new friendships and experiences, and are already becoming valued members of our school family. We are incredibly proud of how confidently they have approached this important milestone.

Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils have enjoyed an exciting residential visit to Carrot Wood this week. The children have taken part in a range of adventurous activities, challenged themselves, and created lasting memories with their classmates. We look forward to sharing photographs and a full write-up of their experiences in our next newsletter.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we make our school a special place where every child can thrive.

Mrs O'Rourke
Headteacher

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



TenTen Resources



Forgive, Reset,
Repeat



Gospel Worship

Jesus teaches us to 'Love one another' but sometimes we get it wrong and make bad choices. Hurtful words and actions can separate ourselves from others and they also separate us from God. It's difficult to love God the Father and love others when there is a gap between you. Jesus shows us how to close the gap by saying sorry. Sometimes our wrong choices and sin move us away from God, but He always loves us, forgives us, and longs to welcome us back. Jesus shows us how to close the gap by forgiving others, just as God the Father forgives us. Forgiveness resets our friendship with each other and brings us back into friendship with God. Saying sorry and forgiving others isn't always easy, but the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to do just that!

*O my God,
because you are so good,
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you,
and with the help of your grace
I will not sin again.*

Week beginning 7th September 2026

Attendance target for 2025-2026 is 96%

Year Group	Attendance	Punctuality
Reception	95.31%	100%
Year 1	100%	99.09%
Year 2	95.7%	99.28%
Year 3	99.36%	99.36%
Year 4	98.15%	98.89%
Year 5	99.33%	99.33%
Year 6	98.02%	99.67%
Whole School Average	97.99%	

Well done to **Year 1** for outstanding attendance this week.

Excellent effort from **Reception** for outstanding punctuality.

Week beginning 14th September 2026

Attendance target for 2025-2026 is 96%

Year Group	Attendance	Punctuality
Reception	98.84%	99.23%
Year 1	98.69%	99.13%
Year 2	98.27%	99.31%
Year 3	93.02%	100%
Year 4	98.21%	98.92%
Year 5	97%	99.67%
Year 6	97.5%	98.75%
Whole School Average	97.21%	

Well done to **Reception** for the highest attendance this week.

Excellent effort from **Year 3** for 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 learning about ourselves. We have made paper plate pictures of our faces and decorated the initial letters of our name. We have read the story Ruby's Worry and talked about feelings and how sharing them with people we trust can help with any worries. In Maths, we have been practising counting in sequence and we have looked closely at numbers one and two. In RE, we have been talking about how God created the world and how He knows us all by name. We are all unique and special. Everyone is enjoying exploring all the resources and making new friends.



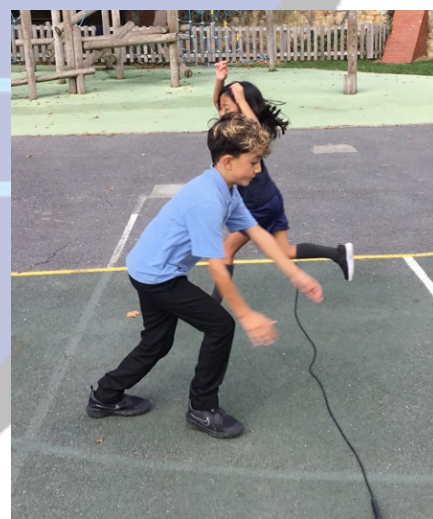
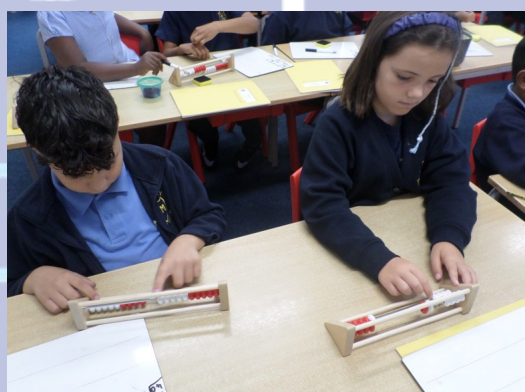
Year 1 have made a wonderful start to the new school year and have settled quickly into their new routines. In Maths, we have begun learning about Place Value, exploring numbers through practical activities such as sorting objects, counting groups and representing numbers in different ways. The children have shown great enthusiasm and confidence in their learning. In English, we have been working on writing simple sentences, focusing on using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops correctly. It has been fantastic to see the children taking pride in their writing and growing in confidence each day. In RE, we enjoyed exploring God's wonderful creations. The children made their own binoculars and ventured outside to observe the world around them, sharing their ideas about the beauty of nature and all that God has created. During PE lessons, we have been developing our balance and stability skills. The children have been practising how to move safely, control their movements and land confidently on their feet. It has been lovely to see everyone encouraging one another and taking part with such enthusiasm and determination. It was wonderful to meet so many of you at our Meet the Teacher meeting. I hope you found the session informative and helpful. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss anything regarding your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are looking forward to another exciting week of learning in Year 1!



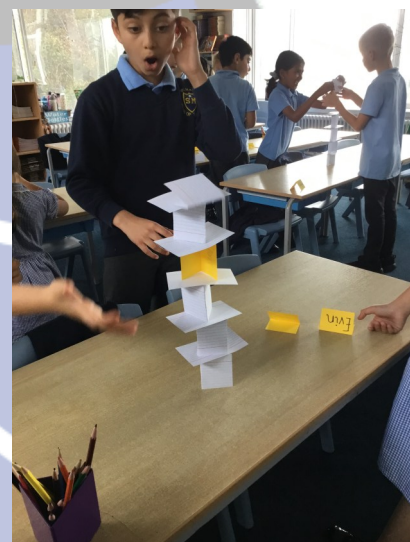
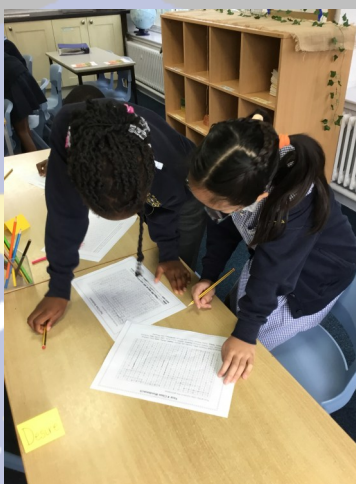
In English, **Year 2** have been learning about the sequel to Jack and the Beanstalk, Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs. We have been using coordinating conjunctions, exploring the characters' thoughts and feelings, and making predictions about the different ways the story might end. In Maths, we have been learning to partition numbers up to 100, identifying tens and ones and organising them into place value charts. We have been using practical resources and pictorial representations to develop a secure understanding of place value. In RE, we have been learning about the story of Noah's Ark and God's covenant with Noah. We have explored the meaning of a covenant as a special promise and reflected on the importance of trust, faith and caring for the world around us. In Art, we have been creating paintings and collages inspired by the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, exploring her use of bold colours, patterns and repeated shapes to create our own imaginative and colourful artwork. We have been using our knowledge of this to create and decorate our own clay pots!



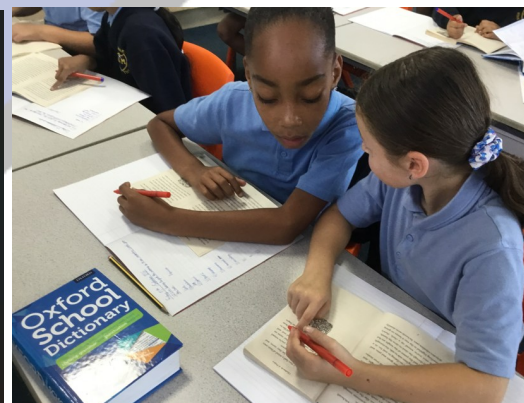
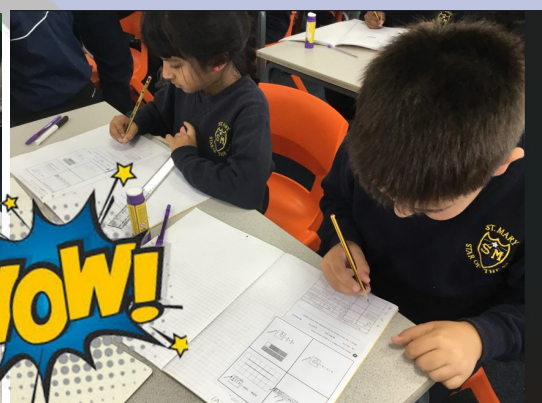
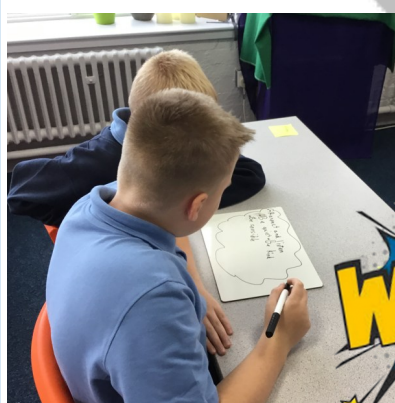
Welcome to **Year 3!** The children are starting to gradually adjust to a new year group and routines. Our RE topic of Creation and Covenant has been focussing on the story of God's creation. We have thought about how creation is God's gift to us and this has linked to our PSHE work about being created and loved by God. In English, we have been researching the Stone Age as well as using pronouns, nouns and imperative verbs in our writing. We have spent time sharing a range of books to improve our reading skills. Our project lessons have focused on the Stone Age period and we have looked at artefacts and paintings. We have found out how we know about the past from a time before it was written down in records. As scientists, we have investigated rocks! In Math's, we have been using the concrete resources to help us explore place value and numbers to 1000. Our knowledge of number bonds and times tables is proving invaluable.



We have enjoyed welcoming **Year 4** back after a busy summer and have spent time reflecting on how we want our classroom to be. We have revisited our expectations and discussed how it is okay to make mistakes as long as we keep trying. Our Gospel Value is thankfulness, and we have been thankful to be back with our friends and ready for new learning opportunities. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value to 10,000 using dienes blocks and partitioning numbers. We have also begun our important work on recalling multiplication facts. In English, we have been exploring figurative language through *The Lost Happy Endings* by Carole Ann Duffy, identifying similes, metaphors and personification. In RE, we have begun our topic, Creation and Covenant, exploring the historical context of Abraham and the biblical timeline before his call. In PE, we have been developing our tracking and passing skills through drills and mini games. What a fabulous start to what promises to be a great year of learning!



Year 5 have made a brilliant start to the term, settling quickly into routines and showing great enthusiasm and regulation for learning. In PSHE, pupils have been thinking about their gifts and talents, Boys and Girls Bodies through *Paradise Street* and revisiting key messages about online safety. In Maths, we have focused on place value up to one million, powers of ten and Roman numerals. In Science, pupils have identified and compared the reproductive parts of flowering plants using careful observational scientific drawings with key vocabulary. Our RE learning has explored the story of Moses and what it means to live a good and faithful life. We have also introduced learning partners to support discussion and collaboration, and pupils have begun using *Accelerated Reader* to quiz their free-reading books to ensure they are understanding what they are reading! It has been a busy and positive start, and Year 5 should feel very proud of their efforts.



Year 6 have settled in really well and made a fantastic start to the new school year. The children have returned with enthusiasm and maturity, setting a positive tone for the year ahead. In English, we were introduced to Shaun Tan's fascinating graphic novel *The Arrival*. We have enjoyed exploring the characters, their emotions and the different points of view presented in the story. We have also discussed the challenges faced by the main character and others who have journeyed to a new land, and we are eager to continue following his journey. In Maths, we began by exploring place value before moving on to addition and subtraction. In RE, we have started our learning on Genesis, reflecting on God's creations and considering the importance of the Creation story for Christians. In Science, we carried out an investigation to discover how the distance from a light source affects the size of a shadow. The children made predictions, observed patterns and discussed their findings using scientific vocabulary. In PE, we have been fully engaged in tag rugby, focusing on the rules of the game, developing key techniques and demonstrating excellent teamwork throughout our lessons. We were also excited to find out our new responsibilities around the school after applying for a range of leadership roles. It has been a wonderful first two weeks in Year 6, and we are looking forward to the exciting learning and opportunities that the rest of the term will bring.



Dates for your Diary!

Wednesday 23rd September - Visit from MP Helena Dollimore

Wednesday 23rd September - Year 3 High Weald Workshop (in School)

Wednesday 23rd September - Year 4 Meet the teacher for parents @ 3pm

Thursday 24th September - St Richard's Year 6 Roadshow @ 2:30pm - **Parents to join the event after school @ 3:20pm**

Monday 5th October - Year 1 and 5 Wonder dome experience (in school)

Wednesday 7th October - New Reception 2027 Open Morning @ 10am

Thursday 8th October - Spiritual Council Induction at St Richard's (info to follow)

Thursday 8th October - Year 4 & 5 Mass @ St Thomas's

Tuesday 13th October - Year 6 Trip to Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum (info to follow)

Thursday 15th October - New Reception 2027 Open Morning @ 10am

Thursday 15th October - Year 3 & 6 Mass @ St Thomas's

Tuesday 20th October - Parents Evening - 3:30pm - 6pm

Wednesday 20th October - Flu Vaccinations for all Year Groups

Wednesday 21st October - Parents Evening - 3:30pm - 6pm

Friday 23rd October - Last day of Term 1

Miss Basson's Book Corner

My recommendation this week is:

The Adventures of Dax and Nova - When we found a baby dragon

By Dax and Nicole Hart



QR Code for
Amazon link



A gentle bedtime story about kindness, teamwork, and helping someone find their way home. Dax Hart, a good friend of mine, is the co-creator of **The Adventures of Dax and Nova**, a picture book series inspired by the imagination of his two children, Dax and Nova. The first book, **When We Found a Baby Dragon**, was written and illustrated with his wife, Nicole Hart. It follows the children as an ordinary day turns into something magical, and it ends with real photos of the family moments that inspired the story. More adventures for Dax and Nova are already in the works, with each new book building on the fun, curiosity and wonder that started the series.



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 2	Week 3
Reception	N/A	N/A
Year 1	Elidad	Pakhi
Year 2	Edie	Sienna G
Year 3	Darcie	Izabella
Year 4	Otto	Heather
Year 5	Zeb	Dylan
Year 6	Rupert	N/A
Letting your Light Shine		
CLASS	Week 2	Week 3
Reception	N/A	N/A
Year 1	Phoebe	Komakshi
Year 2	Shem	Nico
Year 3	Mateo	Minnie
Year 4	Lottie	Casper
Year 5	Leo	Dhyan
Year 6	Adhidev	N/A

Week 2 House Winner



ST PATRICK'S

Week 3 House Winner



ST PATRICK'S

Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

1 START EARLY

Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.



2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER

Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.



3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY

Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.



4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS

Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak to or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, 'buddy' systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.



5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION

Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day mealtimes, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.



6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. Anxiety around going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be common, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can all help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.



7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS

Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.



8 PRIORITISE SLEEP

Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.



9 PREPARE AHEAD

Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.



10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adapt to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, and a business development specialist for Minds Ahead, which works with schools to improve their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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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 TO APPLY,
AND ENSURE YOUR ELIGIBILITY
IS IN PLACE.**

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





St. Mary Star of the Sea
Catholic Primary School

LIBRARY DROP IN SESSIONS

Every Monday 3:20pm-4pm

We invite all our families to pop in to our WONDERFUL Library for drop in sessions, which will run every Monday after school.

You may use this time to read with your children in a tranquil setting, or check out a book to read at home.*

The Library will be supervised by a member of staff during this time, but children MUST be accompanied by a Parent/Carer at all times.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



*If you want to get anywhere in life, you
are going to have to read a lot of books!*
(Roald Dahl)

*Books may be borrowed for up to two weeks. If not returned you will incur a late penalty fine.



Parent/Carer Notice Board

Nut-Free School Reminder

A friendly reminder that St Mary Star of the Sea is a nut-free school. To help keep all children safe, particularly those with severe nut allergies, we kindly ask parents and carers not to send any foods containing nuts, including peanut butter, chocolate spreads containing nuts, cereal bars, cakes, or snacks with nuts.



Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a safe environment for everyone in our school community.

Please check food labels carefully before packing lunches and snacks.

Parking Considerately Around School

We have recently received concerns from local residents regarding parking during drop-off and pick-up times, particularly in Magdalen Road. We would like to remind all parents and carers to park with consideration and courtesy for our neighbours. Some residents have reported vehicles blocking or parking in private driveways, causing inconvenience and frustration.

Please ensure that you:

- ⇒ Do not park in or across residents' driveways.
- ⇒ Avoid blocking access to homes and driveways, even for a short period.
- ⇒ Move your vehicle promptly and courteously if asked to do so by a resident.
- ⇒ Treat local residents with respect and kindness at all times.

We value the positive relationships we have with our local community and ask for your support in helping us maintain them. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that everyone can travel to and from school safely and respectfully.

Late Arrival Procedures

If your child arrives late to school, please ensure that you accompany them into Reception and report the reason for their lateness to a member of staff. Children should not be sent into school on their own after the gates have closed, as we need to ensure that all pupils are signed in safely and that accurate attendance records are maintained.

Prompt Collection from After-School Clubs

Please remember to collect your child promptly at the end of any after-school club. Our wraparound care provision and homework clubs are run voluntarily by members of our own staff, who generously give their time and need to leave promptly to return to their own families and commitments. Similarly, external club providers often have other sessions to travel to and rely on clubs finishing at the scheduled time. - **Persistent late collection may result in a late fee being implemented.**

Secondary School Applications



St Richard's Catholic College Open Evening

On Wednesday 30th September 2026 St Richard's are holding their open evening for current year 6 pupils, from 4:30pm - 7:30pm.

The evening will provide you with the opportunity to meet pupils at work in all subjects. The Principal, Mr Barber, will offer a welcoming address in the School Hall at 4:30pm and 5:45pm. You will also have an opportunity to hear from Year 7 pupils about their experience of starting at St Richard's. Refreshments will be served.

The Admissions Policy and Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for St Richard's can be collected during the open evening, or downloaded from the school website [here](#).

Father Míceál will be available for SIF signing on Thursday 24th September at 2:45pm - 3.45pm and again on Tuesday 29th October at 6pm - 7pm. Both sessions will be held at St Thomas' in the John Fisher room.

The closing date for ALL Secondary School applications is Tuesday 31st October.

For information regarding open evenings/days for all other Secondary Schools in Hastings, St Leonards and surrounding areas, please click on the school logos below.

Mulberry
Academy St Leonards



**Ark Alexandra
Academy**

Mulberry
Academy Hastings



**CLAVERHAM
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

Mulberry
Academy Bexhill





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

