

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

School Value: Forgiveness

Friday 28th February 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher

Welcome back, I hope you all had a restful half term.

You will have seen that our electric gates are now in place and are fully operational. This initiative helps to relieve vehicle flow during peak times, such as drop-off and pick-up periods. By regulating entry and exit, they help alleviate congestion, ensuring a smoother and safer experience for both drivers and pedestrians. Thank you for your support and helping to make this a smooth transition for our school, we are already seeing the benefits of having them.

Mrs Baldry and I recently attended the first of three Ready to Regulate training days in Essex, which provided valuable insights into how regulation strategies can support pupils' emotional well-being and learning. The session emphasised the importance of creating a structured and supportive environment where children can develop self-regulation skills, with a particular focus on using reading and storytelling as key tools. We explored practical approaches for integrating these techniques into the classroom and how they can complement existing pastoral support. This initial training reinforced the link between emotional regulation and academic success, offering new strategies to help pupils feel safe, understood, and ready to learn. We look forward to the next sessions and to sharing these approaches with the wider staff team.

As part of the PINS project, the Autism Bus from Essex visited St Mary's C of E Primary School, providing staff with a powerful and immersive experience of what it feels like to be a child with autism. The interactive session offered valuable insights into the sensory challenges and everyday difficulties that autistic pupils may face, helping staff to develop a deeper understanding and empathy for their experiences. By stepping into their world, we were able to reflect on how our school environment and practices can be adapted to better support autistic pupils. This visit was an important step in our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that all children feel understood, supported, and able to thrive.

Mrs Wells said "The bus gave us an insight into how neuro-divergent students may experience the school day and difficulties they face. It helped us to understand the challenges they face completing normal day to day activities in school. We were given glasses to distort our vision, earphones that amplified common school sounds and we were asked to complete tasks whilst being immersed in a classroom setting. It certainly reinforced the struggles some of our children face during the day."

Next week we are looking forward attending the chapel to make pancakes for shrove Tuesday—your consent for this is covered by the local area visits. This has proved to be a very successful activity in previous years and one that the children thoroughly enjoy.

Thursday is World Book day and we are asking the children to come dressed as their favourite word. As always we do not expect you to purchase outfits for this, we encourage the children to be as creative as they can. We ask for a contribution of £2 for this non uniform event and this can be payable via ParentPay. We hope to use the funds to purchase some new reading material for our school library. Please refer to the dojo letter for further information. Thank you for your continued support.

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 good start to the new term. We have introduced our new topic 'I wonder if they are real? Dinosaurs' and impressed me with what they already know.

In maths, reception have been looking at long and short. Year 1 and 2 have been looking at arrays, we have found it a little tricky remembering which is the row and which is the column but they have improved over the week. In Literacy we have been looking at nonsense poems and how to write one. Science we are continuing to look at plants. In Art we are observing nature in our environment.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

This week everybody has worked really hard on their assessments and we are really proud of their attitudes to learning! In Maths, we have started looking at fractions- denominators, numerators and unit fractions. We all had great fun in English writing our own Tanka poems about Spring. All of the poems were very creative and unique! In PSHE we discussed how it feels to belong to a community and in Geography we used laptops to pinpoint landmarks of our school on digital maps. All of the children have worked extremely hard this week and have produced some outstanding work!

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have started our new topic of 'Rainforest in Trouble.' In our reading lessons we have focused on retrieving information and in our writing lessons we have planned and written the first sections of our character flaw story - using the Jonathon Bond Toolkit. In maths we have finished our unit on fractions and moved on to decimals. In RE we have finished our unit on Resurrection and in science we have started to look at the properties of materials. In geography we have begun learning about biomes and focussed on the effect climate has on ecosystems.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Lilly-May is super tidy and likes the classroom to be tidy too. She is always the first to offer to tidy up even if she has not made the mess. This is very helpful to Mrs Fallon and Warren our cleaner. Well done Lilly-May .

Chestnut Achiever

Max has worked really hard on his assessments this week. He has shown how well he has listened and acted upon my advice. Well done Max!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Matilda. Tilly so impressed me with her writing this week. It was well constructed, included all the grammatical structures we have learnt and had a wonderful flow. It was so lovely to read and both myself and Mrs Wells couldn't have been more impressed. Well done, Tilly, we can't wait to read the next part.

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Joe has had a great start back and has shown great resilience this week, especially when some things have tested him. He has shown courage, forgiveness and compassion which Mrs Fallon is very thankful for.

Chestnut: Amelia Roberts has shown a great sense of community. In PSHE she wrote a lovely letter to Beegu saying how she would welcome her to our school.

Oak: Oak's value achiever this week is Harry. Harry produced a thoughtful synopsis of Easter at the end of our Resurrection unit. It showed, not only his understanding, but also his thankfulness and compassion. Well done, Harry.



Acorn class were excited to get back down to the forest school area today and we had a lot of fun. During circle time we discussed the importance of looking after our natural environment and also our forest school tools. We talked about ideas for spring and what we would like to see and achieve at forest school. The children sat lovely for these talks and so afterwards they had free play and exploration. The children enjoyed digging in our digging area which was extremely sticky and wet from all the rain we've had and some of the children went bug hunting and found lots of worms and insects to look at. It was lovely to see all the children outside and enjoying the fresh air. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class also enjoyed being back at forest school, despite the rain, and got stuck in doing various activities. A couple of the boys worked really hard in creating a Forest School "Snug" area by clearing away brambles and creating a mini log circle with a log edged pathway leading into it. A couple of the girls painted some amazing patterns on the branches of a small area of trees to create a Forest School "Art" area. The intention is to create some natural art to hang in that area to create a kind of gallery. The final activity for this week was creating colourful flower vases out of brightly coloured plastic cups and artificial flowers. We cut the cups in half from top to bottom and then using string, we attached them to the back fence. We then displayed artificial flowers in them to give the area a pop of colour. Well done Chestnut class, some fantastic creativity this week!



Oak class had a great session this week and we spoke about different ideas and projects that we would like to do over the next couple of terms. We are intending to build a larger mud kitchen out of pallets which would enable more children to access it at a time and we also talked about adding some flowers to the entrance to our forest school area to make it look more inviting. The children weeded two large pots and two large tractor tyres and we filled them with potting compost ready for planting. All of the children got involved in some site maintenance whereby we gathered all the broken crockery and tools into rubble sacks which I will take down the tip at the weekend. It was great to have the children back outdoors enjoying the fresh air and we are all excited to get on with a projects over the coming weeks. Well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear is excited to be going home with Benji and Daniel De Wet this week. Both Benji and Daniel have the most incredible imaginations and never cease to amaze me with how many ideas they come up with for games, activities and projects. Daniel has recently played a key part in making up a game about kingdoms and warriors and it's been lovely to see. And Benji this week played a key part in planning and building the Forest School Snug area. Well done Benji and Daniel, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead



MENU

w/c 03.03.25

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 24th February for dinners w/c 3rd March

Deadline 9:00am Monday 3rd March for dinners w/c 10th February

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Cheesy Ham & Broccoli Pasta	Beef Bolognese	Chicken Roast	Sausage pasta bake	Pepperoni Pizza
Cheesy Broccoli Pasta	Quorn Bolognese	Quorn Fillet	Quorn sausage pasta	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		

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

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ EPINS Online workshops
- ◇ ACL Flyer



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 7th March
 DOWNHAM – SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER closing date 17th March
 FAIRHOUSE – COVER SUPERVISOR closing date 18th March
 MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 2nd March
 MERRYLANDS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 27th 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

Email: info@essexkidscamp.co.uk



@Essex Kids Camp

dates to Remember

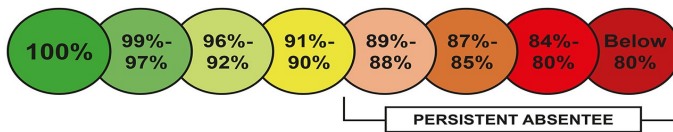
Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
4th Mar	Pancakes at The Chapel	PSHE / RE / DT	All classes
6th Mar	World Book Day— Non Uniform Come dressed as a word!	English	All classes
13th Mar	KS1/KS2 Trust Science	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		
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	100%	
Year 2	90%	
Year 3	100%	
Year 4	92.50%	
Year 5	92%	
Year 6	91.88%	



Whole School Attendance Target is: 95%

National Attendance Target is: 93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week is: 94.52%

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: 54!!

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 first week back after half term has flown by and we are whizzing towards a busy March!

We are proud to share with you that our Year 6's will receive their leavers hoodie today, I'm confident they will all wear them proudly over the coming months. Thank you to all of the parents for your kind contribution and thank you to our FOSMS team for agreeing to make a donation of £10 per child towards the cost.

Coins in a Bottle Challenge

We are entering into the last few weeks to add to your class bottle. Any loose change would be appreciated by your class. The class that raises the most will have their total fund matched for them to purchase fun resources for their class.

Amazon Wish List

Rhian and I have been in touch with our wonderful class teachers and together we have put together an Amazon wish list full of items that they would like and would be of real benefit to their class. As we know our school budget is super tight and they can't stretch to these items unfortunately.

How You Can Help:

Browse our wish list

Choose an item to donate

Amazon delivers straight to us!

Click the link to see our wish lists and help us make a big impact.

Whole school : https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1AF24EJVDBSBV?ref=wl_share

Oak : https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/QSOKMYFRCREU?ref=wl_share

Chestnut: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/34UPB6F56RAZ6?ref=wl_share

Acorn: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2EFWJMBE1AWJC?ref=wl_share

Forest school: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1A5RZ7X4X1PSV?ref=wl_share

Easter plans are underway, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for all the children to take part in and we are also planning an Easter Raffle so we will be picking your pockets for tickets soon!

If you have any contacts that would be willing to donate a prize towards our raffle in exchange for lots of positive promotion across our socials and website please so send them our way. Our email is contact@fosms.co.uk.

Dates for your diary:

Mother's Day Sale – Friday 28th March during the school day.

Easter Egg Hunt for all Children – 4th April during the school day

Easter Raffle – Tickets on sale from 3rd March and the draw will take place in school on Friday 4th April.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, every little bit helps our wonderful school community!

Friends of St Mary's School (FOSMS)



A note from FOSMS

Mother's Day / Special Person Sale

Our Mother's Day / Special person sale plans are complete and we have a super selection of gifts available for your children to treat their special person to a little something special. The payment link is now open on our website for any eager beavers wanting to pay. We have lots of beautiful gifts suitable for that special female in the children's lives. It will be £2.00 per gift and as always, the children can purchase multiple if they wish. We will also be taking cash on the day if you prefer. Here is the link to the website - <https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>

A large image of purple hydrangea flowers. In the center, there is a white rectangular text box with a small circular logo in the top left corner. The logo is the same as the one in the top right of the page. The text in the box is as follows:

**SIGNIFICANT
FEMALE SALE**
28th March
ALL GIFTS £2 EACH
PRE-PAY AT:
WWW.FOSMS.CO.UK/UPCOMING-EVENTS

With very grateful thanks, FOSMS