



Newsletter - Friday 30th January 2026

St Mary's Primary School

Our Vision: We believe, We achieve, We succeed in God's family.

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

School Value - Thankfulness



Welcome

Welcome to this week's edition of our School Newsletter!

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement—it truly makes a difference. If you have any questions or need any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

This week I attended the PIXL national conference in London with our other Trust Headteachers. This conference focused on proven, research-informed strategies to improve outcomes for all pupils - an exciting day! I am excited to implement some additional strategies at St Mary's.

Warmest wishes, Mrs. Walker

Mindful Moments

The more you are thankful
the more you attract
things to be thankful for.



Dojo Messages

- Incident outside a Trust School
- Change to Lunch Menu
- Essex Fire Museum
- Essex Outdoors.
- Mrs Fallon's Retirement
- Collective Worship with Rev. Jacqui
- Forest School at Danbury
- New Menu



A note from Mrs Walker

This week we have welcomed a new pupil into Oak Class, she has been given a big St Mary's welcome and has settled in beautifully.

We will be welcoming the School Nurse team into school on Monday 2nd February for our Reception and Year 6 children. Information about their visit has been shared on class dojo. Please ensure you contact the team directly if you wish to remove your child from the measuring programme.

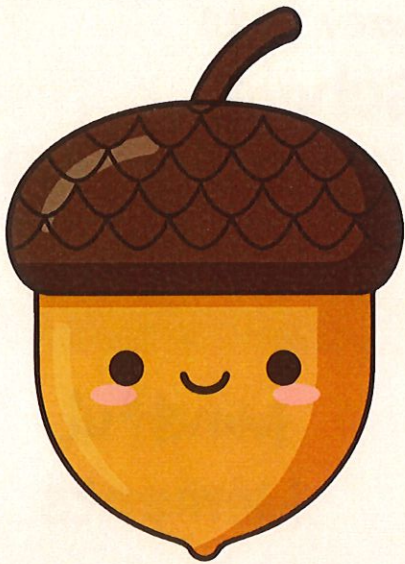
Just a reminder, we have our annual NSPCC Number Day where we will be dressing as a digit on Friday 6th February, please see the flyer below for more information.

If you haven't already, please do remember to book your slot for parent/child consultations.

Please note there will be no after school clubs running w/c 9th February due to Parent/Child consultations.



THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS



Acorn Class

This Week In Class

In Acorn Class this week we have been continuing to enjoy our topic of 'Super Space'. We have learnt some new facts about our solar system. In Art we have explored the natural world and had to draw 1 minute pictures of what we could see, it was fun. In PSHE we have been learning about the wider world and what jobs people can do.

Achiever

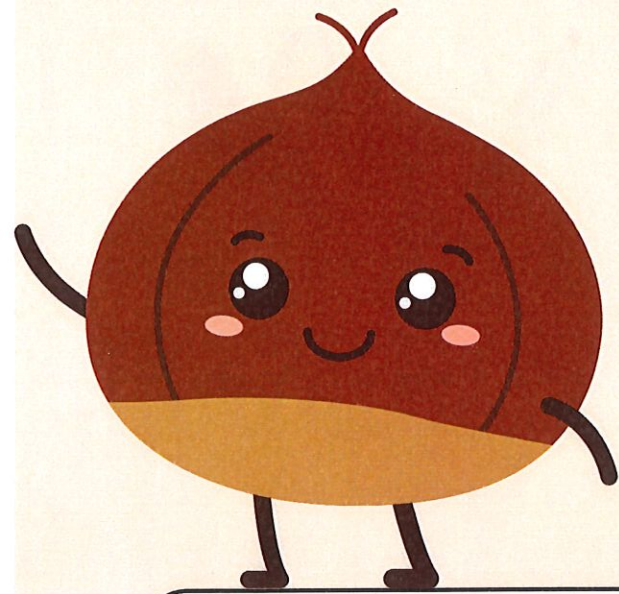
This week's achiever is Cruz. Cruz has impressed me with how he has started at a new school and has taken things in his stride. He has settled well into Acorn class and reception. He listens carefully and completes all work asked of him. Well done Cruz!



Value Achiever

This week our Value achiever is Isabelle. Isabelle has shown courage this week as there have been a few changes to her routine but she has coped very well. We are very proud of you Isabelle.





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

We have been super busy this week. We have completed many assessments in English and the amount of effort everyone has put into them has been amazing. In maths we have continued with our multiplication lessons. We have also worked amazingly in the TTRS competition and as a result we are getting more and more children achieving over 20 in the Sound check. The final scores are not in yet but I am so proud off Chestnut Class- we may be small but we are mighty! Our hard work to improve and maintain good presentation is paying off too. Some children even had beautiful handwriting in their assessment papers. Well done for a great week everyone.

Achiever

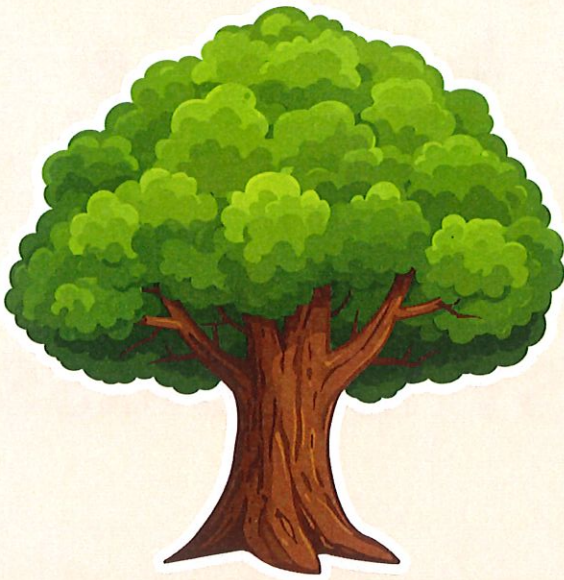
This week's work achiever is Oliver for his sense of community. Oliver has been a huge supporter of the whole class this week with the TTRS competition. He has worked brilliantly on his times tables himself and been an amazing cheerleader for our class too and has kept them going with his wonderful enthusiasm. Well done and thank you Oliver!



Value Achiever

This week our value achiever is Jesse for his effort with the TTRS competition. He has worked so hard and I am very proud of him. He even gave up his free time at Breakfast Club and some of his lunch to keep earning those points. At the end of school on Thursday he had just over 2000 points- well done!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak Class we have focussed on explaining texts in our reading lessons and written the majority of our finding stories in our writing sessions. In maths we have been multiplying and dividing decimals by integers and in geography we have looked at how landscapes change over time. In RE, we have focussed on the Buddhist Wheel of Existence and the concept of no soul, but rather the cycle of life, death and rebirth. In art we have continued our architecture pathway and in Spanish, we have learnt how to order different foods and drinks in a café.

Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Harry. Harry embraces the challenges put before him and does so with a smile on his face. He asks when he is unsure and is always eager to understand. His work is beautifully neat and he is a real asset to our class.



Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever is Cass. Cass is a mature and responsible member of a community who enjoys extra responsibilities. He was particularly kind and thoughtful when a member of our class was hurt during Forest School and ensured that they were well looked after.



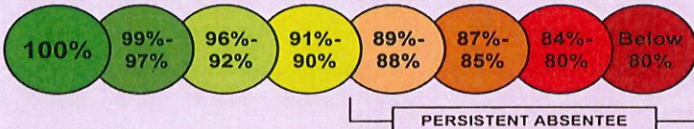


Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	78%
Year 1	88%
Year 2	84%
Year 3	88%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	81%
Year 6	83%



TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is:
92 %

National Attendance Target is:
93.5 %

Whole School Attendance this week
is: **85.62 %**

Pupils with 100% attendance this
week: **39**

LATENESS



Collective Worship will be held at 9.05am each morning and attended by all staff, including the office staff. It is important that your child arrives on time for school. If they arrive after 9.05am then you will need to wait with your child until Collective Worship has finished at 9.20am as there will not be any staff to let them in. Collective Worship is a legal entitlement in a Church of England school and a time of reflection and respect.

STUDYBUGS

If your child is absent from school please:

- Contact the school via Studybugs on the first day of absence before 9.00am . (This is our preferred method of communication for sickness absence)
- Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.00am;
- Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible.



If you haven't already, please download the free studybugs app, or register on the studybugs website and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

The tool helps us to know sooner if your child is unaccounted for. It is quick and easy to register and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. Please use the following link to register:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office

FOREST SCHOOL



This Week



Acorn class had another wet and rainy session this week but nonetheless we put on our warm layers and waterproofs and headed outside for some fun! We started our session with Nature Spots; this is where each child picks a small space in our forest school area where they sit quietly for three minutes, observing what they can see, hear and smell from where they are sat. The children have the same spot all through the year so that they can observe how much changes in their little space as the seasons change. The children then had some free play time and a few of them went on a bug hunt and found more worms to go in the forest school wormery. Other children made a decorative letter; they shape sticks into the first letter of their first name, tie them together and then wrap it with different coloured wool. To end we played a quick game of Cuckoo on the field and then headed indoors to get changed ready for lunch. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a great session this week and took part in various activities we had available. A group of the boys made a fantastic den using two large tarps, ropes and tent pegs. They spent most of the session building it and were extremely proud of themselves, as they should be. A few children played in the mud kitchen and one child used a wheelbarrow to move lots of logs, pallets and other natural resources from around the site, to make himself a café in a small clearing. Two of the boys took part in the Big School Bird Watch, which we have entered via the RSPB. They spent almost an hour on the field with binoculars looking for and marking down every bird that they saw. This project runs until 23rd February when we will submit our findings to the RSPB so that they can monitor the types of birds we have in our part of Essex. A few children made clay heads on sticks. They moulded air dry clay into a funny head shape and used coloured gravel and dried pasta to make hair and features. A fantastic session Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class had a great session this week and started it off in their nature spots. They all sat nicely while observing the nature around them. Some of the children used a large tarp to build a den, connecting it to the trees using rope and attaching the edges to the ground using tent pegs. The children also made clay heads on sticks; there were some fabulous creations that have been put in the shed to dry. A couple of the children helped Mrs Valentine wheelbarrow some more woodchips down in a bid to keep our forest school area from becoming too boggy. We finished the session with a game of Cuckoo on the field and then 3 minutes of mindfulness in their nature spots. Well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time Phoebe last week and is now looking forward to going home with Louisa from Acorn class. Louisa is always kind and helpful towards all of the children in her class. She has a very caring nature, which shines through whenever another child is struggling. Louisa tries hard in any activity that she takes part in and this week she made a lovely "L" out of sticks and wrapped it with colourful wool all by herself. Keep it up Louisa, well done and enjoy your weekend with Freddie!



Collective Worship

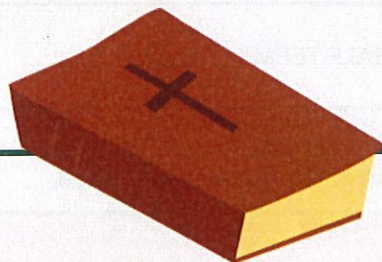
This week...

This week, Rev Jacqui led our collective worship, exploring Matthew 4:18–22, where Jesus says, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

She talked with the children about what it means to follow Jesus by being a good friend and showing God’s love through positive characteristics that help friendships blossom.

Rev Jacqui brought a bowl of fish, each one labelled with a special quality such as kindness, honesty and respect. The children had the chance to “fish for a friend” and reflect on the characteristics they look for in a good friend. Together, they shared thoughtful ideas about what makes friendships strong and loving.

The worship ended joyfully with everyone singing “This Little Light of Mine,” reminding us that living out Christian values helps us shine God’s love and draw others to friendship.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
9th, 10th 11th Feb	Parent & Child consultations (no clubs this week)	Whole School
9th Feb	Parent multiplication workshop – Yr 3 & 4 – further info to follow (9:05am - 9:20am)	Chestnut Class
3rd Feb	Phonics Screening Year 1 9:05am - 9:20am (15 mins)	Year 1 Parents
6th Feb	NSPCC Numbers Day - Dress as a Digit!	Whole School
11th Feb	Trust spelling bee competition – Fairhouse primary	Selected Pupils
11th Feb	EYFS working in Partnership 9am – 10am	EYFS Parents
16th - 20th Feb	HALF TERM	
5th Mar	World Book Day - Dress as your favourite character or word	Whole school

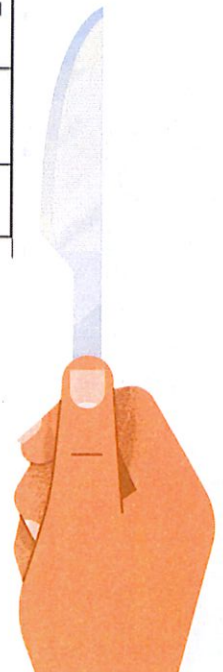
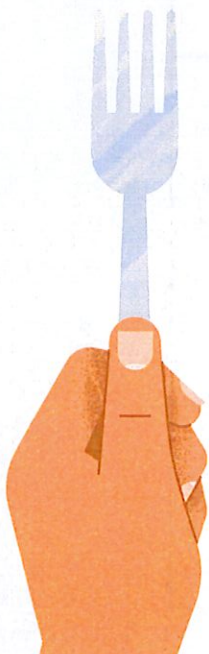
WEEKLY MENU

This is our menu taking us right up to February half term. We work a week in advance for bookings. The deadline for bookings is 9am Monday for the following week.



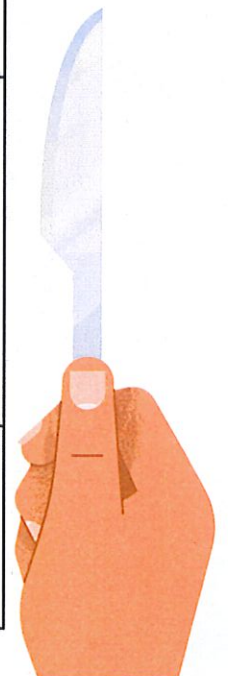
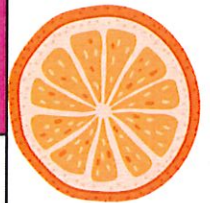
Week 1				
Monday Meat Free day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tomato and basil pasta (V) with garlic bread and salad	Pitta bread pizza with cheese, potato wedges and salad	Chicken roast	Cheesy ham and broccoli pasta	Sausage chips and beans
Baguettes: Cheese or tuna	Pitta bread pizza with ham, potato wedges and salad	Quorn fillet (V)	Cheesy broccoli pasta (V)	Quorn sausage (V) chips and beans
	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Jackets: Cheese, beans or tuna	Baguettes: Cheese, ham or tuna
			Baguettes: Cheese or ham	
Week 2				
Monday Meat Free day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese and Tomato pasta (V) garlic bread and salad	Fish fingers, chips, peas and sweetcorn	Sausage roast	Bolognese pasta bake	Chicken Nuggets potato wedges and baked beans
Baguettes: Cheese or tuna	Veggie fingers (V) chips, peas and sweetcorn	Quorn sausage roast (V)	Quorn Bolognese pasta bake	Quorn Nuggets (V) potato wedges and baked beans
	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Jackets: Cheese, beans or tuna	Baguettes: Cheese, ham or tuna
			Baguettes: Cheese or ham	

Bread, water, milk available everyday
Fruit and yoghurt Monday - Thursday
Baked treat - Friday



NEW TERM MENU

This is our new menu which begins on 23rd February and runs through to taking us right up to 27th March. This is now published on ParentPay for bookings. We work a week in advance for bookings. The deadline for bookings is 9am Monday for the following week.



	Meat-free Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Tomato and basil pasta V with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Sausage or Quorn sausage V with mash, peas and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Roast chicken or Quorn fillet V with roast potatoes, veg and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Beef bolognese or Quorn bolognese V pasta bake with side salad or Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Fish fingers or veggie fingers V with chips, peas and sweetcorn or Cheese / ham / tuna baguette
	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Baked treat
Week 2	Cheese and tomato pasta V with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Pitta bread pizza with cheese V or ham with potato wedges and side salad or Cheese / ham baguette	Sausage roast or Quorn sausage roast V or Cheese / ham baguette	Meatball or no meat ball V pasta bake with salad or Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Chicken nuggets or Quorn nuggets V with potato wedges and beans or Cheese / ham / tuna baguette
	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Baked treat



Clubs

Spring Term After School Clubs January - February 2026

We are delighted to confirm that we will be providing the Clubs below from January.

All after school clubs will be starting w/c 5th January 2026 through to w/c 23rd March 2026.

There will be no clubs running w/c 9th February due to Parent/Child consultations.

KS1 & KS2 Games & Creative Arts Club – Tuesday: 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Carlier

KS1 & KS2 Film Club – Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Beard

KS1 & KS2 Art Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Fallon

KS1 & KS2 Lego Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Richardson

Year 6 Tutoring Club – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for Year 6 and will be run by Mr Austin
(This will be managed in groups throughout the year)





FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL FOSMS

EVENTS

- We still have our coins in a bottle challenge running in the classrooms, this little challenge is live until the end of March. Every penny raised will be given back to the class to purchase fun resources for the last term. The winning class will have their amount matched (up to £100) by FOSMS, so all is to play for. Please do send in a few pennies for your class Jar. Last year Acorn were the winners - can they do it again?
- World Book Day - Thursday 5th March. We will have a whole selection of **brand new** costumes for sale in a variety of sizes for £5.00 each. Costumes will be on sale from Monday 23rd February after school - cash and card available. We will try to send out photos of a selection of costumes available beforehand.
- Mother's Day / Significant Female sale Friday 13th March - more details to follow soon, payments to be made via www.fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events
- Preloved Uniform - We have a many beautiful items of uniform available in our pre-loved shop, please do drop us a message if you need a few spares and save yourself some pennies!

CAN YOU HELP?


As always, we can only run our fun events and raise money for our school with help from volunteers. If you feel you could spare a few hours or share some new ideas over the course of the school year to lend a hand, we would love to hear from you!

contact@fosms.co.uk



BERLESDUNA VACANCIES

JANUARY 2026



<https://www.berlesduna.co.uk/information/vacancies/>


The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We expect all staff and volunteers to share our commitment. All successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and satisfactory references. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Cherry Tree Primary School and Nursery

Class Teacher - Fixed Term Contract. Applications close: 5th February 2026. Interview date: 10th February 2026
Class Teacher.
Applications close: 5th February 2026. Interview date: 10th February 2026

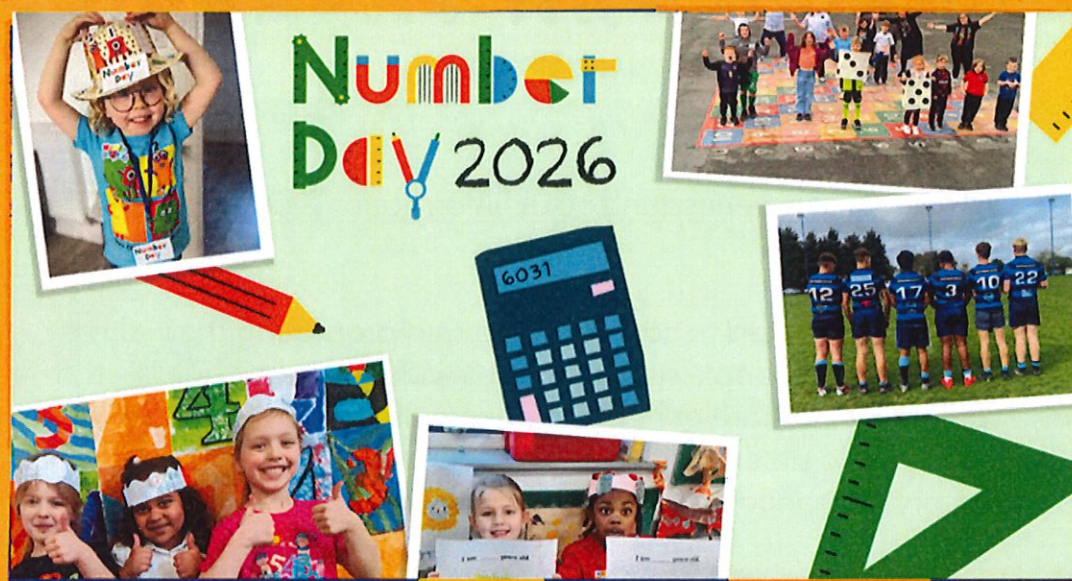
St Mary's CofE Primary School

Class Teacher. Applications close: 4th February 2026. Interviews
Week commencing 9th February 2026.



ST MARY'S SCHOOL

SUPPORTING THE NSPCC



OUR ANNUAL MATHS FUNDRAISING DAY

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2026.

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it. We will be having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in **Dress up for Digits**.

Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). Or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for donations, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event.

The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline - the helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern.

We would like to ask for a minimum donation of £1 for this non uniform event. No cash should be brought into school and all donations should be made using the following link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/charity-fundraising/schools-fundraising-ideas/number-day/>