



Newsletter - Friday 16th 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



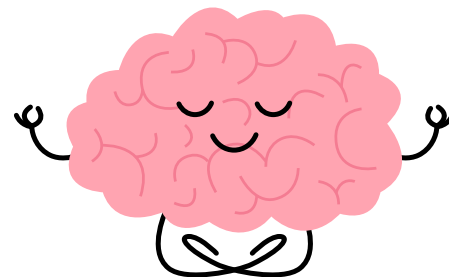
Dojo Messages

- SWF Leisure Centre half term activities
- KEGS Prospective student tours for year 5 boys
- Entering the school at morning drop off



Mindful Moments

"The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers."

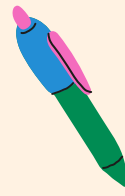


A note from Mrs Walker

It has been a very wet and cold week and it has come to my attention that some children are having to wear their nice new winter coats for Forest School. This is not ideal as if their coat gets wet and/or dirty and the children are left without a coat for break, lunch and home time. As the weather is cold and/or wet for the foreseeable future, the children will be asked to put a coat on for Forest School, even if it is their main winter coat. The Forest School area is very wet and muddy during the winter so we cannot prevent the children's clothes from getting dirty. Could I therefore ask that children bring in an old winter coat, that you do not mind getting dirty, on their Forest School days. Miss Wilson has a small amount of spare clothing so if you are struggling to provide extra warm layers etc, please email her directly on deborah.wilson@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk and we will do our very best to help.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind families of our school uniform expectations. Wearing the correct uniform helps to promote a sense of belonging, pride in our school, and equality for all children. We also want to remind you that we have a pre-loved uniform shop, which is available to all families. All items have been washed and are ready to wear. This can be a great way to access uniform items while also being environmentally friendly. Please do not hesitate to speak with the school office or contact me directly for support.





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

In literacy this week we were continuing to look at our book Beegu. We have been imagining what the planet Beegu looks like and writing a Beegu postcard. In maths we have been working on subtraction and addition to 100. Receptions have been working on alive in 5 introducing the number 0. In PHSE we have been focusing on families and relationships. We have been learning that families can include different people, the correct names for different relationships and how families care for children.

Achiever

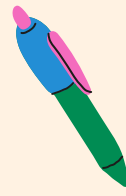
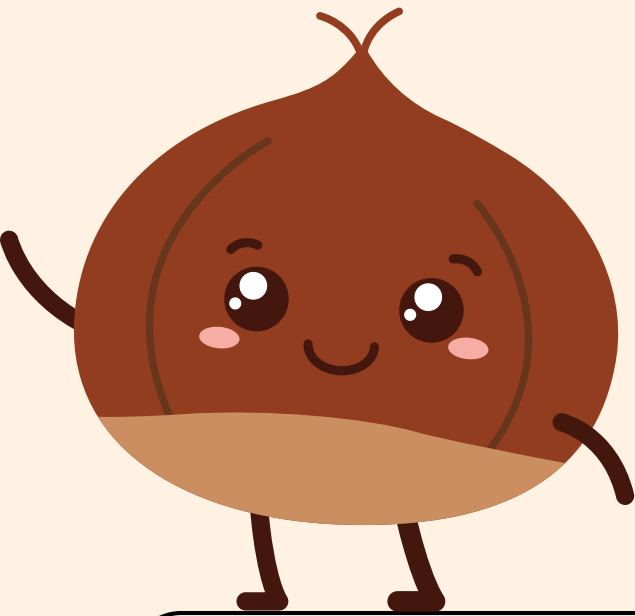
Our achiever this week is Louisa. Louisa has done some amazing maths work with Mrs Carmichael, adding and subtracting with base 10. She understood what was asked of her and completed her work independently - well done Louisa!



Value Achiever

This week the whole of Acorn class are our Value Achievers! We are super proud of the whole class. In Mrs Fallon's absence they have shown care and compassion to each other.





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

In English we have started to learn all about William Shakespeare. We really enjoyed reading speeches and looking at how to read play scripts. In maths we have worked really well and had to focus as we found multiplying three numbers quite tricky. In Spanish we learned the names of five more animals. We have started to look at electricity in science and started off by identifying electrical appliances around the home and then if they had batteries or needed to be plugged in. In RE we looked at Sikh concepts of God.

Achiever

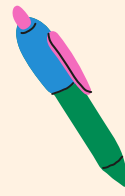
This week our work achiever is John-Boy. I am so proud of the progress that he is making with his reading. He is reading fluently and understanding what he is reading. Well done John-Boy!



Value Achiever

Stanley is this week's value achiever. Stanley has shown a great sense of community this week and I have spotted him helping many children even when he thinks no one is looking. That's great behavior- well done!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak Class, we have learnt about parenthesis and figurative language in our grammar lessons and we have been finding information from a text in our reading lessons. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting decimals and in geography, we have looked at how coastal features are formed. In RE, we have been thinking about the concept of the soul and in science, we have been identifying characteristics of different vertebrates.

Achiever

Tommy-George always does his best in every subject. This week, his maths was so good he received a Gold Head teacher's award - we were all so impressed. Tommy-George is an absolute asset to our class community and we love sharing his success with him.



Value Achiever

Eva is a responsible, kind and caring role model in our class. She went out of her way to support a member of our class who was upset. She moved where she was sat and ensured that everyone was ok. Thank you, Eva.



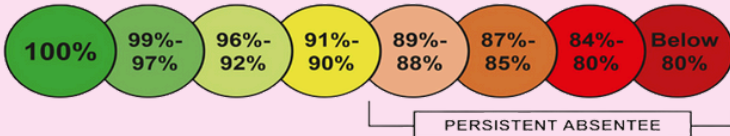


Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	62%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	80%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	86%
Year 6	94%



TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is:
92%

National Attendance Target is:
93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week
is: **88.77%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this
week: **44**



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



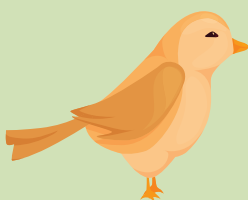
Acorn class had a lot of fun this week, despite the rain and the mud. The children enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and using the large chalks to create art on the trees and pallets. Some of the children made pinecone bird feeders. To do this the children stuffed lard into open pinecones before rolling 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 chalks 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

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
9th, 10th 11th Feb	Parent & Child consultations (no clubs this week)	Whole School
19th Jan	Parent multiplication workshop – Yr 3 & 4 – further info to follow	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

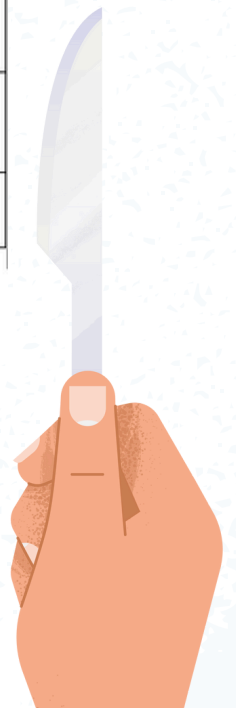
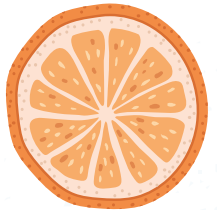
WEEKLY MENU

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

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

A huge thank you for supporting our Christmas activities and events. We are thrilled to tell you that we managed to raise over £800!!! This will be spent directly back enhancing our school and curriculum for our children.

Your support of movie night, the raffle, the silent auction and the Christmas sale really do enable us to do so much.

Also a massive thank you to Nanny Knit Knit for her fabulous creations which were snapped up like hot cakes and added a huge amount to our total.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

This week we welcomed the Royal British Legion into school. We presented them with a cheque for £226.03. This was 50% of the money we raised from holding our garden party to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE day.

The Royal British Legion has been so supportive of our school and they do a wonderful job supporting the Armed Forces, Veterans and their families, which we truly value and appreciate.

Thank you for your support enabling us to make this donation.

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 Class 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 23rd February after school - cash and card available.

Preloved Uniform - We have a whole selection of uniform items so please do drop us a message 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
ACADEMY TRUST

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

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.

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/>