

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

School Value: Forgiveness

Friday 21st March 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher

We welcomed Rev. Jacqui into school again this week, she gave an assembly explaining to the children about praying and praying. Rev. Jacqui explained to the children that during Lent **Praying** is a time to stop and think about our own lives and spend more time with God through prayer. **Fasting can be** used to challenge ourselves to give up something and **Giving** is important to think about other people, do something kind to show others that we care about them.

Mark 11.24-25

So I tell you, whatever you ask for in **prayer**, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

²⁵And when you stand **praying**, if you hold anything against anyone, **forgive** them, so that your Father in heaven may **forgive** you your sins."

Rev. Jacqui asked the children what they thought praying was and we had some lovely answers from the children. Essentially it is a conversation with God, which you can have anytime, anywhere and in any way. We can pray in our heads, out loud, with song, maybe even writing things down or moments of silence to sit with God.

Rev. Jacqui showed the children an easy way to remember to pray using their hands.

Thumb – our family, friends, school and church family.

Pointer Finger - point to things to pray for in our local community and give thanks for people who point us in the right direction.

Index (Tallest) Finger – those in positions of leadership, authority, our government, people who hold positions of power.

Ring Finger – those who are weak, sick, people in need, those homeless or lonely.

Little Finger - ourselves for our day and the things we will do and that we will live according to Jesus' example.

Rev. Jacqui ended the assembly with the song The Lord's Prayer and explained to the children that praying didn't need to be complicated and they could always say the Lord's Prayer and God would hear.



It was delightful to see the children wearing bright colours today for red nose and Holi day. Some of the children even had colourful hair! This is a fundraising event run by Comic Relief, a UK charity. We ask for a non-uniform donation, please use the following link for your donations. Thank you for your continued support for these amazing charities. <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18284>

April is World Autism Acceptance Month, a meaningful opportunity for us as a school to champion inclusion, celebrate diversity, and deepen our understanding of autism within our community. This month is about more than awareness—it's about actively creating an environment where every child feels valued, supported, and included. At St Mary's C of E Primary, we are committed to fostering empathy, understanding, and kindness among our pupils and staff, while also continuing to adapt our approaches to better support the needs of children with autism. By celebrating differences and embracing strengths, we can ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to thrive.

On 2nd April 2025 we will be wearing **BLUE** to keep that conversation going about autism and making sure that those with autism and their families don't feel alone. To clarify this will be a non uniform day with pupils wearing blue.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker



Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns have been enjoying the warmer weather where we have been able to be outside more, clearing our garden up and freshening up our outdoor resources. Also as part of our Science we have also been planting some more lovely plants. Our classroom beans have started to sprout and the children enjoyed watching a sped up version of the process. The children now want to grow avocados!

In maths this week we have been looking at length and height. In Art we have learnt about colour washes to make our backgrounds for our dinosaur paintings.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

Chestnut Class have worked very hard this week working on their Class Assembly. We have seen some amazing confidence shown by all of the children! Well done everyone! In English this week, we have finished writing our 'Tricking the Monster' stories where everyone has shown some terrific ideas and creativity. In Maths, we have continued to look at fractions by converting mixed numbers into improper fractions. In Science, children have continued to look at sound and how pitch is formed, which links to our Music lessons where they have worked really hard to perform some amazing pieces on the chime bars. One highlight of this week, was our Geography lesson where children used quadrats they had made in Forest School to survey different plants to inform a decision for a vegetable plot. The children have worked tirelessly this week and we are very proud of the progress everyone is making.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have finished writing our textbooks in our English lessons and been learning how to calculate area and volume in maths. In geography we have looked at deforestation, why it happens and the effect that it has. In RE we have identified the similarities and differences between cosmology and creationism as we try and answer the question as to whether these are contradictory explanations or complimentary. In art, we have looked at John Dyer's paintings of the rainforest and used these as inspiration for our own. In science, we have identified reversible and irreversible changes, how and why these happen and how they can be used to the benefit of society.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Esther Ruby has shown a real improvement in her phonics and we are very proud of how she joins in. This has impacted her reading and she has moved up a phase this week. Well done

Chestnut Achiever

Aimee has made good progress in music. She has grown in confidence when using the Chime Bars and is really good at keeping to the rhythm of the music. Aimee's not afraid to try new things. Well done Aimee!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Xander. Xander has made a concerted effort with his presentation this week and I have been so impressed with his effort. He presented me with the most wonderfully neat written work in his geography book and I couldn't have been prouder. Well done, Xander.

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Phoebe has shown good resilience this week, she has come straight back from a holiday and into assessments, which she has tried her best with completed well. Well done

Chestnut: This week is Henry. Henry hasn't even been here a month yet but showed great courage by standing up in our class assembly, reading his words and singing our songs in front of the whole school. We are very proud of Henry!

Oak: Oak's value achiever is Alfie. Alfie has shown great courage and determination this week after he re-fractured his thumb. He hasn't let it hinder him, despite it being his writing hand and has adapted well and shown great perseverance, well done Alfie.



Acorn class had another fun and varied session this week. The children enjoyed using their imaginations and played at building campfires. I was so impressed with their ability that we have decided that, weather permitting, we will be having a campfire during the last session before the Easter break. We will be roasting marshmallows and hopefully making s'mores! I showed the children the new allotment area that I have been working on with the Oak class and they are excited to grow our own vegetables. The children also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and a small group of children painted some empty food tins which we will be using to create a forest school music area. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class also had another fantastic session this week. The children enjoyed various activities from colouring in little wooden Easter bunnies, painting their clay models from the other week, playing in the mud kitchen and continuing to create and improve our forest school site. Two of the boys worked particularly hard to finish off the weeding in our allotment area, which means we will be ready to plant our fruit and vegetables soon! A great session Chestnut class, well done!

This week I split Oak class into three groups so that we could focus on some particular jobs that really needed doing. We had one group over at the allotment area where we cleared and weeded the rest of the plant tubs and dug over the majority of the soil so that it is ready for us to just add potting compost before planting our fruit and vegetables. Another group helped to move a huge amount of logs and sticks from the back of the forest school site, to create a boundary "fence" to separate the site from the school field. The third group had free time to play as they wished. We rotated the groups throughout the session so that each child got to do a bit of everything. A very productive session this week, well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed his weekend with Albie and is now excited to be going home with John-Boy from Chestnut class this weekend. John-Boy never sits still at forest school and is always busy helping me with jobs or asking if he can help others. John-Boy is incredibly polite and respectful towards both the adults and the other children at forest school and he works hard in everything that he does. Well done John-Boy, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead



MENU

w/c 24.03.25

A reminder that we require meals to be booked in advance on ParentPay.

If you have missed the deadline you must ensure your child has a packed lunch with them.

Thank you

Deadline 9:00am Monday 17th March for dinners w/c 24th March

Deadline 9:00am Monday 24th March for dinners w/c 31st March

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Homemade Cottage Pie	Chicken Nuggets	Sausage Roast	Mild Chicken Curry	Fish Fingers
Quorn mince Cottage Pie	Quorn Nuggets	Quorn Sausage	Mild Quorn Curry	Veggie Fingers
Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans / Tuna
Baguette Ham / Cheese		Baguette Ham / Cheese		Baguette Ham / Cheese / Tuna

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ Club Letter
- ◇ Pupil emergency contact details reminder
- ◇ NCMP Cancellation
- ◇ SEND Roadshow
- ◇ FMS Changes
- ◇ Essex Activate

St Mary's Clubs

KS1 & KS2 Multiskills Club
Monday: 12.30pm—1:00pm
Mr S.Thomas—EKC

KS1 & KS2 Science Club
Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Mrs Carlier

KS1 & KS2 Art Club
Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Mrs Fallon

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



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

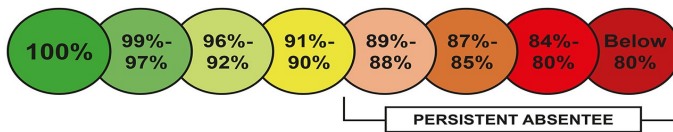
Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
w/c 24th Mar	Last week of clubs		
27th Mar	Curriculum DT Day 1	DT	All classes
28th Mar	Curriculum DT Day 2 Open afternoon for Parents to view pupil work 2:45pm	DT	All classes
28th Mar	FOSMS Significant Females sale—Details to follow		
2nd April	Wear Blue for Autism Awareness		
3rd Apr	Easter Service Citizens 9:30—10.30am Parents 2-3pm		
4th Apr	FOSMS to draw raffle FOSMS Easter Egg hunt		
7th—21st Apr	Easter Holiday		
22nd April	Children return to school		



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



Reception	100%
Year 1	96.25 %
Year 2	100%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	87.50%



Whole School Attendance Target is: 95%

National Attendance Target is: 93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week is: 95.87%

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: 55

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

This is your last opportunity to pay in advance for the Mother's Day / Special Person sale which will take place in school next week. Thanks so much to everyone who has paid in advance, it makes it so much easier for the volunteers running the sale and also not having to handle cash. We will of course still take cash on the day if this is easier for you.

Mother's Day Gift Sale – 28th March

Children will have the chance to choose from a wide selection of gifts for the special women in their lives. Each gift is just £2, and we'll ensure they leave with something lovely.

Payments can be made in advance here: <https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>



Easter Raffle

Tickets for the Easter Raffle will be available for purchase at the Easter performance, We will have our card reader available for purchases and will be taking cash so we have you covered. We have some egg-citing prizes to be won which we will post photos of on Dojo over the next few days.

Thank you for your continued support. Every event we run helps raise valuable funds for our school community!

With very grateful thanks, FOSMS