



Friday 26th September 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!

We are pleased to report yet another successful week at our school, filled with inspiring lessons and engaging activities. Our pupils are making progress in their learning, demonstrating commitment and enthusiasm. We encourage you to celebrate their achievements at home, reinforcing the importance of perseverance and curiosity. As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and collaboration. Together, we are fostering a nurturing environment that promotes both academic excellence and personal growth.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Warm regards, Mrs Walker

This week...

This week, our school had the exciting opportunity to engage in filming for a promotional video intended for our website. This initiative aims to showcase the vibrant environment and diverse opportunities our school has to offer. Our pupils demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout the filming process, which greatly contributed to the positive atmosphere we sought to capture on film. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and I am confident that the final product will reflect the spirit of our school community in an authentic manner.

In addition to the filming, our afternoon music lessons have commenced in full swing. We had an outstanding display of talent during the music sessions, our pupils can really sing with confidence and many of the children stepped outside their comfort zones. It is essential to nurture such confidence, as it can foster resilience and a willingness to embrace new challenges, both in music and other areas of learning.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. Let us strive to maintain this momentum as we progress through the term. I look forward to sharing more successes and milestones in the weeks to come.

A little reminder to return the signed home/school agreement to the school office. Thank you to those that have submitted these.

Upcoming Events

02.10.25 - Autumn Term Census - Special Lunch menu

06.10.25 - Open Day—09:30—11:00 - Non SEND Tour

06.10.25 - Flu Spray - Please see dojo message for consent

09.10.25 - Trust Poetry Slam Celebration - Selected pupils

09.10.25 - Open Day—09:30—11:00 - SEND Tour

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

Dojo Messages

- Census day lunch reminder
- Flu immunisation reminder
- SWF Library flyer
- Residential dates
- Breakfast club places
- School WhatsApp group

THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS

Class News & Achievers

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have retrieved information from texts in our reading lessons and finished analysing and reviewed The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe in our writing lessons. In maths we have finished our block of place value and have begun adding and subtracting integers. In art, we have continued our typography pathway and in science we have learnt about the process of fossilisation. In RE we have learnt about the Eightfold Path of Buddhism and in PSHE we have looked at what respect is, the people we respect and the reasons for that.

Chestnut Class

In English this week, we have been continuing to work on Beowulf and have been writing a setting description and dialogue. In maths we are still doing place value and have been looking at more and less. In our Vipers reading we have learned all about Tudor jobs and we thought that some of them were quite disgusting! We're continuing to enjoy our art pathway and have planned our art book on a storyboard. In history we enjoyed looking at portraits of Henry VIII and discussing what they tell us.

Acorn Class

Acorns have been enjoying listening to poems and we have identified new key words and words that rhyme. In maths, we are still looking at place value and whole and part models. In PSHE, we have looked at emotions and what they mean to us. In computing we are looking at IT around us and how to use our I pads for our work.

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Ivy. Ivy absolutely amazed me with her understanding of The Raven. She showed a superb interpretation of the symbolism within the poem and was able to explain in detail her views. Wonderful Ivy, well done.

Chestnut Achiever

Max has worked really hard in all areas of the curriculum. He has really applied himself and produced great work this week. I was very impressed with his descriptive setting writing.

Acorn Achiever

Lilly-May has really impressed us with her start into year 1. She is showing us she can be more independent and is trying her very best to complete all the work she is given

Oak Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever is Archie. Archie showed a great sense of community by supporting his peers with their maths. He patiently explained the process and supported their understanding. Well done Archie.

Chestnut Value Achiever

Poppy makes a valuable contribution to our class community. Her behaviour is excellent- she lives out the school values and sets a positive example to others.

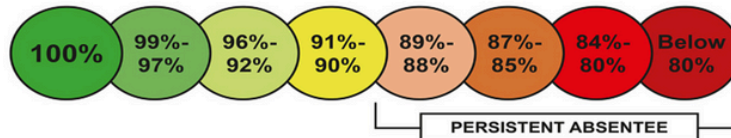
Acorn Value Achiever

Evie-Rose shows us a sense of community and compassion she has been helpful to both the teachers and children. From helping to tidy up, supporting receptions to find and put away resources and taking on her role of Eco warrior seriously.

Attendance Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which **CIRCLE** are you in?

Reception	65.00%
Year 1	100.00%
Year 2	83.33%
Year 3	92.86%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	97.50%
Year 6	100%

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **91.89%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **45**

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 lot of free-play time in this week's forest school session. We provided them with several different activities and invited them to take part in whatever takes their fancy. It was so lovely to see the children making up games, painting, bug hunting and climbing trees. The children also made nature bracelets by foraging for leaves, flowers, etc. and sticking them to a piece of card around their wrists. The mud kitchen was put to good use and the children came up with some fabulous dishes and potions. Next week we will be making some craft bugs for the children to take home. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class also enjoyed a lot of free-play time this week. We provided equipment for whittling, bug hunting and hapa zome. The children enjoyed the hapa zome and made some great prints using foraged leaves, flowers and berries. The children also enjoyed bug hunting and they found a huge Devil's Coach Horse Beetle! The mud kitchen "café" was open for business again and the children made some fabulous fun dishes. Another great session this week, well done Chestnut class!

Oak class also did some hapa zome this week and made some great prints. A few of the children designed and decorated their nature spots and another group of children made up a performance of singing and dancing for everyone to watch. We had the bow saw out again and a couple of children cut disks from a log that they then painted to hang round the forest school area. Over the next few weeks, we will be starting to make some Christmas decorations to sell at our Christmas Fayre. A great session again Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Benji last weekend and is now looking forward to going home with Harrison from Acorn class this week. Harrison joined in with all of the activities this week and proved himself to be a very good and helpful friend to his classmates. Both Mrs Valentine and I felt that Harrison shone this week so well done Harrison, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

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 <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

Collective Worship

This week in collective worship Mrs Fallon gave an assembly on something very special to us all - **Friendship**.

Friends are people who make us laugh, help us when we're sad, and walk with us through life.

We learned that friendship is also a gift from God.

♥ **What Does the Bible Say About Friendship?**

The Bible teaches us how to be good friends. One beautiful verse is:

“A friend loves at all times.” – Proverbs 17:17

This means a true friend is there for you no matter what – when you're happy, when you're sad, and even when you make mistakes.

Jesus showed us the greatest love by giving his life for us.

He said: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.” – John 15:13

Jesus is our perfect example of friendship – kind, forgiving, and always there.

Mrs Fallon gave the children an opportunity for reflection and the children were able to give some wonderful answers about how we can be good friends, these were just a small selection.

1. Be kind – Say nice things and help others.
2. Be loyal – Stick with your friends, even when it's hard.
3. Forgive – Everyone makes mistakes. Forgiving shows love.
4. Pray for your friends – Ask God to bless them and help them.

We ended our assembly with a special prayer for our school community.

Dear God,
Thank you for our school,
A place where we learn, grow, and care for one another.
Help us to be kind and thoughtful,
To listen, to share, and to support each other every day.
Teach us to work together as a team,
To celebrate our differences,
And to build a community filled with love and respect.
May we always be ready to help,
To welcome new friends,
And to make everyone feel that they belong.
Bless our families, our teachers, and all who help us,
As we learn to live in peace and unity.
Amen.



Dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
2.10.25	Autumn Term Census	
06.10.25	Open Day—09:30—11:00	Non SEND Prospective Parent Tour
06.10.25	Flu Spray	All pupils with consent
09.10.25	Trust Poetry Slam Celebration	Selected pupils
09.10.25	Open Day—09:30—11:00	SEND Prospective Parent Tour
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
14.10.25	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm—5.00pm	No clubs
15.10.25	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm—5.00pm	No clubs
20.10.25	No after school clubs this week	
20.10.25	Open Day—09:30—11:00	SEND 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	

Friends of St Mary's School

FOSMS



A note from FOSMS,

Another week has flown by and somehow we are still in September!

The Coins in a bottle class competition is well underway with Acorn Class taking an early lead - will they run away with the prize again this year?

We have our annual AGM taking place in October, more details to follow soon. What I can tell you is that Rhian is baking so it will be worth coming just for the cake. We usually hold our AGM's in the main hall in school at the end of the school day to give as many Parents / Carers a chance to join us as possible - this ensures our little school charity flourishes and we can vote in our new committee members for the coming year.

If you would like to learn more about what we do please pop along to our website and have a look - www.fosms.co.uk

If you aren't already on the whole school WhatsApp group please do consider joining, we are a warm and friendly bunch and share lots of useful information and parents helping parents is what our school community is all about.

We are looking to have a table sale of Halloween items at the end of the school day towards the end of October so please do keep you eyes peeled for more details on that. As always if you wanted to offer a helping hand we would very much appreciate it.

With very grateful thanks,

The FOSMS Team

