



Friday 10th 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, I would like to inform you that flu immunisations took place this week. If your child missed this opportunity, please be advised that a catch-up clinic flyer has been distributed via Class Dojo. I encourage you to review this flyer and ensure your child receives the immunisation at the earliest possible convenience.

Additionally, I wish to congratulate our four participants in the recent Poetry Slam competition held by the Trust. It was a commendable performance, especially considering the nerves that often accompany such public speaking events. I am proud of their efforts and enthusiasm, which they displayed throughout the competition.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Rev. Jacqui, who delivered a thought-provoking assembly on the theme of "Tiny Seeds and Big Growth." The message resonated with many students, encouraging them to reflect on their potential and personal development.

As a reminder, parent consultations are scheduled for next week. These meetings present an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress and address any concerns you may have. Please note that there will be no clubs held during this week to accommodate these consultations.

Furthermore, a flyer regarding our upcoming Harvest Festival has been sent home. We will be collecting donations for our local food bank, and I kindly encourage your support in this initiative. Any non-perishable food items you can provide will be gratefully received and will make a significant difference to those in need within our community.

Upcoming Events

- 13.10.25 - Open Day—09:30—11:00 - SEND Tour
- 13.10.25 - Parent / Child Consultations - 3.30pm—6.00pm
- 14.10.25 - Parent / Child Consultations - 3.30pm—5.00pm
- 15.10.25 - Parent / Child Consultations - 3.30pm—5.00pm
- 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

Dojo Messages

- Forest School Christmas Crafts
- Attendance report via email
- Attendance Policy
- Siams report
- Residential April 2026
- Chestnut class - amazing handwriting
- Bikeability reminder - Year 6
- Lockdown practise
- Acorn class - amazing setting descriptions
- Flu clinic catch up clinic
- Harvest Festival food donations

THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS

Class News & Achievers

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class, we have focused on summarizing in our reading lessons and how to use hyphens in our grammar lessons. In maths, we have been learning about multiples, factors and the rules of divisibility. In RE we have learnt the significance of the key Buddhist symbols and in Geography, we have looked at how the Earth's appearance changes as it goes through periods of heating and cooling. In science, we have studied adaptive traits and identified their advantages and their disadvantages. Our PSHE has focused on Protected Characteristics, what they are and why they are important.

Chestnut Class

This week we have enjoyed our Vipers' reading lessons and have learned all about dangerous predators. I've been very impressed with the level of reading and understanding. In maths we have been looking at rounding to the nearest ten, hundred and thousand. In English we have finished our wonderful stories! In PSHE we enjoyed talking about good communication and learning what good listening looks like. We have continued on our art pathway and completed three more pages of our books.

Acorn Class

Acorns have been busy looking at setting descriptions in Literacy to improve our writing. In maths we have been looking at doubling. In Science we are looking at materials and their properties, this week we looked at waterproofing. In PSHE we are looking at friendships and how to be a good friend.

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Xander. Everything we have done this week Xander has given his absolute best in. His presentation has been exceptional and he has really impressed both myself and Mrs Wells with his effort and attitude. Well done, Xander.

Chestnut Achiever

Harmony is our work achiever. She has produced some wonderful artwork for her book. She really listened to what I needed her to do and her work is excellent. I think we have a budding artist in the class!

Acorn Achiever

Lilly-May is really trying with all her work. We are really proud of the way she is asking for help and trying her best. Well done

Oak Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever is Sonny. Sonny demonstrates all our school values every day. He is polite and respectful with his peers and the adults and adds hugely to our class community. We are very lucky to have you Sonny.

Chestnut Value Achiever

Max is our value achiever. Sometimes he gets a little worried about things, but has shown great courage recently and I'm very proud of him. Well done Max- keep it up!

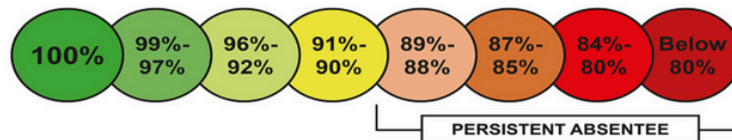
Acorn Value Achiever

Bobbi-Rae and Evie-Rose, We are super proud of how the girls showed courage and participated in the trust poetry slam this week. They really enjoyed themselves and I am sure they will be representing the school again as you did us proud.

Attendance Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Reception	75%
Year 1	.93.33%
Year 2	.85.56%
Year 3	.78.57%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	.96.25%
Year 6	96%

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **89.43%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **39**

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 great session with many different activities this week. We made a "Leaf Colour Chart" with columns for Green, Yellow, Orange, Brown and Red and the children scavenged for as many leaves of the different colours that they could find and then glued them to the chart. The children enjoyed this task and filled the chart completely very quickly! The children also made nature art on a white sheet by putting different shaped leaves onto the sheet, gluing around the edges of the leaf and then sprinkling soil, grass cuttings, etc. onto the glued part before lifting off the leaf, leaving a white leaf shape pattern. During free play, the children enjoyed bug hunting, tree climbing, painting and playing in the mud kitchen. A fabulous creative session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class were very interested in bug hunting this week. Several of the children found many different species like spiders, millipedes, woodlouse and different types of beetles. We examined the different bugs and using a nature app on my phone we were able to learn about the exact type of bug they had found, where the bug originates from and how the bug helps in our ecosystem. Another group of children enjoyed whittling from Willow that I had cut down for them. We challenged the children to each make a butter knife; this is a great item to start with as it is not too complex but will give the children confidence and a sense of achievement once they have completed it. They will get to continue their whittling project throughout the coming weeks. Well done Chestnut class!

Oak class also enjoyed whittling this week and we asked them to design and draw what they want to make in their Forest School Journals. We suggested items like butter knives, spoons and crocodiles as these are great for beginner whittlers and the children were excited to get started. They made fantastic progress this week and will get to continue their projects over the coming weeks. Other children had fun in the mud kitchen and took part in other activities like painting; tree climbing and playing make believe games that they had made up between the,. A very productive session this week Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed his weekend with Aimee last week. This week Freddie will be taking a well deserved rest.

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead

Collective Worship

This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev. Jacqui to lead our school assembly. She shared an inspiring message about faith, using the image of seeds to help us understand how something very small can grow into something powerful and life-changing.

Rev. Jacqui began by showing us different kinds of seeds – tiny mustard seeds, sunflower seeds, and even larger acorns and conkers. Each of them may seem small or insignificant at first glance, but given the right conditions – soil, water, sunlight, and time – they grow into something strong, beautiful, and full of purpose.

She then shared a verse from the Bible – Matthew 17:20, where Jesus says:

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Rev. Jacqui explained that even if our faith feels small or uncertain, it still has great potential. Like a tiny seed that grows into a tall sunflower or a mighty oak tree, our faith can grow and make a difference in our lives and the lives of others.

She reminded us that small acts of kindness, courage, and belief can have a big impact – just like planting a single seed can eventually lead to a whole tree or a beautiful flower.

To end the assembly, Rev. Jacqui encouraged everyone to think about what kind of "seeds" they are planting in their own lives – seeds of hope, love, kindness, and faith – and to trust that, in time, those seeds will grow into something amazing.



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	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 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

Dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
13.10.25	No after school clubs this week	
13.10.25	Open Day—09:30—11:00	SEND Prospective Parent Tour
13.10.25	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm—6.00pm	No clubs
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27th - 31st	Half Term	
03.11.25	Inset Day	

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!