



Friday 21st November 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 would like to take this opportunity to give a warm welcome to Miss Prior who has joined our St Mary's team this week as a SEMH Support mentor.

This week has been Road Safety Week, and the children have been learning all about road safety and the charity BRAKE.

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils also took part in a resilience workshop, which they found incredibly beneficial. They were introduced to a range of tools and strategies to support their wellbeing and confidence.

In addition, we welcomed several families for tours around the school. We were delighted to meet children who may be joining us in September 2026.

We are pleased to let you know that we will soon be offering Drawing and Talking Therapy as part of our wellbeing and pastoral support for pupils in school. Mrs Baldry has now completed her accredited training, and we are excited to add this valuable approach to our growing toolkit for supporting children's emotional and mental health. Please see the dojo message for further information.

## Dojo Messages

- FOSMS AGM
- Christmas Panto details
- StudyBugs
- Drawing and Talking Therapy

## Upcoming Events

- Christmas Panto - 3.12.25
- Christmas Sale - 5.12.25 from 2:30pm
- Christmas Jumper Day - 9.12.25
- DT Days 11 & 12.12.25
- DT Open afternoon 12.12.25 from 2:45pm
- Nativity Performance - 17.12.25 at 2pm
- Whole school Christmas Lunch - 18.12.25
- Story with Santa Acorn Class - 19.12.25
- Carols at Eastham Care Home - 19.12.25
- Christingle at St Mary's Church - 19.12.25 at 2pm



**THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS**

# Class News & Achievers

## **Oak Class:**

This week in Oak we have looked at relative clauses in English and begun multiplying and dividing in maths. In history, we have sequenced the events of the Holocaust and in RE we have looked at different faiths and their teachings on the concept of peace. In science, we have learnt how the human eye works and in music we have been playing a three note bossa nova. In art we have continued with our World War 2 project and in PSHE we have furthered our understanding of how to keep ourselves healthy.

## **Chestnut Class**

In English this week we have been looking at writing information texts. We have looked at some examples and researched the topic that we are going to write about. In maths we have begun to look at times tables, starting with arrays and grouping. We really enjoyed our music lesson where we started with a musical quiz and finished by practicing the Christmas songs. Everyone enjoyed science as we were looking at solids, liquids and gases.

## **Acorn Class**

In Maths this week we have been looking at place value within 100, grouping 10's and 1's. In Literacy we have been taking it in turns to speak and listen whilst giving instructions and retelling a story. During science we grouped materials based on their properties. In art we took part in some 2 minute observational drawings of various natural objects. Well done Acorn class - a very busy week!

## **Oak Achiever**

Oak's achiever is Sophie. Sophie has shown real resilience this week in her maths. She has not become discouraged when she didn't immediately understand the steps when multiplying 4 digit by 2 digit numbers and showed a real determination to understand. Fantastic Sophie, well done.

## **Chestnut Achiever**

Axel is our achiever this week. I've been really pleased with him. He has worked hard in all subjects and showing a great attitude to learning. Well done Axel!

## **Acorn Achiever**

Wilfred is trying really hard in all aspects of his work, but really impressed myself and Mrs Smith with his spellings this week. He had a little support, but learnt them in a short space of time, and did really well. Well done Wilfred, remember never give up!

## **Oak Value Achiever**

Oak's value achiever is Peter. Peter is a much valued of class community and always does his best with everything he is given He has really shone this week and we are very proud of him. Well done, Peter.

## **Chestnut Value Achiever**

River always draws on our value of courage and this really helps her with her work. If she is ever unsure of how to do something, she always does the right thing and asks for help.

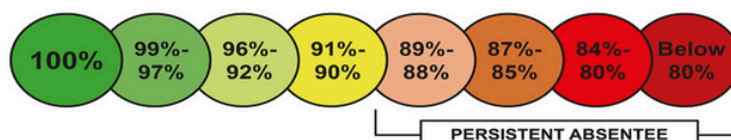
## **Acorn Value Achiever**

Freddie and Finlay, both boys have shown great courage. They are new to St Mary's and have started with no problems. They are learning the St Mary's way quickly, and getting on with their work and making new friends. It is a pleasure to have them as part of the Acorn class and the St Mary's family.

# Attendance Matters

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



## Which CIRCLE are you in?

Reception	84%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	87%
Year 3	86%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	91%

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **89.47%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **40**

### 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...

Acorn class had a cold and frosty start to their session this week so we lit a campfire to give us a little warmth. The children loved sitting around the campfire, sharing stories and watching the flames “dance”. A few of the children did some craft using coloured pens and egg cartons while the majority of the children enjoyed digging in the digging area and using the mud in the mud kitchen. Once the children had finished their craft they set about using giant chinks to colour in some pallets and logs, making the forest school area a lot brighter and more colourful. The children have enjoyed ending their sessions by playing the Cuckoo game on the field so we have made this a regular activity now. It gives the children the opportunity to burn off some excess energy before going back into class and it also helps to clean some of the mud off of their wellies, win/win! Another great session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class also enjoyed the digging area this week and a group of the boys built a bridge over the top of the giant hole that had been dug. The bridge was made from part of a pallet with a ramp at each end, cemented in using the dug up clay/mud. A great piece of engineering that was secure enough to walk across and push a wheelbarrow across. A few of the girls made an “office” using logs for chairs and a small table as a desk. I had managed to buy a few new potato peelers so one of the children helped me cut down a willow branch and saw it into smaller pieces so that we could do some whittling. A lovely varied session Chestnut class well done!

Oak class had a cold afternoon for their Forest School session this week. We started the session in the forest school area where a few of the children started to build a log den, using a tree as the middle point to rest the logs on. A group of the girls tidied up the stage that they had built last week while another group played in the digging area. A few of the children made a start on some new whittling projects but unfortunately, due to high gusts of wind we had to abandon the forest school area and move onto the school field for safety. The children whittling carried on with their projects while the other children played the cuckoo game. Despite the weather, all of the children did extremely well, well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed weekend with the Crosby children and is now looking forward to going home with Joe. Joe behaved perfectly at forest school this week and played really well with others. He sat nicely at the fire circle and joined in with various topics we were talking about. He also showed great respect for the rules regarding asking permission to climb trees etc - Well done Joe!

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 – <a href="#">Multiskills</a>	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	<a href="#">Mrs Carlier</a>	Lunchtime	Thursday	12:30pm – 1:00pm
FREE	Year 6 Tutoring	Mr Austin	After School	Thursday	3.15pm – 4.15pm



**BERLESDUNA**  
ACADEMY TRUST

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

# Collective Worship

## Our Value for this half term is Compassion.

Mrs Fallon took assembly this week and spoke with the children about what it means to be compassionate. She shared a few scenarios and asked the children how they could show compassion. The children were able to give some lovely and thoughtful answers.

We talked about how:

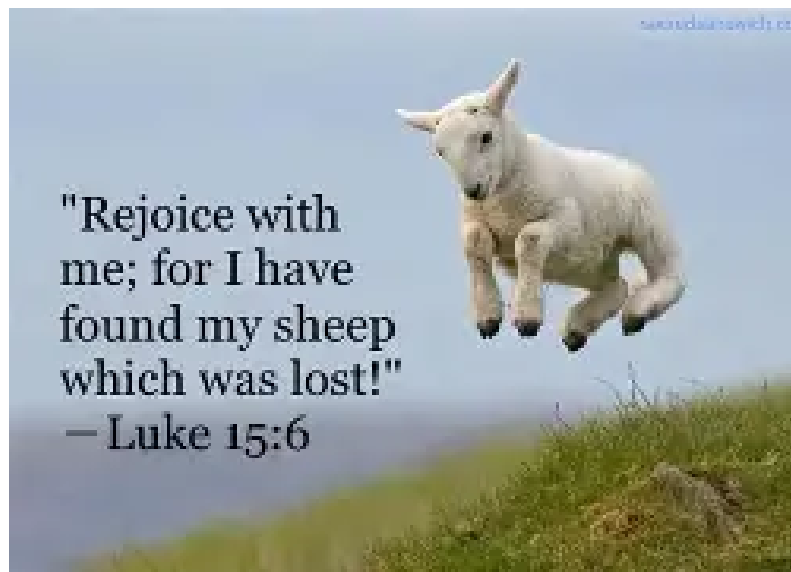
- Compassion is when you care about others and want to help them when they are sad or in trouble.
- Compassion means understanding someone else's feelings, like feeling sad when they feel sad.
- Helping Hand: It's about wanting to help others when they need it.
- Kindness: Showing kindness and understanding to others, even if you don't know them well.
- Acting on care: Compassion is not just a feeling—it's about doing something to help someone else.

Mrs Fallon then read a Bible story - The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:4-6

Jesus said, "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them – what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that was lost until you find it.

When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours and say, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!'"

We ended our assembly with the school prayer.



# Dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
03.12.25	Pantomime	Whole School
05.12.25	FOSMS Christmas sale	Main Hall from 2:30pm
09.12.25	Christmas jumper day	
11/12.12.25	DT Day	
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
19.12.25	Carol singing at the Senior living	Years 3-6
19.12.25	Christingle service at St Mary's church - 2pm	All welcome

# Friends of St Marys School



Thank you so much to the parents and carers who made it to our AGM this week. Your support is so important to us and allows us to be able to continue doing the work that we do to support our children and our school.

A huge thank you to our very own Mary Berry, Rhian, who baked up a storm and managed to raise some vital funds in the process. I know I can speak for everyone and say how delicious they were. I am hoping to be able to talk her into another bake sale in the new year!

If you weren't able to make the AGM and would like to read the annual report please take a look at our website where you will be able to have a little read at your leisure. [www.fosms.co.uk](http://www.fosms.co.uk)

If anyone is able to help with a raffle prize or assist with calling local businesses to see if we can get any donations we would be eternally grateful! I do love a bursting raffle table. Tickets go on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> December!

We have create a list of all upcoming FOSMS events for the festive season which you can find below.

As always thank you for your support.

Your FOSMS Team.



# Christmas Events!

Monday

1

**FOSMS Christmas Raffle  
Tickets go on sale!**



Friday

5



**Christmas Sale - 2:30pm  
everyone invited to attend  
held in the school hall**

Wednesday

17

**Nativity  
FOSMS Draw Raffle**



Thursday

18

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



Thursday

18

**Christmas Lunch  
Courtesy of FOSMS**

