



Friday 24th October 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 - Community

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...

As we come to the end of a busy and positive first half of the autumn term, I'd like to thank you for your continued support. It has been a pleasure to see the children learning with enthusiasm, showing kindness, and taking part in a wide range of activities – including our Harvest celebrations and courageous advocacy projects.

Thank you for taking the time to join us for our Harvest Festival celebrations, I am sure you will agree, the children did an amazing job and the singing was fantastic!

Please note that Monday 3rd November will be a non-pupil day. This is our Trust-wide training day, with staff working alongside our Local Authority Inclusion Partners to continue to strengthen our understanding and practice around SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). As an inclusive Trust, we are committed to ensuring all children feel valued, supported, and able to thrive.

We wish all our families a safe, restful, and enjoyable half term, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 4th November.

Upcoming Events

27th–31st Half Term

03.11.25 - Inset Day

10.11.25 - Anti Bullying week

10.11.25 - Open Day Prospective Parent Tour

05.11.25 - School Photos - Individual/Class/Sibling

12.11.25 - Remembrance service at St Marys church

13.11.25 - Trust Maths Challenge

14.11.25 - Children in need - wear spots and odd socks

14.11.25 - Cultural celebration day

17.11.25 - Road safety week

Dojo Messages

- Harvest Donations
- Parents Evening thankyou
- Non pupil day reminder
- Lunch booking reminder
- Panto reminder
- Safeguarding review report
- Attendance
- Catch up clinic - Flu immunisations
- Art of being still parent session

THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS

Class News & Achievers

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class, we have been writing letters to the residents of the local care home in our writing lessons, as part of our courageous advocacy project. In maths, we have begun learning about equivalence when dealing with fractions and in geography; we have looked at the formation and locations of cyclones and tornadoes. In science, we have looked at selection pressures that adaptations help reduce for living things. In RE, we have looked at the specific symbolism of the lotus flower in Buddhism and in art; we have completed our typography pathway.

Chestnut Class

In English we have started our leaflets. In maths we have started addition. In PSHE we had a really interesting discussion about stereotyping. We started by looking at likes and dislikes and if they were for boys or girls. Once we had looked at them we changed our minds and decided that it didn't matter if you were a girl or boy, you could still enjoy it. Then we looked at pictures of children with toys and decided if the pictures were stereotypical, e.g. a girl with long hair, dressed in pink on a pink trampoline. In science this week we have been learning about habitats and how they can change. On Friday we looked at Deforestation and Plastic Pollution and what humans can do to help.

Acorn Class

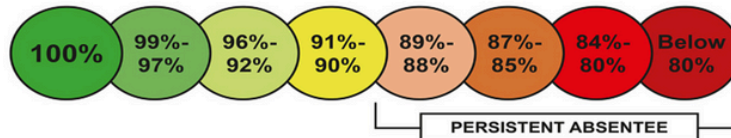
As we come to the last week of this busy term, Acorns have been doing some lovely work. We have learnt about the festival of Diwali and made divas using clay. In PSHE we looked at the word stereotyping and what it means. In computing we have been looking at the colouring programme and using our skills to design pictures. In math's we have been learning all about subtraction.

The whole school will be awarded with achiever of the week, for everyone's hard work and enthusiasm during this half term and a fantastic Harvest Festival - well done to all!

Attendance Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Reception	84%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	66%
Year 3	90%
Year 4	87%
Year 5	90%
Year 6	88%

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **84.98%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **34**

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 lovely last session of this half term with lots of activities available to them. A few of the children enjoyed crafting and made wands by wrapping different coloured wool around sticks. They also had some little wooden nature shapes to colour in which we then hung from trees as decorations. During the free play time the children enjoyed climbing trees, bug hunting and playing in the mud kitchen. A small group of children cleared an area of ground and built a campfire after seeing how it was done last week. We did not light the fire but they did extremely well in remembering how to build it. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a great session as well. Some of the children carried on with their whittling projects from last week and a couple of other children began a whittling project. They are starting to master the technique now and are showing great progress. The children also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen, climbing trees and collecting pieces of wood from around the forest school site, in a wheelbarrow. Towards the end of the session all of the children collectively made up a game and played together. It was lovely to see the whole class enjoying themselves and having fun. Well done Chestnut class!

Oak class always seem to have a great session and get stuck in to every single activity that we have available. This week we made some leaf crowns, which hopefully you will have seen at the Harvest Festival performance. We also made some holding crosses out of wood for the children to take down to the local care home. During free play time the children enjoyed climbing trees, playing in the mud kitchen, making dens out of tarps and chilling out in the new hammock. Well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed his weekend with Jesse and is now going to have a short break while all the children are off school for the half term holiday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you well for the half term holiday.

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead

Collective Worship

This week in collective worship, Rev. Jacqui shared a beautiful message about how special and loved we all are in God's eyes. She began with the Bible verse from Isaiah 43:1, reminding everyone that God says, ***“Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.”***

Rev. Jacqui explained to the children that this means God knows each of us personally—not just as part of a big group or class, but as individuals. Just as teachers know all the children in their class and parents know their own children, God knows each of us by name.

She told the children that they are special, valued, and known by name—each one of them precious and loved by God. Because of this, she encouraged everyone to show kindness and respect to others, remembering that everyone we meet is precious too.

Rev. Jacqui also spoke about how important names are. She mentioned that many of us even give names to our cuddly toys because names matter—they help us feel known and loved. She asked the children how it feels when someone remembers their name, and the children shared some lovely answers, saying it makes them feel happy, special, and noticed.

The assembly ended with a short prayer:

Loving God,
Thank you that you know each of us by name.
Thank you that we are special to you.
Help us to remember that everyone is precious and loved.
Amen.



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



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

Dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
27th - 31st	Half Term	
03.11.25	Inset Day	
10.11.25	Anti Bullying week	
10.11.25	Open Day 09:30am–3.00pm	NON SEND Prospective Parent Tour
05.11.25	School Photos	All pupils
12.11.25	Remembrance service at St Marys church	All pupils
TBC	Royal British legion assembly	
13.11.25	Trust Maths challenge	Selected pupils
14.11.25	Children in need Wear spots and odd socks	All pupils
14.11.25	Cultural celebration day	All pupils
17–21.11.25	Road safety week	All pupils

Friends of St Marys School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have some important dates for your diary for the coming term!

Friday 14th November 1:30pm - 2:45pm

School Disco everyone's favourite!!

We have decided to keep things simple and convenient for families by hosting our disco within the school day to celebrate the end of anti-bullying and cultural appreciation week. This will mean there's no need to juggle drop-offs, pick-ups, or evening routines. Just a fun, music-filled treat for all the children to enjoy together!

It's open to every pupil, and we can't wait to see everyone showing off their best dance moves! We will also have a quiet area available for children to use if they would prefer something a little quieter with Mrs Fallon.

We're asking for a £2.50 donation per child to help raise funds for future FOSMS events and school projects. For this, the children will receive juice, crisps, sweeties a glow stick and an ice pole to cool down after all that dancing!

For more information please see the poster below and for booking please pop on to our website to reserve your child's place - <https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>

Tuesday 18th November - 2:30pm in the school hall.

FOSMS AGM

Your opportunity to vote in your committee to run our charity for another year. We are due to be inspected by the charity commission this year as we are a relatively a new charity and we would love your attendance to vote in your committee. We will also give a short update on what we have managed to achieve for our school community this past year. Your attendance is vital for us to continue to operate effectively. There's no commitment from you required and we will have cake available to purchase because everything is better with cake! (We try to never miss an opportunity to raise a few pennies for the children❤️)



Friends of St Marys School



FOSMS PRESENTS...

OUR FIREWORK DISCO

**FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
1:30PM-2:45PM**

**£2.50 PER CHILD
PAY IN ADVANCE VIA THE
PAYMENT LINK ON OUR WEBSITE**

INCLUDED IN THE TICKET PRICE:

**CRISPS
JUICE
SWEETIES
ICE POLE
GLOWSTICK**

**IN TRUE DISCO FASHION WE WILL BE
TAKING SONG REQUESTS IN ADVANCE -
PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD TO GET
THEIR REQUESTS IN ASAP!**

MUSIC, DANCING AND GAMES

**CHILDREN MAY BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND GET
CHANGED AT SCHOOL SO THEY'RE DISCO READY!**

