

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

School Value: Courage

Friday 20th June 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher.....

As we reach the end of another productive week, I would like to take this opportunity to share some important updates and exciting events taking place within our school community. We remain committed to providing our students with enriching experiences that contribute to their personal development and academic success.

This week, we were delighted to host the Sinfonia Orchestra, who visited our school to deliver an engaging performance that mesmerised both students and staff alike. The orchestra's talented musicians captivated our pupils with their outstanding artistry and professionalism. Moreover, they provided an invaluable insight into the world of orchestral music, greatly enhancing our students' appreciation for the arts. We encourage parents to discuss this experience with their children, as it is our hope that it has inspired a deeper interest in music.

Well done to Mia, Matilda, Isabelle, Dolly, Eva, Ivy, Francesca, Phoebe, Sophie and Olive who participated in our Trust netball tournament earlier this week. The girls showcased remarkable skills and sportsmanship, representing our school with pride and resilience. While we faced tough competition, it was heartening to observe how our students collaborated effectively and supported one another, epitomising the values we espouse as a school community. We are proud of their achievements and encourage them to continue pursuing their interests in sports.

Furthermore, Year 6 experienced an important Cyber Safety talk facilitated by representatives from Essex Police. This session proved to be both informative and empowering, as our students were educated on the potential risks associated with the online world. The discussion also provided essential strategies for remaining safe in an increasingly digital age. We believe that empowering our students with knowledge about cyber safety is crucial in this technologically driven era and will greatly contribute to their overall well-being.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce an upcoming Food & Farming trip that is scheduled for next week. This excursion will provide our students with practical insights into where their food comes from and the significance of sustainable farming practices. Students will have the opportunity to engage directly with the farming community, thereby enhancing both their understanding of the food system and their appreciation for local agriculture.

In line with our commitment to promoting physical fitness, we will also be holding Bikeability sessions in the coming week. This initiative aims to equip our students with the necessary skills to cycle safely on the roads. Through practical assessments, pupils will learn key road safety principles while developing their cycling abilities. We hope that this will encourage lifelong healthy habits among our students. A reminder that on 26th June the session will be delivered on the playground and local roads. On 27th June Parents/Carers with children and their bikes will meet at the leisure centre in SWF. At 1pm Parents/Carers will be required to collect their child and return them to school.

Additionally, we will be conducting home visits for new starters who will be joining us shortly. This personalised approach allows us to understand each child's unique background and needs, ensuring a smooth transition into our school community. It is essential that we continue to foster strong relationships with every family, as this partnership is integral to our students' success. We are very much looking forward to welcoming some new faces to St Marys.

We are also excited about the Stow Maries trip that is on the horizon. This visit will allow our pupils to immerse themselves in local history and understand its significance in shaping our community. We trust that this experiential learning opportunity will ignite a passion for history and encourage critical thinking. Please remember to return your consent slips.

Lastly, I would like to remind all parents that we are offering a pre-order service for food on Sports Day. As this much-anticipated event approaches, we want to ensure that all families have convenient access to food and refreshments throughout the day. Please ensure your orders are submitted in a timely manner to facilitate smooth arrangements.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker

Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns have had a busy week, our caterpillars are doing well and the children are enjoying having the real experience of metamorphosis and how the caterpillar evolves into a butterfly. The strawberries we have been growing have ripened in this lovely weather and the children were able to pick and eat them. We got two each so turned into a lovely maths lesson on counting and division. In history this week we have learnt about Rosa Parks and her bravery to stand up for black rights on segregated buses. Mrs Elia and reception made a bus for our assembly.

Mrs Fallon — Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

It has been a very hot week but we have still worked really hard. In English we have been working on writing a Voyage and Return story and tried to use rich language and vocabulary from last week's poetry. In maths we have been looking at angles and lines. In music we have continued with our Dragon Song and playing more tunes using the recorder. We really enjoyed World Music Day. It was nice to have live music and we enjoyed the activities that we did in our classroom too. We enjoyed our play time on Friday morning as we used all of the items from the coin jar.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have focussed on summarising texts in our reading lessons and using synonyms for said in our writing lessons. In maths, we have calculated interior angles in both regular and irregular polygons. In geography we have learnt to use four digit and six digit grid references and in RE we have looked at the Christian concept of sin and how it corresponds to British law. In Spanish, we have finished our unit on nouns about school and we have also enjoyed a range of activities to celebrate World Music Day.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Eve, this week in Literacy we have been learning about 'fear' stories. Eve wrote a lovely fear story. She was eager to spend her free time to finish it, which is a great work ethic. Well done Eve

Chestnut Achiever

I was very impressed with Benji's effort and hard work on World Music Day. He threw himself into everything and really enjoyed his day. Well done Benji!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Leo. Leo has really embraced on drive on handwriting and has really impressed both myself and Mrs Wells with the care and effort he has been applying in his work. It really is lovely to see the improvement, well done Leo.

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Aria has demonstrated courage this week, she has participated in forest school and also attended the music workshop in the hall even though she finds the large hall a little daunting. We are all very proud of Aria, well done!

Chestnut: River shows great respect to adults in school. She always does as she is asked and is a good role model. Well done River!

Oak: Oak's value achievers are Eva, Ivy, Phoebe, Dolly, Francesca, Mia Isabelle and Matilda Who represented our school wonderfully at the Trust Netball competition. They played with integrity and showed a real sense of community in how they worked together and supported each other. Well done, girls.



Acorn class had a lovely forest school session this week. The weather was particularly hot so we made sure to take regular water breaks and to have shaded areas available. The children enjoyed bug hunting and found some fantastic bugs including millipedes, large beetles, lady birds and a large moth. It was lovely to see the children so interested in the insects we have in our natural environment. The children also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and some of the children painted some little wooden ornaments that I had provided. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class also had a lovely forest school session this week and they also made sure to keep hydrated and as cool as possible. Some of the children used a pallet that we had laying around and turned it into a stage. The children then made up little shows and sang songs for the adults and the other children to watch. We have some very talented children at St Mary's and it was lovely to see them being creative and having fun whilst also supporting and encouraging each other. A couple of the children made a game of tic-tac-toe using 4 sticks to make the grid and then using leaves as one of the counters and wood chips as the other. The reigning champion so far is Oliver who took great pleasure in beating me very easily. Well done Chestnut class!

Oak class had a busy session again this week. The children all put together plans in their forest school journals for something that they wanted to build and make. Then using pieces of timber and hammer and nails they made a start on their creations. We have plans for a fox kennel, a game, a chair and a table and I will try to get the materials for these so that the children can build them over the next few weeks. A couple of the girls made a hedgehog house which we are hoping will attract hedgehogs to our site and Archie made a little wooden car. Well done Oak class, a very creative session!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Oliver last weekend and is now looking forward to going home with Aria from Acorn class this week. Aria had a great session at forest school this week and joined in with various activities which sometimes she struggles to do. She played nicely with her classmates and was a joy to be around. Well done Aria, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.





MENU

w/c 23.06.25

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
Meatball pasta bake	Ham Pitta Pizza	Sausage roast	Jacket Potato with tuna	Chicken nuggets
No meatball pasta bake	Cheese Pitta Pizza	Quorn sausage roast	Jacket Potato with cheese	Quorn nuggets
Ham baguette	Ham baguette	Ham baguette	Ham baguette	Ham /Cheese baguette
Cheese baguette	Cheese baguette	Cheese baguette	Cheese baguette	Tuna baguette

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ After school care survey
- ◇ Online course form SEN parents/carers
- ◇ After school provision questionnaire
- ◇ Emergency contact form update request
- ◇ Netball tournament

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 – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER (Full Time) – closing date 2nd July

ST NICHOLAS – CARETAKER (12.5 hours per week) – closing date 23rd June

WHITMORE – SITE MANAGER (32.5 hours per week) – closing date 30th June

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

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

Date	Activity	Who
24th June	Essex Food & Farming day	Chestnut Class
25th June	Trust Pupil Voice @ St Mary's School—Forest School	
26th June	Stay and Play craft morning 9.30am-10.30am for the new Reception intake	
26th June	Year 6 Bikeability – taking place at St Mary's School	
27th June	Year 6 Bikeability— 08:45 Parents/guardians with children and their bikes will meet at the leisure centre in SWF. 13:00: Parents/guardians will pick up the children and return them to school.	
3rd July	Stow Maries Great war museum	Acorn Class
7th July	Sports day Parents on field at 11.50 - picnic/bbq lunch (PTA). Sports Day start at 1.30pm - BBQ/Games after school	
9th July	Trust Swimming Gala	Selected pupils
11th July	Books, biscuits and Blankets 2.45pm— 3.15pm on the school field	
11th July	School reports home	

dates to Remember

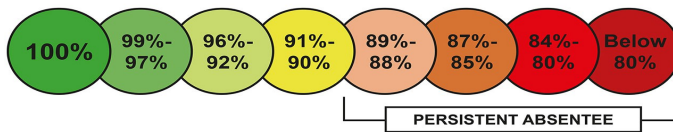
Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info

Date	Activity	Who
11th July	Year 2 writing session in Chestnut—English	
11th July	EYFS & Yr 1 Working in Partnership	
14th July	Class Transition Mornings EYFS Transition morning with Parents	
14th July	Sports day reserve date	
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



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



Reception	85%
Year 1	94.44%
Year 2	92.86%
Year 3	97.78%
Year 4	98.75%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	91.25%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **94.13%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **50**

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 hurtling towards Sports Day!

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

We need 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.

Warm wishes,

The FOSMS Team

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