



Friday 12th September 2025

St Mary's Primary School

Our Vision: We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family.

School Value - Forgiveness

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to another exciting school year at St Mary's Primary! We are thrilled to have our pupils back and are looking forward to a year full of learning, growth, and fun. As we kick off this year, I want to thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we can make this year a memorable one for all our students.

*Warm regards,
Mrs Walker*

Useful information

We have welcomed the children back to clubs this week, introducing our new netball and computing club which has been successful. Please note we still have spaces available for a few of our clubs. If you would like your child to take part, please let the school office know.

We are excited to share that a professional film company will be visiting our school on Thursday 25th September, please complete and return the consent form by Friday 19th September, this can be found on class dojo.

A letter has gone home this week to year 5 and 6 Parents/carers regarding a Residential trip next year. Please return your slips back to the school office by Friday 26th September to enable us to gauge interest to confirm a booking.

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened today for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2025. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Upcoming Events

15.09.25
whole school visit from the Buddhist Centre

22.09.25
Courageous Advocacy project - Acorn Class

25.09.25 Filming in school

2.10.25
Census day - Special lunch menu

06.10.25
Open Day 09:30am–11:00am
Non SEND Prospective Parent Tour

Dojo Messages

- Magnetic Safety (Child Accident Prevention Trust)
- Filming in school
- Residential Trip for Year 5&6
- FOSMS meeting
- WDF Colour run
- Anglo European School open day
- ACL Family Learning courses
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service open day
- Secondary school admissions

THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS

Class News & Achievers

Oak Class:

In Oak Class this week we have been partitioning numbers up to 10,000,000 in maths and focusing on retrieving information from texts in our reading lessons. In our writing lessons, we have begun looking at narrative poetry, specifically, The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe. In science, we have been learning about inheritance and adaptation and in RE we have learnt the story of the origins of Buddhism. In art, we have continued to create our own glyphs and in geography, we have begun to look at the concept of continental drift.

Chestnut Class

This has been our first full week back and we have worked very hard. In maths we have been learning about place value and numbers up to 1000. We have also had time doing our Times Tables Rockstars on the laptops or iPads. In English, we have used our imaginations and written some lovely Haiku poems. We have also completed our first Vipers reading lesson of this year and learned all about Jackson Pollock. On Thursday we enjoyed starting our pathway and used charcoal and graphite pencils. In RE we looked at our Big Question and spoke about what we want to find out about the topic.

Acorn Class

Acorns have gotten off to a great start to the term. Reception have completed their first full week in school and have done amazing! We have started our topic of 'marvellous me!' we have spoken about the things we like and what is important to us, focussing on family. In science, we are looking at materials. In Literacy our focus is poems. In math's we are looking at place value. We have certainly been busy.

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Eva. Eva has hit the ground running in Year 6 and has made an excellent start. Both myself and Mrs Wells have been very impressed with her effort and application and her recall of information from last year. It's been a fantastic start Eva, keep it up.

Chestnut Achiever

Minnie-Mai has been an absolute superstar with all of her work. She has had an excellent attitude to her learning and has listened really well and made progress already. Well done!

Acorn Achiever

Wilfred is working so hard on improving his handwriting and has produced some beautiful handwriting this week. We are all very proud of him so well done.

Oak Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever is Francesca. Francesca has shown a real sense of community this week by supporting the new Year 5 children to adjust to the routines and expectations in Oak Class. Well done Francesca.

Chestnut Value Achiever

John-Boy has been a huge asset to our class so far this year. He has shown a great sense of community and been so helpful, kind and caring with the year three children. We're very proud of him!

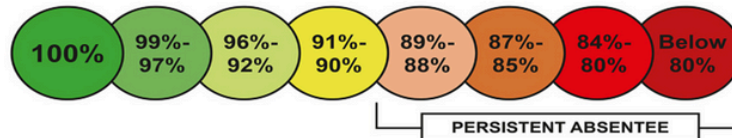
Acorn Value Achiever

Louisa has shown our values of compassion and community. She is the kindest little girl. She has really helped the new reception children to settle. From helping them with the new routines, finding resources, supporting at lunchtime, reading stories and much more.

Attendance Matters

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Reception	75%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	86.67%
Year 3	91.43%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	98%

Whole School Attendance Target is: 92%

National Attendance Target is: 93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week is: 93.40%

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: 40

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 fantastic first Forest School session back after the summer break! We welcomed our new EYFS starters and explained to them what Forest School was all about and talked about the rules and safety at Forest School. We all chose a new Forest School Name and we will try to use these as much as possible throughout our sessions. The children had fun choosing their own names; maybe ask your child if they can remember theirs? We spent time in our nature spots and the children enjoyed exploring while bug hunting and playing in the mud kitchen. A very happy start to our Forest School sessions Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class also had a great first session back and they also chose new Forest School names. The children chose new nature spots and enjoyed some mindfulness minutes focusing on what they could see, hear and smell from their nature spot. The mud kitchen was, as always, a very popular activity and the children had plenty of free play time where they did painting, bug hunting, tree climbing and decorating their nature spots. Well done Chestnut class, a very positive start to the school year!

Oak class were all very excited to get back to Forest School and they too chose new Forest School names and nature spots. We discussed the types of activities that the children would like to do going forward and it was agreed that we would be designing and building a lot more things. Whether that be furniture, ornaments or small animal homes, I have no doubt that the children will create some fantastic things. Quite a few of the children went off with Mrs Valentine to pick blackberries and they used them to make paint, fabric dye and fun juices in the mud kitchen. Other children enjoyed painting, playing in the mud kitchen, climbing trees and exploring. Well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely hibernation over the summer and is now looking forward to going home with George Woods from Acorn class for the weekend. George is always a very enthusiastic member of the class and is a kind and thoughtful friend to his classmates. This week Mrs Valentine and I were doing a bit of clearing and maintenance of the Forest School area and George volunteered to help rake all the leaves from inside the log circle. His willingness to help and the fact that he never complains about anything does not go unnoticed. Well done George, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

Mrs 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



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

Vacancies - Please visit www.berlesduna.co.uk/information/vacancies

Collective Worship

Collective Worship

This week, Rev Jacqui came to lead our school assembly and shared a powerful and comforting message with the children.

She spoke about friendship and reminded everyone that God is our best friend – someone who is always by our side, no matter what we are going through. She explained that, just like a true friend, God listens to us, cares for us deeply, and never leaves us, especially during difficult times. Whether we are feeling scared, sad, or unsure, we can always turn to God in prayer and know that He is there for us.

Rev Jacqui encouraged the children to trust in God's presence in their lives and reminded them that they are never truly alone.

She also shared a verse from the Bible to support her message:

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”
– Psalm 46:1 (NIV)

This verse helped the children understand that God is not only a friend but also a source of strength and safety whenever we face challenges.

The assembly ended with a moment of quiet reflection, allowing the children to think about what it means to have God as a friend and to be grateful for the comfort and support that faith can bring.



Dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
15.09.25	Buddhist Centre visit	Whole School
22.09.25	Courageous Advocacy project	Acorn Class
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

Friends of St Mary's School

FOSMS



A note from FOSMS,

Welcome back to School, as you would expect we have already been plotting and planning a selection of super events for the coming year.

We now have a wonderful new handbook giving lots of information about who we are and what we do, if you'd like to learn more please have a look here www.fosms.co.uk

We will be launching our Coins in a Bottle challenge again next week. We will install a bottle in each of the classes and we ask for the children to collect loose change to pop into the bottle. The bottle will remain in their class until we break for Easter next year. We will count up the change and each class will be handed back what they have managed to raise to spend on fun resources for the Summer Term. The class that raises the most will have their amount matched by FOSMS up to £100 so they can really treat themselves. Last years winners were Acorn class, who will it be this time.

AGM News - Our AGM will take place in October where we will elect the new committee for the coming year. As we are a registered charity we have to have this meeting in school and would appreciate the support of our parents. It will be a short meeting just before school pick up time where we will outline achievements, monies raised and spent and the election of the new members to take the charity forwards.

If you are interested in a role please do drop us an email - contact@fosms.co.uk

More details to follow with a time and date - what I can tell you though is that Rhian is baking especially for attendees!

We are also in the process of updating our pre-loved uniform e-store so keep a look out for that and save yourself some pennies!

With very grateful thanks,

The FOSMS Team