

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

School Value: Thankfulness

Friday 7th February 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher... We have had a very busy and successful week at St Mary's. We had the pleasure of welcoming our School Improvement Partner, Keith Pullen into school on Monday. Keith met with staff and pupils throughout the day and provided us with the following wonderful feedback.

"The school has continued its trajectory of improvement. Since the successful inspection in July 24, leaders have identified appropriate priorities for improvement and made good progress against them. The impact of this can be seen in the quality of work in pupils' books and in the consistent use of pedagogy by class teachers. Leaders have designed an ambitious curriculum which they adapt to meet the needs of mixed age classes. The phonics programme is delivered with fidelity to the scheme. Children in the EYs get a good start at school with activities which enable them to access all areas of development. The personal development of pupils continues to be a strength. Pupils access a broad curriculum for PSHE and RSE. Pupils' behaviour in the school is excellent. They work hard in lessons and want to do well. They feel safe in the school and the very positive relationships between adults and the children contribute to this. Positive relationships between adults and pupils underpin the school's approach to behaviour. In lessons there is a calm and orderly atmosphere for learning. Pupils listen to and follow adults' instructions quickly. Pupils work hard and want to do well. They collaborate successfully on tasks when required. Excellent progress has been made against the priorities from previous reviews and the recent Ofsted inspection"

Please be aware that we have updated our menu for the second half of our Spring Term. This will commence after half term and has been published on ParentPay ready for bookings. Please ensure you have booked meals for the first week back **before 9am on Thursday 13th February**. All allergen information will follow in due course, this will also be available on our school website.

You should have seen my letter published on dojo earlier this week regarding the use of our school car park. The school car park is private property, and schools are not required to allow parents to use it. As 46.8% of our pupils are on the SEN register, we must ensure that our approach to parking is equitable to all. There are two spaces outside the school gates which SEN parents can access, however, we ask that you only use this as an emergency as some of our SEN children have physical needs. The school have worked closely with the Trust Estates Manager and Health & Safety Advisor and we do understand that everyone could make a valid case to use the car park but the simple fact is - there are no spaces. With increasing needs of pupils, we have increased staffing - staff who need to be able to get into school to support your children.

As previously advised, we will be having new electric gates installed and they will be fully operational from Monday 24th February 2025. This initiative is part of our commitment to safeguarding and ensuring the safety of all pupils, staff, and visitors. The new gates will allow us to better control access to the school premises, creating a more secure environment for everyone. Thank you in advance for your full co-operation with this matter.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Valentine back to St Mary's next week for her first "keeping in touch" day since her maternity leave began. There will be a couple of other days when she will be in school prior to her official return around Easter.

A gentle reminder to book your appointment for our upcoming Parent/Child Consultations with your child's class teacher next week.

Please note this will be the last newsletter of Spring Term 1 due to an Inset day next Friday. Children will return back to school on Monday 24th February following half term.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and restful half term, 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 an action packed week... In literacy we have been looking at shape poems and how adjectives make our poems and writing more interesting. In maths Reception have been growing their knowledge of 6,7,8. Yr 1 and 2 have been looking at multiplication our 2s,5s,10s. In Art we have been continuing our pathway of printing and have completed some playground rubbings and object printing. In music our genre has been reggae. In science we continued to look at what keeps us healthy and focused on exercise and how it helps, we participated in some exercises then discussed the effect on our bodies.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In maths we have now started to look at measuring- mm, cm and metres and converting the measurements. We have had great fun in English this week starting our playscripts. We really enjoyed re-enacting Little Red Riding Hood. In our reading sessions we read a story about travelling around the world and learned lots of new information. One of the highlights of our week was our geography lesson when we finished off our research and then presented our information in front of our class. Every child stood up and spoke. I was very proud of them all.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have focussed on vocabulary in our reading lessons and finished recording our vlogs in our English lessons. In maths, we have been multiplying fractions by integers and in RE we have looked at the significance of Good Friday to Christians. In art, we have finished our 'Identity' portraits and in science we have conducted our electricity experiments. In computing we have started our animation projects and in history we have identified the factors that contributed to the rise and fall of The Kingdom of Benin.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Axel is joining in more and has shown a real improvement in his phonics and reading. We are very proud of you Axel. Well done

Chestnut Achiever

This week it's Amelia Roberts. She was very nervous to do her Geography presentation but worked really hard on it with her group and did brilliantly!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Zach. Zach produced work of the highest standard this week and I was especially impressed with his ability to draw parallels between the characters of Animal Farm against the historical figures of the time. He made thoughtful contributions and it was lovely to hear his logical reasoning.

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Eve always follows our school and British values. She is a lovely role model who is compassionate and supportive to the other members of the class and staff. We are very thankful to have her.

Chestnut: Albie is a great member of our community and contributes a lot. This week I have seen him voluntarily helping some children with their maths when he thought that they needed help. What a lovely thing to do!

Oak: Oak's value achiever this week is Peter. Peter always shows our school values but this has been especially apparent this week as he had a period of time off and has come back and embraced the week with courage. Well done, Peter.



Acorn class were excited to have some artists air drying clay at forest school today and several of the children enjoyed modelling things out of it. We had lots of different creations, from logs and trees, to mushrooms and snakes. These have been left to dry and will be ready for painting next week. The children also enjoyed playing with the forest school teddies and made little camps for them. The mud kitchen was popular as always and on the whole the children had a fun and creative session. Well done Acorn class!



Chestnut class also did modelling using the air dry clay and made some fantastic creations. They made mushrooms and trees as well as a hedgehog and a sunshine! The children also made some more decorations using log rounds and nail varnish and we added string to the ones they made last week and hung them round the site. To finish our session this week we played a couple of games on the field. We played "What's the time Mr Wolf?" and had a three team relay race, the children were super-fast and showed great sportsmanship by cheering each other on. The wet grass also helped clean a lot of the mud off the children's boots. A great idea Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class also made some fabulous creations out of the air drying clay. The children spent a lot of time adding details to their models and we even had a whole family of hedgehogs made! I can't wait to see them all painted and finished next week. With some help from one of the boys, I mended some small panels of picket fence that we had laying around. We have put this at the entrance to our forest school area to make it look more inviting. A couple of the girls are going to paint the fence next week so I will photograph it and add it to dojo for you all to see once it is finished. Well done Oak class, another great session!

Freddie Forest Bear is excited to be going home with Layla from Chestnut class this week. We have had quite a few new activities so far this school year and Layla always takes part and tries really hard with every new activity she does. Not only does Layla take part in the activities but she engages with all discussions and conversations and will often come up with her own creative ideas. Well done Layla, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead





MENU

w/c 10.02.25

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 February for dinners w/c 10th February
Deadline 9:00am Thursday 13th February for dinners w/c 24th February

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

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Cheese & Tomato Pasta	Ham & Pineapple Pizza / Cheese Pizza	Toad in the hold/ Quorn toad in the hole	Beef Bolognese / Quorn Bolognese	Chicken nuggets / Quorn nuggets
Ham / Cheese Baguette	Jacket Potato Beans /Cheese	Ham / Cheese Baguette	Jacket Potato Beans /Cheese	Ham / Cheese / Tuna Baguette

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ Essex Activate February half term club
- ◇ ACL Wellbeing courses
- ◇ SEN holiday club activities
- ◇ Car Park letter—Outlining legislation
- ◇ Spring Term 2 Menu



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – TRUSTEES/GOVERNORS closing date 14th February
 CRAYS HILL – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 17th February
 DOWNHAM – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM MATERNITY COVER) closing date 12th February
 FELMORE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 7th February
 FELMORE – CATERING ASSISTANT closing date 7th February
 MERRYLANDS – CLEANING SUPERVISOR closing date 14th February
 MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 7th February
 MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 2nd March
 ST MARYS – EXECUTIVE DEPUTY HEADTEACHER closing date 27th February
 ST NICHOLAS – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 23rd February

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](http://www.berlesdunaacademytrust.co.uk/vacancies)



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

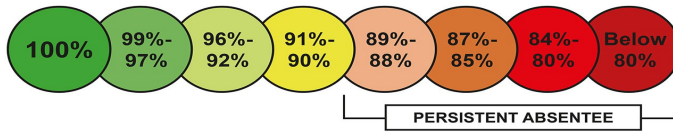
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
10th Feb	Parent & Child Consultations 3.15pm—5:45pm	Working in Partnership	All classes
w/c 10th Feb	No Clubs This week		
11th Feb	Safer Internet day		
11th Feb	Parent & Child Consultations 3.15pm—4:45pm	Working in Partnership	All classes
12th Feb	Parent & Child Consultations 3.15pm—4:45pm	Working in Partnership	All classes
12th Feb	Trust Pupil Voice		Selected Pupils
13th Feb	Trust Spelling Bee — Fairhouse Primary		Selected Pupils
13th Feb	EYFS & year 1 working in partnership—TBC		
14th Feb	Non Pupil Day		
17th—21st Feb	Half Term		
26th Feb	Essex PINS Parents Session 3 9am-11am	Emotional Regulation	SEND Parents
4th Mar	Pancakes at The Chapel	PSHE / RE / DT	All classes

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
6th Mar	World Book Day— Non Uniform Come dressed as a word!	English	All classes
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		
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	87.50%
Year 1	93.75%
Year 2	88.57%
Year 3	95.56%
Year 4	97.50%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	90.63%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.74%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **49**

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 up 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

Another week has flown by and we are winging our way towards half term.

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 - [Upcoming Events | fosms.co.uk](https://fosms.co.uk)

Easter plans are now 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 do send them our way. Our email is contact@fosms.co.uk.

If you are interested in finding out more about what we do and getting as involved as your time will allow, please do drop us a message contact@fosms.co.uk.

We are a friendly and welcoming bunch of parents raising money to support our children and our fabulous school.

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.

With very grateful thanks, FOSMS