



Newsletter - Friday 23rd 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.

We would like to kindly remind all parents and carers that, for safeguarding reasons, adults are not permitted to enter the school building during morning drop-off. Please contact the school office or speak to a member of staff at drop-off, who will be happy to assist you.

Warmest wishes, Mrs. Walker

Mindful Moments

The heart that gives thanks is a happy one, for we cannot feel thankful and unhappy at the same time.



Dojo Messages

- St Marys looking for assistance
- Review of procedures and systems
- Worm infections
- Kids Inspire
- Chelmsford County High School

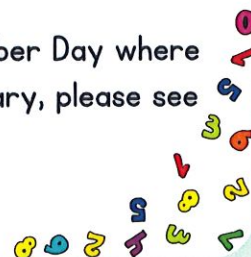


A note from Mrs Walker

This week we have welcomed a new pupil into Acorn Class, he has been given a big St Mary's welcome and has settled in beautifully. We have also welcomed two teaching students from Anglia Ruskin University, Paige and Freya have joined Chestnut and Oak Class and will be with us until the end of March.

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.





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

It is lovely to be back in Acorn class and the children have been telling me all about the work they have been doing. We have finished our focus book - Beegu. The children really enjoyed it. In maths we have been looking at adding and subtracting 1 from a given number. In RE we are learning about the Jewish Faith and the celebration of Shabbat. In PSHE we are looking at friendships.

Achiever

Esther-Ruby is this week's achiever this week, she is really impressing the adults with how she gets on independently with her work. She is really trying her best. We are very happy with her attitude to learning.



Value Achiever

Mia is our Value achiever this week, Mia is a very kind and caring little girl she is helpful to her friends and is a lovely part of the Acorn community





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

We've enjoyed lots of play work in English this week. We have acted out scenes from Macbeth and also written some ourselves. Maths has been tricky multiplication questions, but we all kept going and didn't give up. In science we wrote paragraphs of information about what life would be like without electric appliances and we made sure that we still applied our wonderful handwriting skills. In geography we looked at time zones and had to compare them to, one, two or three other countries. We used atlases to do this and the iPads.

Achiever

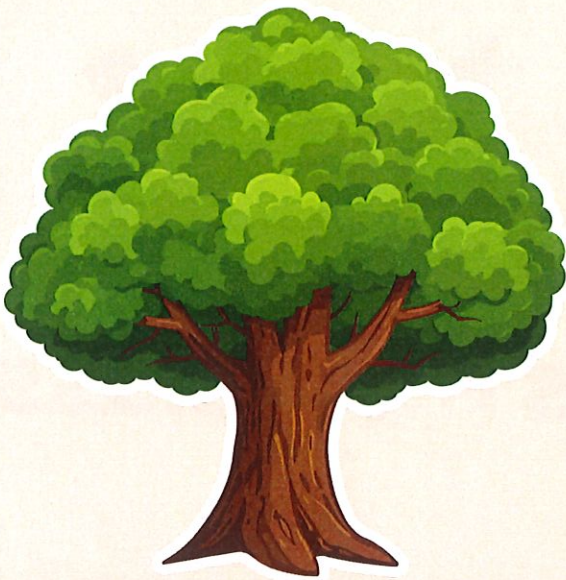
Phoebe is this week's work achiever. She found maths a little tricky this week (multiplying three-digit numbers by one with the expanded method) but she persevered and developed a good understanding. Well done Phoebe!



Value Achiever

Eve is our value achiever. She really understands what community means and really showed this in many lessons where team work was involved. She ensured that everyone was included and helped children to share their opinions. Well done!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak Class, we have been finding information in texts in our reading lessons and developed our understanding of figurative language in our grammar lessons. In maths we have been adding and subtracting numbers with a different number of decimal places. In science, we have learnt about the scientific system for classifying living things and in RE, we have looked at the viewpoints of different religions on the concept of the soul. In art, we have learnt how to use a fixed viewpoint to create perspective and in PSHE we have looked at the rights of the child, and the categories each one protects.

Achiever

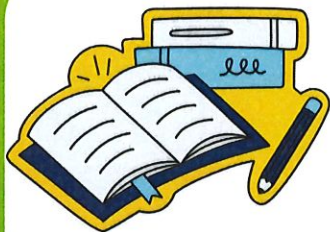
Oak's achiever this week is Phoebe. Phoebe has a wonderfully positive attitude and always tries her very best in everything we do. She has really embraced our reinvigorated presentation drive and it is always a delight to see what she produces. Well done, Phoebe.



Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever is able. Albie is a model pupil who works hard and supports others when they need it. I was very grateful to him yesterday when he took the time to explain an activity to his friend who had returned from the music lesson. Very compassionate, Albie, thank you.





Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	74%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	88%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	88%
Year 6	90%



TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is:
92%

National Attendance Target is:
93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week
is: **91.18%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this
week: **45**

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 a lot of fun this week, despite the rain and the mud. The children enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and using the large chinks to create art on the trees and pallets. Some of the children made pinecone bird feeders. To do this the children stuffed lard into open pinecones before rolling them in birdseed. We tied string to the top and then the children hung them round the forest school area for the birds to feast on. We went back up to the classroom for the last part of the session as some of the children were getting very cold and wet. Mrs Smith printed off some lovely animal colouring pages and the children enjoyed colouring them in. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class did not let the rain stop them this week and they got stuck in to some lovely imaginative play. A group of the children used chinks to write a menu on a pallet next to the mud kitchen and prepared several different dishes and drinks using mud, rainwater and various leaves and grasses. Another group of children collected various logs and pieces of wood and tyres from around the forest school site and made a base in one of the little clearings. A few of the children also made pinecone bird feeders. What a lovely creative session Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class had were lucky with the weather this week as the rain stopped for the day. The children engaged in lots of imaginative play, and had make believe battles, using sticks as swords. Some of the children played in the mud kitchen, creating pretend dishes to serve their friends. A few of the children made some pinecone bird feeders and hung them around the school's outdoor area. A couple of the children sketched designs in their forest school journals for items they would like to make using wood and tools. Another good session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Mia from Acorn class last week and is now looking forward to going home with Oscar from Chestnut class. Oscar thoroughly enjoys his forest school sessions and has a go at every activity that we have on offer. Oscar has particularly enjoyed whittling and he has learned to work safely and efficiently with the tools. Oscar is a very helpful boy and often volunteers, without me even needing to ask, to help me pull the trolley back up the field at the end of our sessions. Well done Oscar, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!



Collective Worship

This week...

Mrs Carlier took collective worship on Tuesday this week and asked the question "Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world." Mrs Carlier explained that a new award called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal had been created to help celebrate people who work to help other to care for the world. Dr Jane Goodall spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

Mrs Carlier asked the children a number of questions and gave the children an opportunity to chat their thoughts through with their friends.

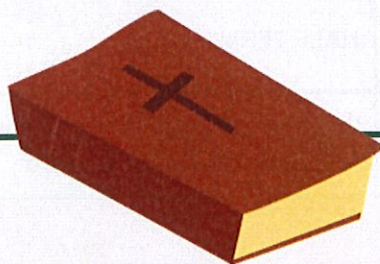
- Why do we receive awards?
- Are awards for positive actions, such as helping others and caring for the world, important?
- In your opinion, what is the best award you could receive?
- Does this award focus on actions or the result? Does this matter? Why?

Mrs Carlier explained to the children that the Bible teaches that true faith is expressed through action, not just words. Real change begins with small, daily choices to live fairly and avoid taking too much. As John the Baptist taught, we demonstrate love for our neighbours by sharing generously with those in need and ensuring there is enough for everyone.

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Luke 3: 10-11

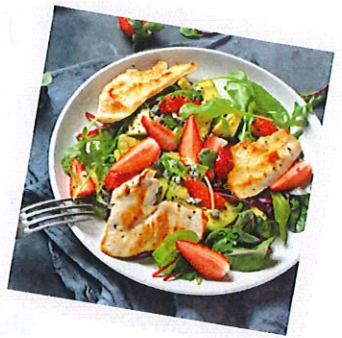


UPCOMING EVENTS

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

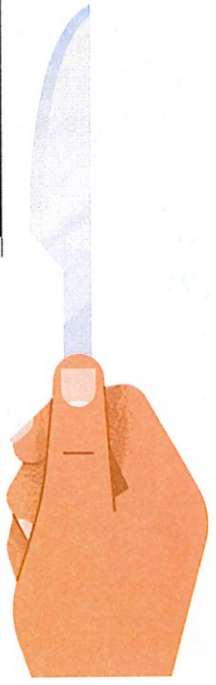
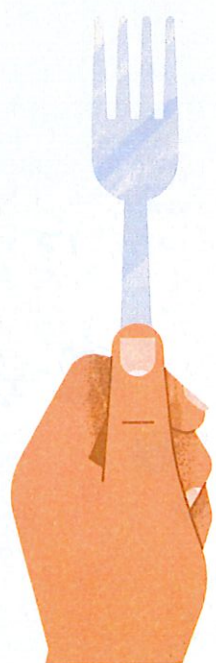
WEEKLY MENU

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





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 2nd February 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
EYFS Teacher. Applications close: 29th January 2026. Interview date: 3rd February 2026
Class Teacher. Applications close: 5th February 2026. Interview date: 10th February 2026

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery

Cleaner. Applications close: 26th January 2026. Interview date: Week commencing 2nd February 2026.

St Mary's CofE Primary School

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

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

Midday Assistant. Applications close: 23rd January 2026. Interview date: 30th January 2026

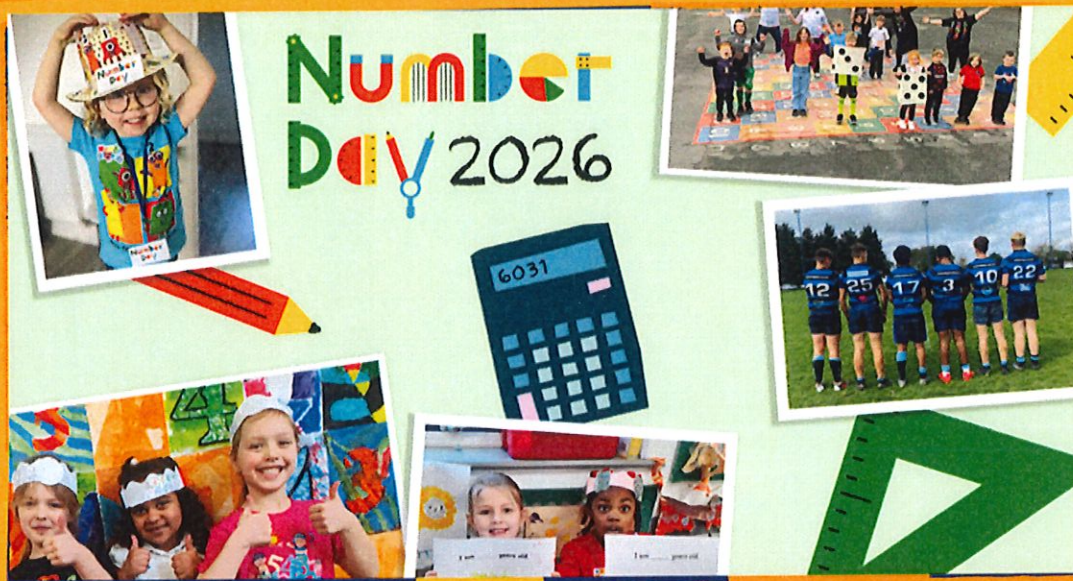
Willows Primary School and Nursery

Midday Assistant. Applications close: 21st January 2026. Interview date: Week commencing 26th January 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/>

