



Friday 17th 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!

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying a lovely week. I'm excited to share some updates and highlights from around our school community.

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...

Firstly, we extend our warmest congratulations to Ms Wilson for successfully achieving her Level 3 Forest School qualification. This accomplishment is the result of her dedication and hard work, and we are thrilled to have her further enhance our outdoor learning opportunities.

Please can I kindly remind all parents to avoid parking across driveways in the vicinity of the school. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the safety and accessibility of our local community.

Thank you to all parents who attended the recent parent consultation meetings. We hope you found them informative and beneficial for your child's progress. If you were unable to attend, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher for any updates or information you may have missed.

As we prepare for our upcoming Harvest Festival, we would like to remind parents about our food donation initiative. Please consider contributing non-perishable food items, which will greatly assist those in need within our community. The Harvest Festival is scheduled for the last day of term (24th October), and we sincerely hope that parents and grandparents can join us in this celebration.

Additionally, we are pleased to report that this week we had our scheduled Trust external safeguarding review. It was a very positive day, and we look forward to sharing the results with you in due course.

Lastly, I would like to commend our students for their exemplary conduct during a fire evacuation drill this week. The children remained calm and followed instructions effectively, demonstrating their understanding of safety protocols.

## Upcoming Events

- 20.10.25 - No after school clubs this week
- 20.10.25 - Open Day Prospective Parent Tour
- 20.10.25 - Courageous Advocacy project - Oak Class
- 24.10.25 - Harvest Festival - Grandparents 9.15am, Parents/Carers 2-3pm
- 24.10.25 - Pupils to present care home with food hamper - Yr 6
- 27th–31st Half Term
- 03.11.25 - Inset Day
- 10.11.25 - Anti Bullying week
- 10.11.25 - Open Day - NON SEND Prospective Parent Tour
- 05.11.25 - School Photos - Individual, class and sibling
- 12.11.25 - Remembrance service at St Marys church - All pupils

## Dojo Messages

- Outstanding Residential deposit reminder
- No Clubs next week
- P4P Support Group meeting
- Panto attendance reminder
- Autumn Term 2 Menu update
- SEND Roadshow
- Y6 to Y7 transfer
- School Photos pre registration request.

# Class News & Achievers

## **Oak Class:**

This week in Oak class, we have had a grammar focus in our English lessons, learning about word classes and how to punctuate direct speech. In maths, we have learnt about prime, square and cube numbers. Our science has looked at the significant role Charles Darwin played in our understanding of evolution and in RE we have learned about Buddhist worship. In geography, we have looked at the formation and location of volcanoes and in PSHE, we have continued our work on respectful relationships.

## **Chestnut Class**

This week we have been busy with our assessments. All of the children have tried their best and I am very proud of them. We wrote up our Beowulf stories and everyone presented their work beautifully and the handwriting was amazing! In history we have been learning all about Tudor crimes and punishment. All of the class were very pleased that they weren't alive then. We have also started our practicing for the Harvest Festival. Some of the children chose to have a speaking part and I was very impressed with how confidently they read.

## **Acorn Class**

Acorns have had a busy week; we are still learning about materials in Science and have been looking at suitable materials for something waterproof. We did an experiment to see which material would be the best to make a book bag for a rainy day. In PSHE we looked at friendly and unfriendly behaviours, we were very good at knowing these. In music, we are learning our song for the Harvest festival and in Art we made some beautiful leaf prints.

## **Oak Achiever**

Oak's achiever is Phoebe. Phoebe approaches everything with a smile and a song. She takes great care with her work and has shown a strong ability to recall and apply previous learning. Well done, Phoebe.

## **Chestnut Achiever**

I am really pleased that Layla has started to look a lot more closely at spelling words correctly and I have had to do far fewer corrections. Good work Layla!

## **Acorn Achiever**

Mr Thomas was very impressed with Reece this week at PE. He said Reece was supportive and a very good role model for one of the reception children. They were partners and Reece really worked in a caring way to enable them to play the game.

## **Oak Value Achiever**

Oak's value achiever is Sophie. Sophie has had a great start to Year 5 and is an asset to our class community. She works well with her peers and is always polite and respectful. Well done, Sophie.

## **Chestnut Value Achiever**

Jesse is a wonderful member of our community. He is kind, caring and generous. Jesse is a lovely role model and I am very proud of him.

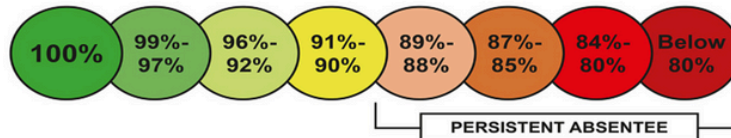
## **Acorn Value Achiever**

Wilfred, is showing great courage as he navigates year 2. We are super proud of his efforts and he is a pleasure to work with. Keep it up Wilfred.

# Attendance Matters

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



## Which CIRCLE are you in?

Reception	75%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	86%
Year 3	88%
Year 4	85%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	94%

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **87.74%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **38**

### 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...

It has been the week for campfires this week!

Acorn class sat beautifully and listened carefully in the log circle while we discussed the rules for fire safety. The children understood what was expected of them and I showed them how to build two campfires, using the hashtag building method, and then lit them with a flint and steel. We used one campfire to toast giant marshmallows and I put a grill over the second fire so that we could cook popcorn in a lidded saucepan. The children all enjoyed their marshmallows and popcorn and when they were not at the fire pit they played in the mud kitchen, did painting and climbed trees. A lovely session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class have had campfires previously so I asked for two volunteers who had not built a campfire before. Those two children did extremely well and both built a perfect campfire, using the hashtag build method. They place newspaper in the middle of the hashtag and a small piece of cotton wool at the bottom and then using a flint and steel, they lit them. The children all toasted their own giant marshmallow over one fire and, as with Acorn class; we used the second fire to cook popcorn. The children were all incredible sensible and had a good grasp on fire safety. During free play time the whole class made up a game and played all together. Another fantastic session Chestnut class, well done!

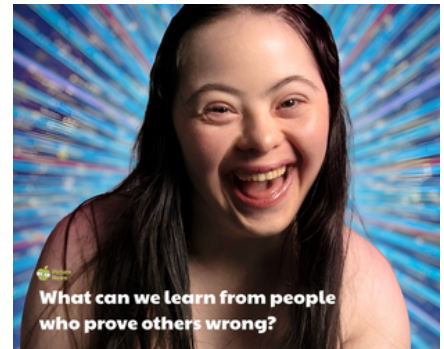
Oak class are all very knowledgeable when it comes to the rules for fire safety most of them had built a campfire previously, whether that be during forest school or outside of school. Two of the children built a campfire each, one was used for cooking popcorn and the other was used for toasting giant marshmallows. The children all toasted their own marshmallows and they enjoyed trying the popcorn. The children also enjoyed some free play time and had fun in the mud kitchen, the digging area, climbing trees and decorating their forest school journals. A great session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed a well-earned rest last week and is now looking forward to going home with Jesse from Acorn class this week. Jesse is always extremely excited for forest school and gets stuck in to every activity we have available. Jesse tries so hard in all that he does and is proving to be a great friend to his classmates. Well done Jesse, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson  
Forest School Lead

# Collective Worship

Mrs Carlier gave special assembly this week about differences and special talents. She spoke about Ellie Goldstein, a 23-year-old model from Ilford, had been announced as a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing. She was the first person with Down's syndrome to take part in a full series of the show, having already made history as the first model with Down's syndrome to appear on the cover of British Vogue. Ellie says she's excited for the challenge and hopes to show that people can do amazing things, even when others don't expect them to.



Mrs Carlier asked the children questions and gave them an opportunity to discuss their thoughts with their friends.

- Do you think everyone needs to be good at the same things? Why?**
- What does it mean to have a gift?**
- Can you have a gift without knowing it?**
- How can we find out what we're good at?**
- How can we help others find out what they're good at?**
- What can we do to make sure everyone feels safe and confident to share their gifts?**
- How can we combine our individual gifts to make our community stronger?**

The children were able to give some very kind and thoughtful responses to the questions showing their compassion and understanding.

Mrs Carlier explained to the children that The Bible compares the Church to a body, and just as your hands, feet and eyes all work together, the Church is made up of many different people who are all connected and rely on one another.

Christians believe everyone has a special gift from God. When we use our different gifts together, we can help each other and show God's love to the world. Christians believe we should be compassionate towards differences and appreciate everyone's gifts.

***For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.***  
***Romans 12 4-6***



# 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 <u>ham</u> , 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	Sweet and sour chicken with rice	Chicken Nuggets potato wedges and baked beans
Baguettes: Cheese or tuna	Veggie fingers (V) chips, peas and sweetcorn	Quorn sausage roast (V)	Quorn fillet (V) with rice	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	

## 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</u> 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
20.10.25	No after school clubs this week	
20.10.25	Open Day—09:30—11:00	Prospective Parent Tour
20.10.25	Courageous Advocacy project	Oak Class
24.10.25	Harvest Festival	Grandparents 9:15am Parents/Carers 2-3pm
24.10.25	Pupils to present care home with food hamper	Year 6 Children
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	

# Friends of St Marys School

This week we have been busy little elves planning and preparing for Christmas! Yes already - we like to be prepared. We have some lovely things in the planning for the children and the Christmas Sale.



So, the class coin challenge - we have Acorn Class as the early leaders. Will they claim the prize again this year? Please do remember to send in some loose change with your children for the to add to the bottle, every penny really does help. Everything the children raise will be spent directly on their class needs and be voted for by the children.



We are looking at dates for the Firework Disco so please keep your eyes peeled for those, we know the children love the disco's we put on, the hotdogs usually go down well too!

As always if you think you could offer a helping hand and would like to join our PTA please do drop us an email on [contact@fosms.co.uk](mailto:contact@fosms.co.uk) or pop a note on the school WhatsApp group.

