

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

School Value: Forgiveness

Friday 16th May 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher,

Well Done, Year 6!

A huge well done to all our Year 6 pupils for completing their SATs this week! We are incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience, and positive attitude you have shown throughout. You approached each test with determination and maturity – you truly did your best, and that's what matters most.

Thank you as well to our staff and families for the fantastic support. We look forward to enjoying the rest of the term with some exciting activities ahead!



Mental Health Awareness Week

This week, our school has been taking part in Mental Health Awareness Week, focusing on the importance of looking after our minds as well as our bodies. The theme this year is "Movement: Moving More for Our Mental Health," and we've been encouraging all our pupils to get active in ways that make them feel good. We've also had classroom discussions about emotions, kindness, and ways to support each other. It's been wonderful to see children engaging thoughtfully and learning how to care for their own well-being and that of others. Let's keep the conversation going — every day is a good day to look after our mental health.

Berlesduna Trust Orienteering Day

We have been invited to participate in the Berlesduna Trust Orienteering day on Wednesday 21st May at The Willows Primary School in Basildon, we have selected several children to take part. We wish them the best of luck, we know they will do us and themselves proud!

Knife Crime Visit from Essex Police

We will be welcoming in Essex Police next week to share their Knife Intensification campaign with our year sixes. We feel this is such an important topic and its imperative we raise awareness about this important issue. Please take some time to have a read through the flyer on the next pages.

Please be reminded that next Friday (23rd May) is an Inset day. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 2nd June following the May half term break

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker

YOUNG PEOPLE & KNIVES

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



THE EFFECTS OF
KNIFE CRIME CUT
DEEP

WHAT COUNTS AS KNIFE CRIME?

- Carrying a knife in public.
- Buying a knife, including online, if you are under 18.
- Threatening someone with a knife.
- Carrying a knife that is banned.
- Having an illegal knife or weapon at home.
- An incident where the victim was stabbed with a knife.
- A robbery or burglary where the thieves carried a knife as a weapon.

SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

- Have you noticed any missing knives from your kitchen?
- Or found any in your home that you don't recognise?
- Is your child being secretive about where they are, what they are doing, who they are seeing?
- Will they let you look in their bags or pockets?
- Are they scared to go out or perhaps reticent to go to certain places?
- Do they seem scared, quiet or angry a lot more than they used to?

WHAT IS JOINT ENTERPRISE?

If somebody has been fatally stabbed someone could be found guilty of that person's murder even if they were not the person who actually stabbed them. This is known in law as **joint enterprise**.

It means they could also be seen as guilty for someone else's death, because they were part of the situation that could have encouraged the incident, or were part of it without trying to stop it from happening.

This can include situations such as:

- They were part of a group and someone in that group kills someone with a knife.
- They were supporting the attacker's actions in some way. This could be verbally by encouraging them or physically by their presence.
- They knew that the person who made the attack was going to start violence against the victim, and did nothing to stop it.

WHERE CAN I GET SUPPORT IF I'M WORRIED MY CHILD IS INVOLVED IN KNIFE CRIME?

If you are a parent, guardian or carer, it's understandably worrying if you find out that your child is carrying a knife, or that they are involved with people who do. It's important that you talk to your child and keep communication open with them. Speak to them about the serious

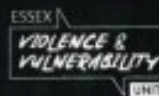
consequences of carrying a knife and try to find out why they feel the need to carry a knife. It could be that they don't feel safe, or because their friends do. It's important to get to the reason before you can address it.

You can find links to resources by scanning the QR code below.

HOW CAN I DISPOSE OF A KNIFE OR WEAPON?

We have a number of weapons bins across the county and every knife surrendered is one less dangerous weapon in circulation on the streets of Essex. **You can find a map with their locations by scanning the QR code.**

Note: We would advise people to ensure that the knife is wrapped up and secure and is taken directly to a knife bin from home for disposal to ensure the carrying of the knife does not become illegal.



Classroom News

Acorn Class:

We have enjoyed the sun being out this week! In literacy this week we have been looking at play scripts of traditional fairytales and we have had lots of fun acting them out. In maths we have been working on fractions, we have been finding whole numbers, thirds and unit fractions and non unit fractions. In PE we enjoyed a warm sunny session outside balancing and striking through tennis. In handwriting we introduced the new Letter Join handwriting system and the children have thoroughly enjoyed it. They have used the iPads and the laptops and have been able to add and delete text—what a busy week.

Mrs Smith — Learning Support Assistant

Chestnut Class:

We have worked very hard in school this week. As year six were busy doing their SATs, we had year 5 Oak in our class. It was lovely to see how much they have changed and how they still have a great attitude to their work. Chestnut Class have written some fantastic portal stories- the use of language has been amazing! In maths we have continued to look at decimals and developed a really good understanding. In geography we researched Greek Landmarks and found out some fascinating information. In RE we looked at what a Bat Mitzvah and Bar Mitzvah is. In science we had great fun looking at translucent, transparent and opaque materials and their shadows. We also enjoyed our Spanish lesson where we learned to say the numbers 11-20.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children for completing their SATs with determination, resilience, and a positive attitude. Over the past few months, they have shown tremendous focus, maturity, and commitment to their learning. Every single child approached the assessments with courage and a desire to do their best, and that is truly something to celebrate. We are proud not just of what you've achieved, but of who you are—thoughtful, hardworking, and full of potential. You've shown true character this week, and we hope you feel proud of yourselves too. Well done—you've earned a well-deserved rest!

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

The whole of Acorn class are our achievers this week. We are all super proud of how Acorn class has coped with Mrs Fallon being off. All of Acorn class have welcomed all the teachers and adapted well to the change.

Chestnut Achiever

This week Layla has worked very hard in maths. She has found it a little challenging but persevered. Miss Francis and I have been very pleased with her effort. Well done Layla!

Oak Achiever

Year 6 for completing their SATs with such determination, resilience, and focus. Their hard work and positive attitude throughout this challenging time have truly impressed us all.

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Evie-Rose is our achiever for showing compassion to Aria and helping and supporting her to come back into school

Chestnut: James has an excellent attitude to school life. He follows all of our values and understands why we need them. He is a great role model. Well done James!

Oak: Year 6. We are extremely proud of our Year 6 children for completing their SATs with such determination, resilience, and focus. They have shown courage in facing challenges, compassion in supporting one another, and a strong sense of community in working together to achieve their best.

THANKFULNESS ● COMMUNITY ● COMPASSION ● TRUTHFULNESS ● COURAGE ● FORGIVENESS



Acorn class had fun making a scarecrow this week. We did this by tying off the cuffs and ankles on an old tracksuit and then stuffing the clothing full of straw. We used a pillowcase as the head and stuff that with straw in a round head shape and the children drew on some facial features and some hair. The children also tried a new activity this week called Hapa Zome, this is an ancient Japanese art form which involves bashing natural foliage such as leaves, grass, flowers, etc. onto fabric to create pictures or patterns. The children thoroughly enjoyed this activity and we will be doing some more next week. The children also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen, the dens and the digging area. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class also enjoyed having a go at Hapa Zome this week. We had some very creative artwork and one child tied two whittled sticks to opposite edges of his fabric to create a scroll. I was very impressed! Some of the girls enjoyed painting in our art area and made some lovely colourful pictures to brighten up our forest school area. The children helped to water the allotment and the sunflowers and also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and the digging area. Well done Chestnut class!

Due to the year 6 SATS, only year 5 took part in Oak classes forest school session this week but that didn't stop us from having a fantastic time. The children created some lovely Hapa Zome art and painted a couple of our wooden pieces of furniture to brighten the site up. The children also weeded the allotment and it is now looking extremely tidy. Unfortunately our sweetcorn has not done well and hasn't even begun to sprout, so rather than waste the entire planter tub, the children planted some runner bean plants that we were kindly gifted by Mrs Smith from Acorn class. Well done year 5, you have worked extremely hard this week and have achieved lots!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Dougie and Phoebe last weekend and is now looking forward to going home with Henry from Chestnut class. This week Henry threw himself in to all of the activities that were on offer. He helped with all the watering and the tidying but I think most impressively, Henry made an Ancient Egyptian Scroll with his Hapa Zome art. Henry's imagination and creativity shone this week and it was lovely to see. Well done Henry, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead



MENU

w/c 19.05.25

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 Pizza	Sausage Roast	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Chicken Nuggets / Quorn Nuggets
No meat meatball pasta bake	Cheese Pizza	Quorn Sausage Roast	Jacket Potato with Cheese	Ham Baguette
Ham Baguette	Ham Baguette	Ham Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette
Cheese Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Tuna Baguette

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ KEGS Prospective Student Tours for Year 5 boys
- ◇ Acorn Class—Stow Maries trip
- ◇ Chestnut Class—Food & Farming trip

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

Year 6 Tutoring
Thursday: 3.15pm—4:15pm
Mr Austin

dates to Remember

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

Date	Activity	Who
19th May	Year 6—Knife Crime assembly	Year 6
21st May (Change of date)	Trust Orienteering Competition	Selected Pupils
22nd May	Year 2 Writing session in Chestnut Class	
22nd May	EYFS & Yr 1 Working in Partnership	
23rd May	Non Pupil Day	
3rd June	Paul Hannaford at WDF - Y6 only - accompanied by a parent - then back to school.	Letter from SW Partnership to follow. Proposed start time 9:30am-11:30am
3rd June	Power to Inspire	
10th June	Year 6 Leavers service Chelmsford Cathedral	
12th June	Trust Football / Netball Tournament @ The Willows School	
18th June	Trust Swimming gala	
20th June	Year 6 Cyber safety & Knife crime with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.	
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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 Marys 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.	
7th July	Sports day Parents on field at 11.50 - picnic/bbq lunch (PTA). Sports Day start at 1.30pm - BBQ/Games after school	
11th July	Books, biscuits and Blankets 2.45pm— 3.15pm on the school field	
11th July	School reports home	
11th July	Year 2 writing session in Chestnut—English	
11th July	EYFS & Yr 1 Working in Partnership	

dates to Remember

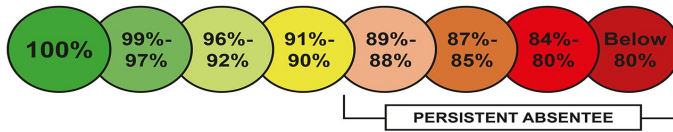
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Date	Activity	Who
14th July	Class Transition Mornings EYFS Transition morning with Parents	
14th July	Sports day reserve date	
16th July	Class Transition Mornings EYFS Transition morning without Parents	
17th July	Art Gallery	2pm Parents will have an opportunity to view pupils work and discuss reports if they wish.
21st July	Year 6 Leavers Trip—TBC	
22nd July	Year 6 leavers assembly	



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



Reception	95%
Year 1	94.44%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	88.89%
Year 5	80%
Year 6	93.13%



Whole School Attendance Target is: 92%

National Attendance Target is: 93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week is: 92.50%

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: 41

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 winging towards half term at an alarming rate! Here is a round up of this weeks news

VE Day and RBL Donation

We have counted up and we are so proud to tell you that with your support we were able to raise an amazing total of £452.06! It was always our intention to split what was made and donate half to our local branch of the Royal British Legion who support our school each year. We will have a wonderful sum of £226.03 to hand over to them. We will organise a date for them to come in and the children can present them with the cheque.

Amazon wish list

Thank you so much to those families who have purchased items from the class wish lists. I can't tell you how proud I am of our school community we are so very grateful for your kindness and generosity. Our teachers are beyond grateful and they are so appreciative of your support. We do keep these lists up to date and add things as they become needed so please do check back on your class if you're able to help.

Sports Day

Sports day is coming up on 7th July (reserve date 14th July). We will be hosting our usual BBQ and refreshments stands along with a selection of entertaining games, not to mention our summer raffle. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon. As always Rhian and I need helpers so if you could spare some time to man a stall or help set up / put away that would be most welcome. We love putting on events but we are just two people!

Committee News

Our Committee members have approved two requests for funds from school. The first being £100 to cover the cost of the Sinfona Dots & lines music performance. This visit will be for the whole school and the children are very much looking forward to it.

We have also been asked if we could purchase new sports equipment for Sports Day and the weekly PE lessons. This has all been ordered and we have some lovely items to ensure sports day is fun for all.

With very grateful thanks,

The FOSMS Team