

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

School Value: Forgiveness

Friday 14th March 2025

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

### *A note from the Headteacher*

*On Thursday Mrs Baldry and Mrs Matthews took four pupils along to Felmore School for a trust science competition. The topic was "Should it be flushed away", Harry, Xander, Minnie-Mai and Alfie worked together wonderfully. They completed a number of experiments using different materials and then recorded their findings. They also wrote and performed a presentation around their findings along with some beautiful artwork to the other ten schools present. They showed so much courage, teamwork, resilience and determination to stand up and present their work, they did themselves and St Mary's proud.*

*On Thursday 20th March we have the school nurse in school to conduct the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) with our Reception and Year 6 children.*

*Children in Reception and Year 6 will have their height and weight checked, these measurements help build a better understanding of how children across the country are growing and guide the development of health and leisure services for families. Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service is contracted by Essex County Council, on behalf of Office of Health and Disparities (OHD) to undertake these checks. Reception children will also have a vision check to ensure their eyes are developing well.*

*If you do not want your child to participate in this check then you can opt out of this screening. You will need to do this by using the contact details in the letter published on dojo rather than notifying the school. If you are happy for the checks to go ahead then you do not need to take any action. Thank you*

*On Friday 21st March we will be celebrating Red nose day alongside Holi day which is a joyous and religious Hindu holiday and also known as the 'festival of colour'. To mark both events, we ask that the children come into school wearing red or lots of **bright colours**. The crazier the better! As I am sure you know, Red Nose Day is a fund-raising event run by Comic Relief, a UK charity which aims to create a world free from poverty. The money raised is used to transform lives in the UK and around the world. This year we will be raising money in school for Comic relief and ask for a non-uniform donation, please use the following link for your donations:*

*<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18284>*

*On Monday 24th March we are hosting a PINS parent/carer workshop at 09:00am. This will be an opportunity for feedback and an open discussion on the workshops that have been attended.*

*If you are a SEND parent/carer and are unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments, you are more than welcome to email Stacey with your views/feedback. Please contact her on [stacey@essexfamilyforum.org](mailto:stacey@essexfamilyforum.org) for a copy of the talking points and survey results that will be discussed at the meeting. She will welcome feedback by email until 4th April 2025*

*Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker*

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## ST MARY'S SCHOOL

My Happy Mind

SUPPORTED BY TESCO

We are delighted to let you know that your application to Tesco Stronger Starts has been successful and your project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store from Mid-January 2025 until end the of March 2025.

### Stores taking part

Stores which will vote on your project  
Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on your project. Feel free to share this list of stores amongst your supporters and within your community.

2190 Burnham On Crouch Express Express CM0 8HQ  
2391 Danbury Express Express CM3 4QW  
2882 Maldon Extra CM9 4LE

### To vote for St Mary's School

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

Once voting has concluded in store, votes will be collated during the month of April 2025 and you will be notified of the outcome of the vote early May 2025.

Please do cast your votes when you shop at any of the above stores to give us the best chance of receiving a grant towards our Happy Mind project.



# Classroom News

## Acorn Class:

Acorns are enjoying the dinosaur topic and we have been having fun with all the WOW words like palaeontologist, archaeologist and the dinosaur names!

In science we have been looking at seeds and bulbs and have planted some seeds in our garden area and some beans in the classroom. In PSHE we are learning all about money and its importance in the world we live, this week we looked at all the different ways you can pay for things.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

## Chestnut Class:

In English, we have been writing our own 'Tricking the Monster' stories. The children have worked extremely hard to include lots of exciting adjectives and adverbs into their own writing. In Maths, we have continued with fractions, including equivalent fractions. In Geography, the children have started to observe rainfall in their potential vegetable plots and thoroughly enjoyed making their own rain gauges. One highlight of the week was our Computing lesson, where children used the iPads and laptops to create their own branching databases. They had great fun and produced some amazing work.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

## Oak Class:

This week in Oak Class we have looked at explanations in our reading lessons and researched the rainforest in our writing lessons. In maths we have moved on to perimeter, area and volume and in geography we have identified adaptations different plants have made in order to survive the rainforest climate. In RE we have compared the creation story to the theory of cosmology and in science we have identified how materials' properties make them suitable for their purpose. In art we have looked at Henri Rousseau's impressionist art of the jungle and in Spanish we have continued learning how to say the days of the week and the months of the year.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

## Acorn Achiever

George has been completing some phonics assessments this week and he has shown that all his hard work and practising is paying off. Well done

## Chestnut Achiever

Sonny has made a fantastic start to writing his story this week in English. He really listened to the instructions and has produced some great work. We're looking forward to reading the rest of it!

## Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Harry-James. Harry-James has really impressed me this week with his understanding and application of how to calculate perimeter and area of shape. He has applied strategies he knows to simplify multiplication and has rightly been proud of himself. Well done, Harry-James.

# Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

**Acorn:** Harmony always follows our school values. She is a very kind and compassionate little girl. She helps her friends when they need it and always gives Mrs Fallon at least three cuddles a day which really cheers her up! Thank you Harmony, we are lucky to have you.

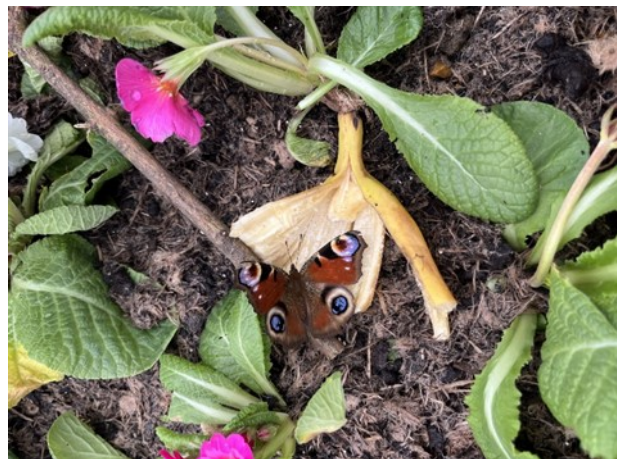
**Chestnut:** Benji has earned the value achiever this week because of his great courage when he wasn't well. He had to have some tests but had to be on his own for them and was very brave. Well done Benji- we're very proud of you!

**Oak:** Oak's value achiever is Archie. Archie has not been with us very long, but he shows all our school and British Values in his interactions with others and the way he conducts himself. He has a really positive start to his time at St Mary's and we're lucky to have him.



Acorn class had a great session this week and had fun playing in the dens and in the mud kitchen. They added more logs to the den to make it larger and played at “camping out” in it. A group of the children had a go at needle felting; some of the children found this very tricky but they persevered and they made small items such as flowers, hearts and most impressively a pink cat! Another group of the children coloured in some little wooden Easter bunny ornaments that they were able to take home. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a fantastic session this week and worked very hard to continue creating different areas to our forest school site. A small group of the children planted some flowers in the pots that we prepared last week. Other children played in the mud kitchen, dug for worms to add to their wormeries and painted some art on wooden planks. Finally, some of the boys added logs to the boundary so that it separates the site from the main school field; whilst moving the logs they found a beautiful butterfly which we discovered was a European Peacock butterfly. We gently placed the butterfly next to one of the flowers in our new pots and provided it with a piece of banana to encourage it to feed. Butterflies like most fruits and will use taste receptors on their feet to identify what it is. Well done Chestnut class, a fantastic session full of hard work and creativity.



Oak class had a varied session this week and took part in various activities. They had fun in the mud kitchen and played games using sticks and their imagination. A small group of the children helped me weed and clear an area at the bottom right hand side of the school field where we are going to hopefully be planting seeds to grow our own fruit and vegetables. We made great headway and hope to be able to complete our “allotment” ready for planting before we break up for the Easter break. Let’s hope that the weather is kind to us over the next few weeks! Well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed his weekend with Esther-Ruby and is now excited to be going home with Albie from Chestnut class this weekend. Albie really shone this week at forest school, he got involved in the gardening side of things by helping to plant our new flowers. He was excited to try something new and he showed great enthusiasm while doing so. Well done Albie, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.



*Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead*



## MENU

### w/c 17.10.25

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 10th March for dinners w/c 17th March**

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

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Cheese Ham & Broccoli Pasta	Beef Bolognese	Chicken Roast	Sausage Pasta Bake	Pepperoni Pizza
Cheesy Broccoli Pasta	Quorn Mince	Quorn Fillet	Quorn Sausage Pasta Bake	Cheese Pizza
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:*

- ◇ PINS Parent / Carer Meeting
- ◇ Red nose / Holi day
- ◇ SWFLC Tennis club

### *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



### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – EARLY CAREER TEACHER closing date 25<sup>th</sup> March  
 CRAYS HILL – HLTA closing date 20<sup>th</sup> March  
 DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 26<sup>th</sup> March  
 DOWNHAM – SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER closing date 17<sup>th</sup> March  
 FAIRHOUSE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT (FIXED TERM) closing date 24<sup>th</sup> March  
 FAIRHOUSE – COVER SUPERVISOR closing date 18<sup>th</sup> March  
 FAIRHOUSE – CLASS TEACHER closing date 24<sup>th</sup> March  
 MERRYLANDS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 27<sup>th</sup> March  
 MERRYLANDS – SNED LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 20<sup>th</sup> March  
 ST NICHOLAS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
 WHITMORE – EARLY CAREERS TEACHER closing date 25<sup>th</sup> March

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)



# 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](http://www.essexkidscamp.co.uk/activities)

**Email:** [info@essexkidscamp.co.uk](mailto:info@essexkidscamp.co.uk)



@Essex Kids Camp

# dates to Remember

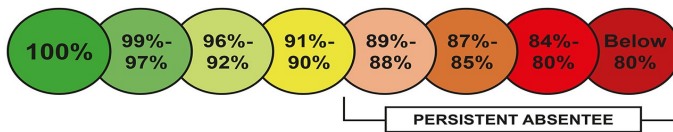
*Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info*

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		
3rd Apr	Easter Service Citizens 9:30—10.30am Parents 2-3pm		
4th Apr	FOSMS to draw raffle		
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	95%
Year 1	97.50%
Year 2	75.71%
Year 3	97.78%
Year 4	85.56%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	87.50%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **90%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **46**

### 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*

The weeks are flying by, and we've been working hard behind the scenes to bring you some exciting events! With spring just around the corner, we have two fantastic fundraisers coming up:

#### **Mother's Day Gift Sale – 28th March**

Our special Mother's Day sale is back! 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>

We will also be accepting cash on the day.



#### **Easter Raffle**

Our Easter Raffle is launching soon, with some egg-citing prizes to be won! Keep an eye out for ticket details and how to enter.

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" – Robin Williams

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

*With very grateful thanks, FOSMS*