



Friday 14th 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...

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming visitors to our Forest School area from Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Trust.

They provided us with some wonderful feedback regarding the children's engagement with nature and the learning experiences we offer in this unique environment. It is heartening to see our pupils thrive in such an enriching setting.

We also held a Remembrance Assembly, beautifully delivered by Reverend Jacqui. The assembly offered our students a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the significance of remembrance, and I was proud of the respectful manner in which they participated.

Additionally, I would like to extend my congratulations to Oliver, Max, Eve, and Harmony for their commendable participation in the Trust Maths Competition at Fairhouse Primary School this week. We are very proud to confirm that we came 4th in 11 schools which is incredible! Their hard work and dedication exemplify the spirit of collaboration and striving for excellence that we encourage in our school community.

On another note, it was delightful to see the children wearing spots today in support of Children in Need. Their enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to such a worthy cause exemplifies the values we hold dear at St Mary's. To help raise some funds for Children in Need we are asking for a £1 non uniform donation to the following link.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18942>

Finally, I would like to remind you of the FOSMS disco taking place on Friday afternoon. I hope that all children will enjoy this event. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Naulder who very generously provided FOSMS with glowsticks for the children, we really appreciated your kindness and intend to use them over the coming weeks.

Dojo Messages

- Children in Need parentpay link
- South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre Activities
- School photographs - retake arrangements
- Free school meal vouchers
- Berlesduna Maths competition

This is a friendly reminder to use ClassDojo appropriately in line with our school safeguarding and data protection policies.

Please remember:

- Do not screenshot or share any images of pupils from ClassDojo.
- ClassDojo should only be used to communicate with parents and pupils as intended, and all content must remain confidential.
- Any concerns or breaches should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Thank you for your continued vigilance in keeping our pupils' information safe and secure.

THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS

Class News & Achievers

Oak Class:

In Oak Class we have identified features of biographies in our writing lessons and looked at the meanings of words in the specific context in reading. In maths, we have continued our work on adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and in history, we have identified the alliances in Europe in 1941. In PSHE we have completed work linked to this year's anti bullying week theme, Power for Good and in RE we have looked at how faiths can be interlinked as part of Interfaith Week.

Chestnut Class

This week has been yet another busy one, in English we have worked really hard on our Diamante poetry. In maths we have answered subtraction questions using the column method. As part of faith week we did a variety of activities for Hinduism which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Well done Chestnut class for your hard work this week!

Acorn Class

This week is anti-bullying week, as well as multicultural week and Remembrance. Acorns have been learning all about these things. I was super proud how sensible and respectful the children were during our minutes silence on armistice day. We have produced some beautiful poppy artwork. We have celebrated others faiths and how amazing our world is with diversity. We are looking forward to the firework disco to top our celebrations.

For World Kindness Day, our village was filled with thoughtful gestures and warm hearts. Hidden envelopes of kindness were placed around the village, sparking smiles throughout the day from the residents at Eastham and their dedicated staff.

St Mary's created a beautiful food hamper for our residents, and in return, the residents surprised our staff with lovely chocolates as a heartfelt thank you.

Mrs DeWet has shared this beautiful video which you may wish to watch - it is very heartwarming on this miserable day!

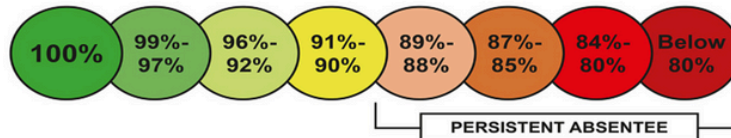
<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/19rViB2Met/?mibextid=WC7FNe>



Attendance Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Reception	82%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	83%
Year 3	91%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	94%

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **91.25 %**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **43**

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 made a start on making Christmas decorations this week. The children were all very excited by this and coloured some lovely wooden stars before sticking them to log rounds. These decorations will be for sale at the Christmas Fayre. The children also had great fun climbing trees, painting and playing in the mud kitchen. Our digging area is now getting very wet and stodgy and the children enjoyed digging up clay to use in the mud kitchen. We again ended the session by playing the Cuckoo game on the field. A great session all round Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class also had the opportunity to make Christmas decorations and some of the children really enjoyed doing that. They each made a Rudolf on a log round using googly eyes, a red pom pom nose and foraged twigs for antlers. The children also had fun in the mud kitchen, using clay that they had dug up from the digging area to make pretend food and drinks. A few of the children enjoyed looking under logs for bugs and used binoculars to look for different birds. A lovely session Chestnut class well done!

Oak class were also excited to start making some Christmas decorations and a few of the children decorated log rounds to make Christmas tree decorations. The children were mainly in two groups this week with one group creating and building a stage area out of pallets and they provided us with a live Christmas singing concert. The other group made a camp area with a table and one of them used clay from the digging area to make a cup. The digging area is getting very popular now as the ground is softening, making it easier to dig the clay. A lovely imaginative session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed weekend with Reece and is now looking forward to going home with Freddie, Adeline and Alfie Crosby. The Crosby children have only just joined St Mary's and had never experience Forest School before. This did not stop them all from throwing themselves into it from the start. They each took part in all the different activities and played beautifully with their new St Mary's friends. All three children were polite and helpful and I am looking forward to showing them more of what Forest School is about over the coming weeks. Well done Freddie, Adeline and Alfie, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

This week our Forest school area had a visit from Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome Trust. They sent us this wonderful feedback following their visit:

Please pass on our thanks to Mrs Fallon and Miss Wilson for their hospitality for the fascinating visit to see your Forest School today. Dale, Cara and myself found the visit to be incredibly informative and really inspiring to see the children so engaged with outdoor learning, social interaction and freedom to follow their imagination. The resources you have actively gathered, encouraging freedom to invent has enabled such a positive environment to expand their education and wider learning and is a credit to all.

We are at the early stages of developing our outdoor learning offer on site, but today we have taken a great deal of information and positive ideas that we can take forward and adapt to suit our own surroundings.

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 – Multiskills	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	Mrs Carlier	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)

Dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
17–21.11.25	Road safety week	All pupils
17.11.25	NHS Funded Resilience Workshop	Year 6
17.11.25	Prospective Parent Open day	
03.12.25	Pantomime	Whole School
05.12.25	FOSMS Christmas sale	
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



What a fantastic day!

A huge thank you to all the children who joined us for our Fireworks Disco today. The children were incredible – full of energy, excitement and some seriously impressive dance moves 😊. It was wonderful to see them having such a brilliant time, and your support helped make the event a real success.

FOSMS AGM – Tuesday 18th, 2:30pm (School Hall)

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th at 2:30pm in the school hall. Everyone is welcome, and we'd love to see new faces come along.

- Please see the poster for a full list of committee and helper roles available this year.
- Cakes will be available on the day – because meetings are always better with something sweet!

Your involvement, big or small, truly makes a difference.

Celebrating Excellence – Congratulations, Leanne!

We are absolutely over the moon to congratulate Leanne for becoming a finalist in the 2025 Parentkind National PTA Awards!

From 24,000 PTAs across the UK, only 12 finalists were chosen – and our very own Leanne was one of them. This recognition reflects her:

- unwavering support
- kindness
- tireless effort
- dedication to our school community
- and her always-shining positivity

We are incredibly proud, endlessly grateful, and so lucky to have her as part of FOSMS. Leanne, you are our star! ★

Friends of St Marys School

Committee Roles

Every year, per Charity Commission guidelines, all committee members must stand down and a new committee be elected.

Anyone can stand to be a committee member, whether you have been an committee member before or not.

Below are the roles available, to find out more about what's involved for a role or to put your name forward, please contact the current committee (*see end page*) via WhatsApp or pick up a committee roles info sheet from the school office.



Chairperson



Vice-Chairperson



Treasurer



Vice-Treasurer



Secretary



Grants Officer



Social Media
Lead



Uniform Shop
Lead



**"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."**

- Helen Keller