

St Mary's C of E Primary School E-Newsletter

School Value: Courage

Friday 11th July 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher

As we draw closer to the end of term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and events that have taken place over the past week while also looking ahead to what lies ahead for our pupils. It has been a bustling time at our school, and I am thrilled to share some highlights with you.

This week, some of our children participated in the Trust Swimming Gala, a fantastic occasion that showcased not only their swimming prowess but also their sportsmanship and camaraderie. It was heartwarming to witness the enthusiasm and determination displayed by our students, who represented our school with great pride. We commend all those who took part and contributed to such an exhilarating event, embodying the spirit of healthy competition and teamwork.

As we approach the final week of term, I wish to remind all parents and guardians that there will be no after-school clubs next week. This decision has been made in light of the school calendar and is intended to provide an opportunity for our pupils to enjoy a well-earned break before the summer holidays.

In an effort to streamline communication and ensure that parents receive timely updates regarding their child's progress, we will be emailing school reports this year. This adjustment is designed to make the process more accessible and efficient for parents, allowing you to review your child's achievements and areas for growth in a convenient manner. Please keep an eye on your inbox as these reports will be sent out soon.

Our after school clubs have now been confirmed for September, don't forget to return your slips back to the school office before Thursday 17th July. All clubs will be starting w/c 8th September through to w/c 6th October 2025. These clubs may be subject to change following feedback from our Wrap-around care surveys. You will be notified in advance if there are any changes. Names will be pulled out of a hat to keep it fair across the year groups. You will be notified by email if you have been successful with a place. If the club is oversubscribed, you will be placed on a waiting list.

We are also delighted to announce that the Year 6 SATs results were nothing short of fantastic this year. Our Year 6 pupils demonstrated exceptional commitment and perseverance in their preparations, leading to an impressive set of results that reflect their hard work and dedication. We commend both our students and staff for their efforts, as well as the support provided by parents at home.

Further building on the community spirit, we are excited to host the "Books, Biscuits and Blankets" event today, which invites the entire school community to come together for an afternoon of reading and relaxation. This initiative aims to foster a love for literature, encouraging children to explore new books while enjoying tasty treats. We look forward to seeing families and children alike, enjoying this heartening experience.

On Monday morning, we will be conducting class transitions for all pupils, enabling them to meet their new teachers and familiarise themselves with their forthcoming learning environments. This is a significant step in their educational journey, and we encourage you to discuss this transition with your child to help build excitement for the year ahead.

Lastly, please be aware that a new menu has been loaded for September in ParentPay. To facilitate this transition, we kindly request that parents ensure their selections are completed by the deadline of 25th August. Our catering team is committed to providing nutritious and enjoyable meals that cater to a variety of dietary needs, and we are confident that the new menu will be well-received.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these final weeks of term. We greatly value your partnership in your child's education and well-being. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker

Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns have had a good week, will still have a few children out with chicken pox who we wish better. We are doing well with our phonics lessons and are nearing the end of some of the phases. In maths we have been looking at capacity full, empty and half full/empty and how to measure in millilitres and litres. In literacy we have been looking at recounts and the language of first, now, next, finally which will help us with our writing. We have been busily practising our class assembly for Tuesday.

Mrs Fallon — Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In English this week we have started to write non-chronological reports on the laptops. We made notes using PowerPoint and are then using the skills we have learned in computing to type it up on Word. In maths we have started to look at statistics, in particular pictograms. In science we learned about seed dispersal and enjoyed drawing a cartoon of a seed and how it dispersed. In history we looked at Ancient Egyptian Pyramids- what they were for and we also put them on a map of Egypt. Mrs Fallon was so impressed with our recorder and chime bar playing and our singing that we sang our song from music during her Collective Worship. The children showed great courage.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class, we have been replying to letters in our writing lessons and summarising key information in reading. In maths, we have been learning about units of measurement, their relationship and how to convert between them. In geography, we have explored the origins of maps and mapping and in RE, we have looked at what feel is living a 'good' life. In PSHE, we have learnt about what is appropriate to share online and in art, we have used different artists as inspiration to create our own pieces about us.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Lily-Belle has been working so hard in all her phonics lessons and this has had a great impact on her reading. We are all very proud of her so well done.

Chestnut Achiever

was very impressed with Henry's work on seed dispersal in science. He had a good understanding and illustrated and coloured his work beautifully. Well done Henry!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever is Alfie. Alfie has really impressed both Mrs Wells and myself with his mature approach to his learning. He tackles every challenge head on and does his best in every lesson. We are very proud of his successes. Well done, Alfie.

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Louisa has shown compassion. She is a kind little girl and every day she sits next to Adem at lunchtime and encourages him to eat. She opens all his packets and helps him with his straw. What a lovely caring friend.

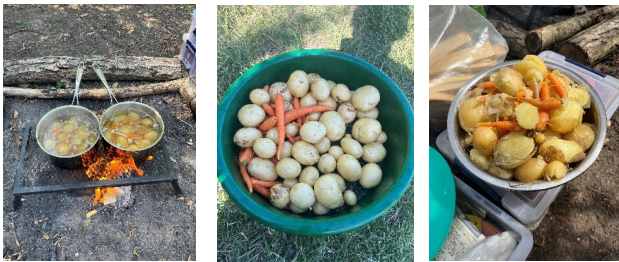
Chestnut: Oliver is this week's value achiever. It can be tricky to start a new school but he has really started to settle in and is doing lots of work, including in history. Well done Oliver!

Oak: Oak's value achiever is Cass. Cass showed a real sense of community by solving a problem we had in the cloakroom. He took it upon himself to make it so that the sink was usable for all of the other children and we were all very grateful that the small flood was dealt with. Thank you, Cass.



Forest School

Acorn class had a great session this week where we harvested some of our potatoes and carrots from the allotment. The vegetables were then taken indoors where Miss Valentine popped them in the oven to cook them. It was wonderful for the children to see the whole cycle of the vegetables, from planting them as seeds, watering and monitoring them during growth, to then harvesting them, cooking them and finally, eating them. All of the children tasted either a potato or carrot (or both) and were extremely pleased by how delicious they tasted. We are all very excited about what we might grow next year. While the vegetables were cooking, the children enjoyed playing with the forest school teddies, climbing trees and collecting bugs. Well done Acorn class.



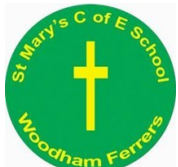
Chestnut class had a great session this week and also harvested some of the potatoes and carrots from the allotment. For Chestnut class we had a lot more time so we built a campfire and boiled our vegetables over that. Once they were cooked almost all of the children ate the veg and were very impressed by how tasty they were. Again, it was wonderful for the children to see the whole cycle of the produce from seed to plate. The children also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and had fun using our natural environment. Well done Chestnut class.

Oak class also harvested potatoes and carrots and we even had a few runner beans and broad beans to pick too. We built a campfire and started to cook our veg over that. Unfortunately, it took a long time for the water to reach a boil so Mrs Valentine took it into the kitchen to finish it off in the oven. The children did all get to try the vegetables, albeit a little later in the day, and they all said it was lovely. The children also enjoyed some free play and spent time in the mud kitchen, climbing trees and painting. Well done Oak class.



Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with John-Boy last week and is now looking forward to going home with Eve from Acorn class this weekend. Eve is always a pleasure to have at forest school. She gets on with all the activities and is always helpful and kind to her classmates. This week, Eve volunteered to read a story to her classmates at the end of our session which was lovely. Well done Eve, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead



MENU

w/c 14.07.25

A reminder that we require meals to be booked one week in advance on ParentPay.
The cut off for this is 9am every Monday for the following week.
If you have missed the deadline you must ensure your child has a packed lunch with them.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ham Sandwich Picnic Box	Sausage and Chips	Chicken Roast	Jacket Potato with tuna	Fish Fingers
Cheese Sandwich Picnic Box	Quorn Sausage and Chips	Quorn fillet roast	Jacket Potato with cheese	Veggie Fingers
Jam Sandwich Picnic Box	Ham baguette	Ham baguette	Ham baguette	Ham /Cheese baguette
	Cheese baguette	Cheese baguette	Cheese baguette	Tuna baguette

- Dojo messages this week:**
- ◇ Trust Swimming Gala
 - ◇ Year 5 WDF Induction Day
 - ◇ Year 6 SATs Results!
 - ◇ Autumn term menu
 - ◇ After School Clubs for September

- Summer Term Clubs**
- KS1 & KS2 Multiskills Club**
Monday: 12.30pm—1:00pm
Mr S.Thomas—EKC
- KS1 & KS2 Film Club**
Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Mrs Beard
- KS1 & KS2 Science Club**
Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Mrs Carlier
- KS1 & KS2 Gardening Lunchtime Club**
Wednesday 12:30pm—1:00pm
Miss Wilson
- KS1 & KS2 Lego Club**
Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Mrs Matthews
- KS1 & KS2 Art Club**
Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Mrs Fallon



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – VACANCIES

DOWNHAM – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT (30 hours per week) – closing date 13th July

For more information and to apply for any of these exciting opportunities, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies - Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)

dates to Remember

Date	Activity	Who
14th July	Class Transition Mornings EYFS Transition morning with Parents	
14th July	Sports day Parents on field at 11.50 - picnic/bbq lunch (PTA). Sports Day start at 1.30pm - BBQ/Games after school	
16th July	Class Transition Mornings EYFS Transition morning without Parents	
17th July	Art Gallery	2:30pm Parents will have an opportunity to view pupils work and discuss reports if they wish.
18th July	Make the rules day—end of year party	
21st July	Year 6 Leavers Trip—Air Hop, Chelmsford	Year 6
22nd July	St Mary's Church—Leavers Service	Whole school including Year 6 parents to attend 9am-10am at St Mary's Church
22nd July	Year 6 leavers assembly	Year 6

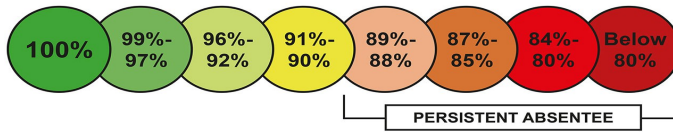
Please note that dates are subject to change — Check Dojo events page for further info

Diary dates for Autumn Term 2025 will be arriving soon.....



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



Reception	65%
Year 1	66.67%
Year 2	81.43%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	77.50%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	90%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **85.56%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **48**

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.

Friends of St Mary's School (FOSMS)



A note from FOSMS,

We are Sports Day Ready!

The countdown is officially on for Sports Day – one of the most exciting events in the school calendar! We can already feel the summer spirit and camaraderie building, and FOSMS is busy behind the scenes planning some extra treats to help make the day even more special.

Help us cut waste – pre/order your BBQ and Cream Teas!

To keep things sustainable and avoid food waste, we're taking pre/orders for our BBQ and cream teas this year. It also means one less queue on the day!

Order yours now via our website:

www.fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events

Summer Raffle

We are Summer Raffle ready and we currently have 32 prizes up for grabs—that's good odds! But you have to be in it to win it.

We will be selling tickets on Monday, or beat the rush and purchase your summer raffle tickets here:

[Please pay \[\] to Friends of St Mary's School - FOSMS](#)

Can we count on your help!

Events like this can't happen without a bit of help from our lovely community. Whether you can spare 30 minutes or longer, we'd love some extra hands to help run stalls on the day.

Please sign up here if you can volunteer:

volunteersignup.org/E4A9W

Thank you as always for your support – we can't wait to see you all there, cheering on the children, enjoying the sunshine (fingers crossed!) and making memories together.

Make the Rules Day and Disco!

On Friday 18th July we are having a make the rules day and a little disco / fun afternoon.

Please take a look at the poster for ideas and feel free to make the rules! It will be 50p for each rule the children make and there is a payment QR code on the attached flyer or cash can be brought on the day.

Please keep these rules with the spirit of school in mind to ensure we can continue to hold little fun days for the children! Enjoy making the rules!

Warm wishes,

The FOSMS Team

contact@fosms.co.uk | www.fosms.co.uk

*Friends of St Mary's School
(FOSMS)*



MAKE THE RULES!

Friday 18th July

1

Wear non school uniform

2

Bring your own choice of snack- no nuts.

3

Wear a hat or funky headwear

4

Have a crazy hairstyle

5

Bring squash in your water bottle

6

Bring your things in a different bag

How it works:

Pay 50p for each rule you would like to make! Please pay in cash to your teacher on the day or scan the QR code.

