

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

School Value: Forgiveness

Friday 7th March 2025

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

## *A note from the Headteacher*

*We have welcomed a new pupil to the school family this week in year 4. Henry has settled in amazingly well and has been given a warm welcome from all. I am looking forward to showing more prospective parents around our wonderful school next week too.*

*We had a fantastic time at the Chapel this week celebrating shrove Tuesday. All the children enjoyed making and eating their delicious pancakes. The children were asked to illustrate what they would give up for Lent and then participated in some Easter card crafts. Thank you to Emma Hunnoble who hosted and organised this lovely event for us to enjoy.*

*It was wonderful to see the children dressed as a word for World Book day this week and we had some amazing imaginative ideas! We have currently raised £42 out of a possible £126. Thank you for your donations to the school, these will help towards some resources in the class reading corners and school library.*

*This week Rev. Jacqui spoke about Lent, she chatted to the children about Shrove Tuesday and explained that it was the day before the start of Lent. She said Lent was 40 days and 6 Sundays long. She explained to the children that the day after Lent was called Ash Wednesday and that marks the beginning of Lent. Typically, churches would hold special ash wood services for their congregation with special prayers and as part of the service they would have a cross marked on their forehead with the ash. Mr Austin was Rev. Jacqui's willing volunteer and had his sins absolved, Rev. Jacqui made the sign of the cross put on his forehead with ash and he now remains faithful to god. **Luke 4.1-13 Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness***

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted<sup>[a]</sup> by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. Rev. Jacqui spoke to the children about Jesus in the wilderness and explained how he was tempted, she asked the children what things they may be tempted by, we had some lovely answers including, chocolate, gaming and TV. Lent is the preparation time working towards Easter Day. Rev. Jacqui asked the children if they were planning on doing something for Lent. There was a lovely discussion with the children whereby some children offered to give up chocolate. Rev. Jacqui explained that Lent could also be seen as an opportunity to not just give something up but to pledge to do 40 things. Some examples included doing 40 thoughtful things for others, donate to a foodbank, do something for a neighbour or take lots of little moments to think of others and God. Rev. Jacqui showed the children some wonderful ideas that they could take part in during Lent, they can be found on [www.muddychurch.co.uk](http://www.muddychurch.co.uk) they can be downloaded for free. These included games, scavenger hunts and mindful moments. Rev. Jacqui ended her assembly with a blessing and reminded us that God is with us, forgives us and loves us each day.*

*Next week we will be participating in the Trust Science Competition which will be held at Fairhouse primary school. We are sending along 4 of our pupils from KS1 and KS2. We wish them all lots of luck and hope they have a fantastic time. I look forward to updating you next week.*

*Unfortunately we have received two further complaints about parking in the spaces opposite the school on a "Private parking residents only area". Please can we remind you that this is not permitted and often prevents residents parking at their own property. It is disappointing to hear that on occasions this has led to confrontation. We ask that you are mindful of our community and respect the needs of our neighbours. All 8 new build houses pay an annual homeowners fee for the maintenance of these parking spaces and surrounding green areas. (occasionally walked across by parents to get to and from their cars). We urge you to remain respectful of this at all times. Thank you for your co-operation.*

*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 have had a lovely busy week, we are really progressing well in our phonics and we are now seeing this in our reading. We enjoyed a lovely visit to the chapel rooms to make pancakes and I was super proud of how everyone behaved. In RE we have been learning all about lent and the importance it has to Christians. In Art we are learning all about paleoart (depicting prehistoric times) and we made some amazing dinosaur pictures from natural materials. We also had a lovely fun World book day, where the children all made an amazing effort with their costumes which was wonderful to see. The children have also started their assessments for this term *Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher*

### Chestnut Class:

In English this week, we have been gathering ideas for our own Tricking the Monster stories. Everybody has been really creative in their thinking and we have produced some amazing work so far. We are excited to read the stories they come up with next week! In Maths, we have been looking at comparing and ordering fractions. In Science, the class have been learning about how sound travels through solids, liquids and gases. One highlight of this week was World Book Day. The children all looked amazing and we had great fun creating our own imaginary world-maps. The children have all worked extremely hard this week! *Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher*

### Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have continued our learning about the rainforests. In geography, we have learnt about how adaptations have been made by the flora and fauna that live there and how these help them to thrive. In our reading lessons we have read an extract from a diary of a person stranded in the rainforest and inferred answers from the information given. In our writing lessons we have finished our character flaw stories and in maths we have been learning about decimals. In RE we have started a new unit 'Religion and Science' looking at whether they are complementary or contradictory. We have also enjoyed making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and different activities to celebrate World Book Day. *Mr Austin—Class Teacher*

### Acorn Achiever

Lily-Belle has been showing us an amazing effort in her phonics and reading and this has impacted her writing. Well done and keep it up.

### Chestnut Achiever

James has worked very well in maths this week. He has listened really carefully and made great progress in fractions. Well done James!

### Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Eva. Eva wrote an excellent character flaw story and did her best to include all the different devices necessary to make her story flow. I was particularly impressed with her use of rhetorical questions. Well done, Eva.

## Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

**Acorn:** Reece for showing compassion to his class friends. He gave up his chance of some free time and playdough so another child could have it. I thought this was very thoughtful of him and lovely to see.

**Chestnut:** Albie is an excellent member of the community. He has been so welcoming, kind and helpful to our new boy. I'm really impressed with how mature and responsible he is becoming.

**Oak:** Oak's value achiever is Jacob. Jacob is an excellent class ambassador who always greets visitors courteously. His sense of community was even more evident this week when, when resources were temporality running low, he forsook his own needs for other members of the class. Well done, Jacob.



Due to it being Shrove Tuesday, and the children all heading down to the Chapel room to make pancakes in the morning, Oak class and Acorn class had their forest school session together this week. Both classes were very excited about having their session together and they all mingled and played various games together. A few of the older children had the colourful parachute out on the field and created some fun games for the younger children. The children played in the mud kitchen, climbed trees and the older children showed the younger children how to do whittling. Finally, we planted some lavender and some flowers in the pots that we had prepared previously. It was a great fun session and all of the children had fun and behaved brilliantly. Well done Oak and Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a varied session this week with some children doing class modelling, others playing in the mud kitchen, and a few girls doing some painting. There were a couple of groups of boys creating wormeries by filling small see-through containers with soil, vegetation and sticks and then digging for worms to put in them. They are excited to see how the wormeries change as the weeks go by. Two boys spent the majority of the session, clearing out, weeding and digging out roots from a large plastic plant pot so that we can put potting compost in it and plant some flowers next week. Well done Chestnut class!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed his weekend with Benji and Daniel De Wet and is now excited to be going home with Esther-Ruby this weekend. Esther-Ruby is always very quick and independent getting herself changed into her forest school clothes, and then sits nicely on the carpet waiting to go outside. Esther-Ruby tries her hardest in every single activity that we do and she is always kind and helpful to her classmates and friends. Esther-Ruby is an absolute pleasure to be around, she is a polite and happy little girl and will always offer to help me if I am doing a task. Well done Esther-Ruby, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.



*Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead*





## *MENU*

### *w/c 10.10.25*

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 3rd March for dinners w/c 10th March**

**Deadline 9:00am Monday 10th March for dinners w/c 17th February**

<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 Pie	Quorn Nuggets	Quorn Sausages	Quorn Fillet	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:*

- ◇ Reception—NCMP Programme
- ◇ Year 6—NCMP Programme
- ◇ School transition roadshow
- ◇ World Book day donation reminder
- ◇ Rev Jacqui, song to learn
- ◇ SWF Leisure Centre holiday activities
- ◇ Play in the Park activities

### *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

CRAYS HILL – HLTA closing date 20<sup>th</sup> March  
 CRAYS HILL – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT (Fixed Term) closing date 12<sup>th</sup> March  
 DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 7<sup>th</sup> March  
 DOWNHAM – SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER closing date 17<sup>th</sup> March  
 FAIRHOUSE – COVER SUPERVISOR closing date 18<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  
 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

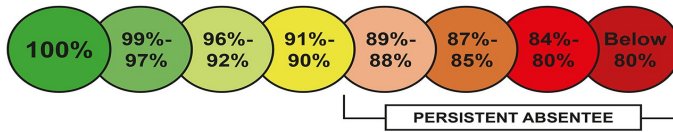
*Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info*

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
13th Mar	KS1/KS2 Trust Science Challenge	Science	Selected Pupils
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 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	95%
Year 1	97.50%
Year 2	84.29%
Year 3	93.33%
Year 4	84.44%
Year 5	100% 
Year 6	81.25%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **89.68%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **51**

### 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*

Spring has sprung, and we've got lots happening at school! Here's what's coming up:

#### **Easter Raffle – Star Prize Needed!**

Our Easter Raffle is on the horizon, and we're looking for a standout prize to make it extra special. Do you know a local business that might be willing to donate? In return, we'll happily promote them on our social media and supporters' page. If you have any leads, please get in touch!

#### **Mother's Day Sale – Gifts for £2 Sacha do**

We're excited to bring back our Mother's Day sale, offering a fantastic selection of gifts for just £2 each.

You can pre-pay using our payment link (<https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>) or send cash with your child on the day. It's a lovely way for children to choose something special for the wonderful women in their lives.

#### **Lending Library Update – Where Has Their Imagination Taken Them?**

We've recently updated the books in our lending library, giving children even more exciting stories to dive into. What books have your little ones been enjoying? We'd love to hear about the adventures their imaginations have taken them on!

#### **Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies – Looking Smart!**

It's been fantastic seeing our Year 6 students proudly wearing their leavers' hoodies. They look brilliant and serve as a great reminder of their time at school as they prepare for the next big step.

As always, thank you for your continued support—it makes a huge difference to our school community.

*With very grateful thanks,*

*FOSMS*