

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

School Value: Forgiveness

Thursday 1st May 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher

A little reminder that we have an inset day tomorrow, therefore our weekly newsletter is earlier than usual. I hope you all enjoy a longer weekend with the bank holiday too. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 6th May.

This week we welcomed Essex Police in to school to deliver a short presentation to each class about the importance of their role. A note worth mentioning is that some of the children did not know their address and post code, this is particularly useful to know in case they ever needed to contact the emergency services.

Today marks the deadline for the Year 6 SATS Breakfast consent. We are looking forward to welcoming year 6 in for "tea and toast" from Monday 12th May—Thursday 15th May at 08:15am—this will hopefully settle those last minute nerves.

We have not quite had all responses back for the year 6 Leavers Cathedral Trip which will take place on Tuesday 10th June. Please ensure these are submitted back to the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you to all the children who took part in our gardening club this week, they have planted some strawberries! We are very much looking forward to tasting these in school, we will keep you updated with our progress.

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS—We are delighted to invite you to our VE Day Celebration on Thursday 8th May at 2pm, where we will be marking this important occasion with a special Cream Tea event.

Pupils will take part in activities to learn about the significance of Victory in Europe Day, including music, storytelling, and crafts. To add to the festivities, we invite pupils (and parents!) to dress in red, white, and blue or 1940s-style clothing.

Delicious cream teas will be available to purchase, and we kindly ask that you pre-order to avoid disappointment on the day. Please message Leanne Matthews with your order before 1st May so that we can cater accordingly. We hope you can join us for this special Community Day, where we will reflect, enjoy traditional treats and celebrate together. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Fallon a speedy recovery and thank Mrs Holloman for stepping in to take care of our Acorn class.

A big thank you to our families who have purchased items from our Amazon wish list! Huge thanks to the Woods Family, the Bell Family, the Denny Family and the Pharo family. We are so very grateful!

Wishing you all a lovely extra long weekend, Mrs Walker

Classroom News

Acorn Class:

This week in literacy we have been reading “Little red riding hood”, looking at adjectives and writing our own fairytale storyboards. During maths we have been discussing fractions and their equal and unequal parts. In Science we have been looking at our seasons and months of the year. For RE we have had some lovely discussions on who made the world?

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

This week has been yet another busy but short week. In English we have continued to look at writing Portal Stories. We have used Letter-join every day to practice our handwriting and the children all agree that it is a success. In maths we have been looking at fractions and decimals, specifically tenths and hundredths. In RE we thought about what we knew about our topic and what we wanted to find out. Our geography lesson was about the Arctic and Antarctic Circles and how they are similar and different. In art, the class really enjoyed making “moving” people as part of our Making Animated Drawings pathway.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have moved on to forming algebraic expressions in maths and learnt about semi-colons, prepositions and active and passive voice in English. In science we have been using Newton Meters to calculate mass and weight of objects and see the effect that gravity has. In RE we have used passages from the Qur’an to see how Muslims view peace and conflict. In art, we have drawn cubes to further our understanding of how to create form when drawing. We also had a very informative presentation from two Essex Police officers about how to keep ourselves safe.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher



Acorn class had a lovely session this week. We were slightly delayed in getting outside due to a visit from Essex Police but we still managed to have lots of fun. The children were split into two groups with one group making a start on giving our flowers, sunflower seeds and allotment plenty of water. The other group had free play and they enjoyed playing in the dens, the mud kitchen and doing craft bits that were left over from Earth Day. We then swapped the groups over so that everyone got a chance to do the watering and have free play time. Well done Acorn class, you worked incredibly hard carrying watering cans and buckets of water down the field to keep all of our plants, fruit and vegetables growing nicely.

Chestnut class also worked extremely hard this week. Now that the weather is getting much nicer, a lot of weeds and cow parsley had overgrown around our flower pots and tyres. The children got stuck in and cut back all of the overgrown foliage so that our flowers can now grow nicely and get some sunshine. The children also checked up on the allotment and were excited to see that we have flowers on our blueberry bush which means we should be getting fruit in the weeks to come. We also noticed that our potatoes are beginning to sprout as well as our carrots! A few of the children created an imaginative game which was lovely to see and others did some art and craft. Well done Chestnut class.

Oak class had perhaps the hardest job this week because we had a truck load of wood chips delivered that we needed to spread around the whole of the forest school site. This, however, did not phase the children at all and they all took part in shovelling the wood chips into wheelbarrows and spreading it around. This should help the ground to stay less boggy when the bad weather comes in the winter. The children also worked hard on the allotment which had grown quite a lot of weeds over the Easter holidays. Two of our year 6 boys made up a game using some wood, a small ball and a sectioned flower tray. The aim of the game was to roll the ball down the galley in the wood and try to knock off a little wooden animal. If you knocked off the animal, you won it as the main prize. If you didn't knock the animal off but the ball fell into the flower tray, you won whatever item was in that part of the tray. The boys charged everyone a leaf if they wanted to play. It was such a great and imaginative game that they came up with all by themselves, and within minutes everyone (including the staff) were queuing up to have a go. Well done boys and well done to all of Oak class, what a fabulous session we had.

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with James last weekend and is now looking forward to going home with Harrison from Acorn class this week. Harrison worked particularly hard this week and took part in every activity and even asked for more jobs when he was finished. He was kind towards his classmates and very helpful when it came to tidy up time. Well done Harrison, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead



MENU
w/c 05.05.25

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.

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
	Ham Pitta Pizza	Sausage Roast	Jacket Potato Tuna	Chicken Nuggets / Quorn Nuggets
	Cheese Pitta Pizza	Quorn Sausage Roast	Jacket Potato Cheese	Ham Baguette
	Ham Baguette	Ham Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette
	Cheese Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Tuna Baguette

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ Sun cream and hat reminder
- ◇ After school club cover this week
- ◇ Inset day reminder
- ◇ End of year reports
- ◇ SWF Leisure centre half term activities

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
2nd May	Non Pupil Day	
8th May	VE Day celebrations	Parents/Carers from 2pm
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	

dates to Remember

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

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 & 27th June	Year 6 Bikeability—TBC	
4th July	Books, biscuits and Blankets	
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	School reports home	
11th July	Year 2 writing session in Chestnut—English	
11th July	EYFS & Yr 1 Working in Partnership	

dates to Remember

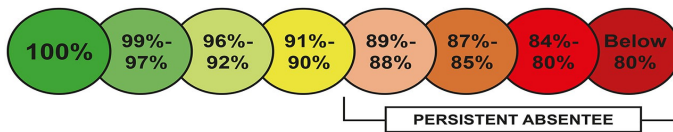
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Date	Activity	Who
14th July	Class Swaps EYFS Transition morning with Parents	
14th July	Sports day reserve date	
16th July	Class swaps EYFS Transition morning without Parents	
17th July	Art Gallery	2pm Parents will have an opportunity to view pupils work and discuss reports is
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	75%
Year 1	84.72%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	94.44%
Year 5	97.50%
Year 6	90.63%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.88%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **56**

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

Coins in a Bottle

The cash from the Coins in a Bottle challenge has been handed over to the class teachers so we look forward to sharing what each class has put their money towards.

Thank you all for joining in, I will be reinstating this again in September so keep hold of your loose change. I have a feeling it will be quite competitive.

VE Day

We will be holding a fun afternoon on Thursday 8th May to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. You are all invited along to join in the fun with your child on the school field from 2pm until 4pm. We will have music, games and refreshments available along with cream tea boxes which you will be able to pre order.

This year thanks to our amazing sponsors DCS Catering supplies and South Woodham Barbers we will be cost neutral for this event meaning every penny we raise will be split between our FOSMS charity and the RBL who attend school each year to speak about remembrance. I'm delighted that we will be able to give back to our community in this way. Thank you so much Paul and Carol and Fred and Sandra!

This is your last chance to pre order a cream tea—we will have some for sale on the day but it will be first come first served.

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

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. Huge thanks to the Woods Family, the Bell Family, the Denny Family and the Pharo family.

With very grateful thanks, FOSMS

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



VE DAY

80TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US FOR:

- ✓ Fun and games
- ✓ Cream teas
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Community Spirit



**THURSDAY 8TH MAY
2PM - 4PM**

We would love for you to join us to celebrate this historical milestone in style.

Half of anything we manage raise on the day will be donated to the Royal British Legion who have supported our school community over the years.

So come and celebrate with us!

