

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

School Value: Forgiveness

Friday 9th May 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher

Rev Jacqui led our assembly on Wednesday and spoke about peace, she explained we were celebrating VE day this week which represented 80 years of peace. Rev Jacqui spoke with the children about how beacons would be lit across the country in celebration and likened that to Jesus being the light in the world.

Rev Jacqui read a verse from Romans 12:18. which stated 'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone'. This verse encourages individuals to strive for peace in their relationships with others, emphasizing personal responsibility in maintaining harmony.

This week we also welcomed the Essex Fire and Rescue officers in to school to deliver a water safety assembly to the whole school. The officer spoke to the children about what to do if they fall into cold water, how to keep safe in swimming pools and paddling pools, how to stay safe on the beach and what colour flags to look out for when a lifeguard is present. The children learnt valuable tips on how to float when out of their depth and what to do if they saw someone struggling in water.

We celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE day in style on Thursday and we had a wonderful turnout for the event, the children looked wonderful dressed in red, white and blue. A huge

thank you to parents for showing their support, in accordance with The Department for Education we aim to actively promote British values in schools to ensure our young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. Both the children and their parents looked to have had a super time and enjoyed the cream teas and games on offer, the sunshine even made an appearance too. A huge thanks to the FOSMS team for organising this event and ensuring lots of fun was had as well as raising money for our school and the local branch of the Royal British Legion who support our school each year for Remembrance Day.



Thank you also to Mrs Richardson who baked the delicious scones for our wonderful cream tea's.

This week, I have attended the third cycle of the Church of England NPQEL (National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership) course in Bristol. The focus for this residential has been on schools working in partnership, governance, and accountability—crucial elements in ensuring strong and sustainable leadership. It has been a valuable opportunity to reflect on current practice and explore ways to further strengthen collaboration and effectiveness across our school community.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker

Classroom News

Acorn Class:

This week in maths we have been working on looking at fractions and learning about halves and quarters. In music we have been looking at different classical music and identifying musical instruments we have heard. In science we continued to look at seasons. We also enjoyed taking part in some classroom activities before heading out to the field to play some games and enjoy time with our families celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE day.

Mrs Smith — Learning Support Assistant

Chestnut Class:

This week has been an eventful one. We've enjoyed Forest School and had a special, important assembly about water safety. In art, we started to do our backgrounds for our animation work. In RE we looked at Baptism. In geography we learned about time zones and I was amazed by the wonderful posters that the children created to show their understanding. On Thursday we had our VE Day celebration. Our reading vipers lesson was about VE Day. In maths we did some code breaking and then read some information about Alan Turing as the children were keen to know who he was. In the afternoon we completed some great art work and then enjoyed a wonderful time organised by FOSMS and delicious cream teas cooked by Mrs Richardson.

Mrs Carlier — Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have been focusing on inference in our reading lessons and the use of conjunctions and prepositions in grammar. In maths we have been learning about substitution and the use of algebraic formulae. In history, we have researched The House of Wisdom and its importance to early Islamic civilization and in RE we have tried to reconcile the bible's message of peace with its stories of violence, such as David and Goliath. We have also enjoyed our VE Day celebrations.

Mr Austin — Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Minne-Mae has shown resilience this week and not given up when finding learning tricky. She has made Mrs Hollaman feel very welcome and been helpful in lessons, well done Minnie-Mae.

Chestnut Achiever

Jesse has worked really hard on coming up with his ideas for his portal story. He has shown a good imagination and his work was well presented too. Well done Jesse.

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Archie. Archie has really impressed us this week with his work on algebraic formulae. He worked independently and accurately and showed a real improvement in his understanding. Well done!

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Lily-Belle has shown her values this week and has been an excellent example of an ambassador to her peers. What a model student she is, well done Lily-Belle.

Chestnut: Amelia Richardson is our value achiever this week, she has been extremely helpful with organising things for VE day celebrations both before and after school and even helped to tidy up after the event too. What a great sense of community—well done Amelia!

Oak: Oak's value achiever this week is Riley-John. Riley-John is polite and respectful and demonstrates both our school and British Values consistently. He's a credit to himself and our school.

THANKFULNESS ● COMMUNITY ● COMPASSION ● TRUTHFULNESS ● COURAGE ● FORGIVENESS



Acorn class had another lovely session this week. We made nature art by sketching a picture of a bug onto a piece of paper and then going off to collect natural resources such as leaves, twigs, moss and soil to glue onto our pictures to create some art. The children did very well with this activity and we had lots of lovely butterflies, snails and ants. A particular favourite was a “stick insect” which consisted of just a stick glued to a piece of paper with googly eyes on. The children also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen, the dens and the digging area. Well done Acorn class!

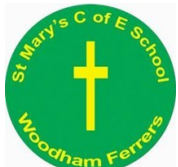
Chestnut class did some nature craft at forest school this week. We started by cutting cardboard into the shape of an animal and drawing a face on it. Then we poked holes through the picture and gathered things like flowers, grass and twigs to thread through the holes, creating 3D type art. We had some lovely lions and butterflies made as well as some other small creatures. 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!

Oak class enjoyed a lot of free play this week after working so hard on spreading the wood chips last week. We did take some time to thoroughly water our sunflowers and allotment. An activity that quite a few of the children enjoyed was making windmills out of brightly coloured plastic cups. We cut the cups into curved strips and then using a hammer and nails, attached the strips to a whittled stick. The children put these in the allotment and the hope is that they will keep the birds away from our fruit and vegetables. The children also enjoyed using the tarp den that they had built and also played in the mud kitchen and the digging area. Well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Harrison last weekend and is now looking forward to going home with Dougie and Phoebe from Oak class this week. Both Dougie and Phoebe stood out this week with how productive they both were. Phoebe was the only volunteer for weeding the allotment with one of the adults and she worked extremely hard. Dougie also worked very hard this week tidying and creating part of the forest school site and repeatedly asking me if there was anything he could do to help me. It makes a huge difference to the adults at forest school when children volunteer themselves to be extra helpful. Well done Dougie and Phoebe, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead





MENU

w/c 12.05.25

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
Beef Bolognese Pasta Bake	Sausages	Chicken Roast	Jacket Potato with Tuna	Fish Fingers / Veggie Fingers
Quorn Mince Pasta Bake	Quorn Sausages	Quorn Fillet 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:**
- ◇ School Health questionnaire
 - ◇ VE Day
 - ◇ Amazon Wish lists
 - ◇ Water safety assembly
 - ◇ School fund contribution
 - ◇ Paul Hannaford—School talk—Year 6

- 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



AFTER SCHOOL MULTISKILLS CLUB

MONDAY - ALL YEARS - UNTIL 4.00PM



For half termly costs and start/finish times, please visit:

Book online: www.essexkidscamp.co.uk/activities

Email: info@essexkidscamp.co.uk



@Essex Kids Camp

dates to Remember

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

Date	Activity	Who
12th May	KS2 SATS	Year 6
12th May— 16th May	Mental Health Awareness Week	
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
18th June	Trust Swimming gala	
20th June	Year 6 Cyber safety & Knife crime with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.	
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	

dates to Remember

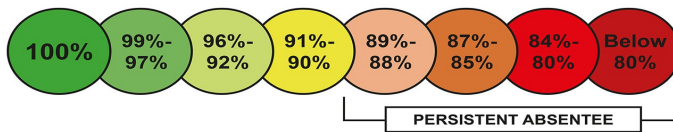
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Date	Activity	Who
11th July	Year 2 writing session in Chestnut—English	
11th July	EYFS & Yr 1 Working in Partnership	
14th July	Class Transition Mornings EYFS Transition morning with Parents	
14th July	Sports day reserve date	
16th July	Class Transition Mornings EYFS Transition morning without Parents	
17th July	Art Gallery	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	100%
Year 1	87.50%
Year 2	98.21%
Year 3	92.50%
Year 4	95.83%
Year 5	88.75%
Year 6	91.41%



Whole School Attendance Target is: **95%**

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.50%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **53**

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

VE Day

Thank you all so much for coming and supporting our VE Day celebrations this afternoon. I thought it went amazingly and the sunshine I ordered made a timely appearance. A huge thank you to Rhian, Sandra, Kelly, Mike, Amelia and Nanny Lynn, Hannah, Lisa W and my George who worked their little socks off behind the scenes to make it all happen seamlessly - you are my heroes.

Thank you to Paul and Carol and Fred and Sandra for sponsoring this fabulous event. This has meant that everything we raise will be split between our school PTA and the local RBL. I will count up and let you know how we did and what we will be able to donate to the RBL.

Thank you to the parents who fully embraced our theme of red, white and blue, congratulations to Kelly Moss on winning the parent prize for embracing the red white and blue theme!

Please feel free to share any photos you got with us and if I have permission I'd love to share them on our website.

I would also like to share a huge thanks to DCS Catering supplies for donating cups, napkins, crockery and boxes to the event, this really kept costs down ensuring we could raise a fantastic sum.



One last huge thank you to Kelly Richardson for baking up an absolute storm with the scones for the cream tea boxes—they were delicious! I'm going to see if we can sweet talk her into the same for sports day—watch this space!

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.

With very grateful thanks, FOSMS