



Friday 12th December 2025

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 - Compassion

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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're always happy to help.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs. Walker

This week...

We are very much looking forward to our nativity performance next week! The children have been working hard rehearsing their lines and songs, and we can't wait to share their wonderful efforts with you. It promises to be a delightful event that truly captures the spirit of the season. Please refer to my dojo message regarding collection after the event.

A reminder that next Thursday is our whole school Christmas dinner. If you did not book a meal by the deadline, please ensure your child brings a packed lunch, as we will not be able to provide an alternative meal on this day.

We ask that you also make your bookings for the first week back in the Spring term by 9am on Monday 15th December. Thank you for your co-operation.

Additionally, we will be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term! This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to wear their festive jumpers while raising money for Save the Children. A link has been sent out on Dojo for donations, and we appreciate your support in making a difference for those in need.

Finally, I share a message from the Chapel
"I just wanted to say thankyou for the food donation . It will be used to support 10 families and will be given out at the beginning of January as after Christmas is always difficult. Happy Christmas to you and I hope you have a blessed time."

Dojo Messages

- End of term Attendance letter
- Dress rehearsal for Nativity performance
- Collection arrangements
- Music lessons
- SWF Library reading challenge
- Club letter Spring term
- Upcoming Nativity performance
- Save the children donation link
- School lunches - Spring Term

Upcoming Events - SPRING TERM

- 5th Jan - Back to school
- 6th Jan - Clubs start
- Essex Police visit - date to follow
- 15th Jan - Closing date for Reception intake 2026
- 9th, 10th 11th Feb - Parent & Child consultations
- 19th Jan - Parent multiplication workshop, Yr 3 & 4
- 10th Feb - Safer internet day
- 11th Feb - Trust spelling bee competition
- 11th Feb - EYFS working in Partnership 9-10am
- 16th- 20th Feb - HALF TERM



Christmas Events!

Wednesday

17

Nativity Performance & Raffle Draw

2pm - 3pm



Thursday

18

Whole School Christmas Lunch

Christmas jumpers can be worn - with uniform



Thursday

18

Christmas Movie Afternoon

2:30pm - 4pm



Friday

19

Christmas Jumper Day - with uniform

Acorn & Chestnut Story time with Santa
9:30am - 11:30am



Friday

19

Oak Class Carol Singing at Eastham
10:30am - 12:00pm

Christingle Service at St Mary's Church
2pm - 3pm



Class News & Achievers

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class, we focused on finding information in texts in our reading lessons and how to use fronted adverbials in our writing lessons. In maths, we have been multiplying and dividing fractions by integers and in history, we have look at the events of D-Day. We have had two full DT days where we have design and developed products to help navigate and we have been practicing our nativity too.

Chestnut Class

This week has been yet another busy one. In English we have started to look at writing triumphing stories. In maths we have continued with our multiplication knowledge. We have started our Nativity rehearsals and we are very excited. Everyone has really enjoyed our DT days this week. In science we continued to look at states of matter, in particular condensation and evaporation. Our focus was creating sustainable packaging but to make it a bit more fun we made Christmas biscuits to go in the packages.

Acorn Class

Acorns have had a busy and creative week. In Science we have been looking at seasonal changes and focused on winter. We did some writing about all the things Winter brings. In computing we looked back on the photos we have taken and discussed what makes a good photo and how to make a photo better. In literacy we have written our letters to Santa and have been learning our Nativity songs and participating in the rehearsals, we have even made some Christmas crafts.

Art club has recently taken part in the SWF library Art Advent Competition.

A winner is revealed every day, so far our winners are.....

Luna in Year 1 and Sophie in Year 5.

Both pieces of artwork have been displayed in the library. Well done girls!

Sophie's Artwork:



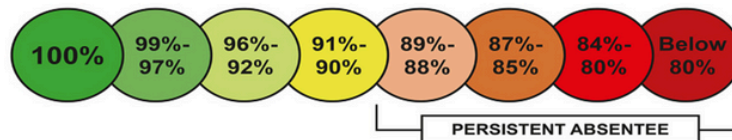
Luna's Artwork



Attendance Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Reception	72%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	89%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	98%
Year 6	100%

Whole School Attendance Target is: **92%**

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.11%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **47**

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

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.

Forest School

This week in forest school...

What a cold and dreary week it has been! Acorn class certainly didn't lack in their enthusiasm for forest school though and had a fun session chalk colouring the trees and playing in the mud kitchen. Mrs Valentine read the children the Stick Man book before we went outside and the children had fun finding sticks to make their own stick man and used pipe cleaners for the arms and legs. The children then took inspiration from the story and made various scenes from the book for their own stick man. A good session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class had a fantastic session this week and the children enjoyed drawing Christmas pictures in their Forest School Journals. Some of the children made Christmas decorations using coloured pipe cleaners and hung them around the site to add some colour. Other children took part in bird watching using the binoculars, climbing trees and playing in the mud kitchen. Well done Chestnut class, a fantastic session all round!

Oak class had a great week and had the opportunity to make some Christmas decorations out of wood slices. Some of the children drew Christmassy pictures on theirs while others made Rudolfs using red pom poms for noses and sticks for antlers. Once again, a group of children used their purpose built stage area to create a lovely Christmas concert for the rest of us to watch. Another group also created a McDonalds restaurant where they served Big Mac Meals and drinks made from clay and other natural resources. Well done Oak Class, you never fail to impress me with your creativity!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed his visit with Elliott last week and is now looking forward to going home with Bobbi-Rae from Acorn class. Bobbie-Rae really enjoyed the stick man story and after finding her own stick man she used chalk to make the bottom half of him white like the snow in the book. She also used wet mud to stick leaves to an old bird box to make her stick man a home. Such wonderful imagination and creativity Bobbi-Rae, well done and enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

Finally, as you all know, forest school is part of the scheduled timetable at St Mary's, therefore all children are expected to take part unless they have a valid medical reason. Could I therefore please ask that you ensure that all children have suitable clothing and footwear for the colder and wetter weather that we are now experiencing. The ideal clothing being, long sleeve jumpers, warm padded trousers and coats, warm socks, waterproofs, hats and gloves. Wellies are ideal footwear providing they are not split or leaking. I understand that with Christmas fast upon us and the increasing cost of living, it is not always possible to be buying new wellies or hats, gloves, etc. If anyone finds themselves struggling, please do not hesitate to email me privately at deborah.wilson@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk as I do have a small selection of spare wellies and clothing that can be passed discreetly to your child.

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead

Menu, Clubs and Vacancies

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

AUTUMN Term Clubs

Cost	Club	Who	When	Day	Time
	Essex Kids Camp – <u>Multiskills</u>	Mr Thomas	After School	Monday	3:15pm – 4:00pm
FREE	KS1 & KS2 Music Club	Mrs Carlier	After School	Tuesday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
FREE	KS1 & KS2 Film Club	Mrs Beard	After School	Tuesday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
FREE	KS1 & KS2 Netball Club	Miss Francis	Lunch time	Wednesday	12:30pm – 1:00pm
FREE	KS1 & KS2 Art Club	Mrs Fallon	After School	Wednesday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
FREE	KS1 & KS2 Lego Club	Mrs Matthews	After School	Wednesday	3.15pm – 4.15pm
FREE	KS1 & KS2 Computing Club	<u>Mrs Carlier</u>	Lunchtime	Thursday	12:30pm – 1:00pm
FREE	Year 6 Tutoring	Mr Austin	After School	Thursday	3.15pm – 4.15pm



[Vacancies - Please visit www.berlesduna.co.uk/information/vacancies](http://www.berlesduna.co.uk/information/vacancies)

Dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
17.12.25	Nativity - 2pm / FOSMS Raffle	All welcome
18.12.25	Christmas dinner day	
18.12.25	FOSMS Movie night 2:30pm - 4:00pm	
19.12.25	Christmas jumpers with school uniform	
19.12.25	Story time with Santa	Acorn class & Chestnut Class
19.12.25	Carol singing at the Senior living	Years 5-6
19.12.25	Christingle service at St Mary's church - 2pm	All welcome

Spring Term dates to follow next week

Friends of St Marys School



Another week has flown by and we have just one more action packed week to go before the end of term!

Name the elf will be open until Wednesday to ensure everyone has had a chance to guess his name, this is 50p a go and the huge Elf is the prize. The winner will be announced after the Nativity. If your child missed out on guessing his name please send them in with their 50p to have a go.

Raffle tickets will be on sale up to the day of the nativity, there are online payment options on our website - <https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>

We also have the silent auction open up until the day of the nativity for the amazing knitted Christmas wreath lovingly made by our very own Nanny Knit Knit! If you would like the opportunity to bid for this beautiful creation then please send in an envelope with your name, contact details and bid amount.

The raffle will be drawn after the Nativity performance so you will get to take your prizes home with you.

What a week!! AND we still have lots more to look forward to before we finish for Christmas! Movie night tickets can be paid for on the FOSMS website - details and payment information can be found on our website under upcoming events!
<https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>

Thank you for your wonderful donations to the raffle, we have a fabulous selection of prizes to be won.

Your FOSMS Team.



Christmas Events!



Wednesday

17

**Nativity
FOSMS Draw Raffle**



Thursday

18

**Christmas Movie
Afternoon 2:30pm - 4pm**

Thursday

18

**Christmas Lunch
Courtesy of FOSMS**

