

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

School Value: Thankfulness

Friday 24th January 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher...

A warm welcome to Miss Broomfield who is on a Spring Trainee mentor Placement at St Mary's until the Easter break. Thank you to the children who have given her a warm welcome to our school this week.

Thank you to our SEN parents who attended the Essex PINS parent session on Neurodevelopmental diversity this week. We hope you found the session informative and useful. The next session will take place on 5th February at 9am, this will cover Learning and executive function. Places are still available if you would like to attend. Please let the school office know of your intentions. Thank you

Hopefully you will have seen the attendance newsletter which was shared on dojo earlier this week which emphasises the critical role that regular attendance plays in ensuring the success and well-being of our pupils. Please remember to contact the school office if your child is absent and follow the correct procedure if you have medical appointments booked during the school day.

Chinese New Year Celebration and Workshop

On Thursday we celebrated our Chinese New Year with a fantastic dance workshop. The children learnt all about the Chinese culture. Our Acorn children learnt how to become a wise and powerful dragon and our older children learnt some martial art movements which were both thoroughly enjoyed.



Food tasting: *During the day we had lots of delicious Chinese food on offer for the children to taste and even some of our reluctant pupils came and had a try.*

Pupils had the opportunity to eat; prawn crackers, peeking duck prawn crackers, lychees, seaweed, egg fried rice and egg noodles—all freshly cooked on site thanks to Mrs Richardson. The children wrote a food review and made their very own fortune cookies. During the afternoon our pupils took part in some creative arts, calligraphy and looked deeper into the bible stories.

Sadly we only received 48% of contributions for this event which may affect similar future activities. ParentPay is still open for late contributions if you are able to help support— your support really does make a huge difference to the opportunities we can create for our pupils and is very much appreciated.

Next week we have a visit planned from Mr Freese, our Trust Director of Education. The focus of his visit is to look at the progression in year 5 and year 6, to explore the outcomes in Reception year 2 and year 6 and to look at the updates on our Inclusion Report Recommendations. I look forward to sharing feedback with you following this visit.

A gentle reminder to book your appointment for our upcoming Parent/Child Consultations with your child's class teacher. This is an invaluable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and address any questions or concerns you may have. To book your appointment, please send a message directly to your child's class teacher via Class Dojo with your preferred time slot. The teacher will confirm your appointment as soon as possible. Consultations will be taking place after school on 10th/11th and 12th February.

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 enjoyed our new story Georges Marvellous Medicine. We have been learning about verbs, imperative verbs and instructions. We also discussed safety around medicines. Phonics groups are doing well and we are seeing an improvement in reading so we are very happy. Keep up the good work at home. maths has been all about addition across a ten. In science we are continuing plants and looked at trees this week. Chinese New Year celebration day was a success and the children really enjoyed all the different activities.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In maths this week we have been continuing with multiplication and different strategies. Some have proven trickier to pick up than others but everyone has tried their best. In English we have been continuing with writing in the style of Dick-King Smith. In science we have been looking at and testing toy cars on a variety of surfaces. We had a wonderful Chinese New Year Day on Thursday. Everyone enjoyed the dance workshop, and the food was delicious too. It was great fun learning about and writing the Chinese symbols.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have looked at the skills needed to be a successful speaker in English and retrieving information from texts in reading. In maths we have look at different strategies for dividing larger numbers and begun looking at the order of operations. In RE, we have identified the similarities between the four gospels of the resurrection and in art, we have created our first layer for our Identity project. In history, we have learnt how African countries passed on accounts of historical events and learnt the story of Oba Eweka. We have also had an excellent day celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Mrs Smith and I are super proud of Wilfred. He is trying really hard in his writing and produced some beautiful work . He took great care with his handwriting which was amazing!

Chestnut Achiever

John-Boy is this week's work achiever. We made posters to show our understanding of Chinese New Year and he chose to work by himself. He put a lot of effort into it and worked very hard. Well done John-Boy!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Francesca. Francesca does her best in every lesson, every day and all the adults enjoy working with her. She has produced some excellent work this week and her first layer of her Identity portrait was exceptional.



Acorn class had another fun session this week. We had some little bug pots which have a magnifying glass on the top and the children enjoyed finding all sorts of creepy crawlies to have a close up look at. We also had some small log rounds and coloured pens which some of the children enjoyed drawing pictures on to create decorations for our forest school site. Fun was also had in the mud kitchen and playing in the dens. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a fun and varied session again this week. We went bug hunting and looked through a magnifying glass pot to see slug eggs close up. The children were fascinated by this as slug eggs are transparent tiny orbs and you can see the tiny baby slug moving around in it when you look through the magnifying glass. Some children played in the mud kitchen and built dens and two of the boys went bird watching and saw several robins. Another great new activity today was making birds' nests in ramekins. Several of the children made a birds' nest and they looked fabulous. well done Chestnut class!

Oak class had another great session this week. We looked closely at some beetles and a centipede through a magnifying glass and it was very interesting to see the detail so close up. We made some colourful log round decorations by painting them with nail varnish so that they were weather proof and we hung them on the trees. Some of the children had a messy, but fun time making models using clay mud from the digging area. As always, a great session Oak class, well done!



We had an exciting find this week when a paving slab was lifted and revealed a family of lizards curled up in the mud! All the children had an opportunity to see the lizards and then the slab was placed carefully back down to keep them safe!

This week I have added a new feature to the on-site Forest School area. I have created a shelf so that we can display the children's creative work and any interesting finds. I am sure the children will love having somewhere to display their work and I look forward to showing them next week.



Freddie Forest Bear is excited to be going home with Alfie and Archie from Oak class this week. Both Alfie and Archie have really settled in well at Forest School since joining St Mary's and have integrated well with their classmates. Both boys have created some fabulous clay models and are extremely well behaved and polite. They join in with group activities and are helpful and kind to their new friends. Well done Alfie and Archie, it is a pleasure to have you at Forest School and I look forward to seeing more of your creations as the weeks go by. Enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Lilly-May, has shown our value of courage. During our Chinese dance workshop, she joined in well and followed all the instructions. She even played the part of the dragons head in the dance and led the other children around. Lovely to see you really joining in

Chestnut: Olive. Olive is always kind and compassionate and shares with others. She worked really well with other children on Chinese New Year Day and helped to support younger children. Well done Olive!

Oak: Oak's value achiever this week is Jacob. Jacob demonstrates all our school values and is an excellent class ambassador. He is a role model to his peers and an asset to our class and school.



MENU
w/c 27.01.25

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 20th January for dinners w/c 27th
Deadline 9:00am Monday 27th January for dinners w/c 3rd February

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

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:

- ◇ Attendance Leaflet
- ◇ KEGS Prospective Student Tours for Year 5 boy
- ◇ South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre are running Holiday Activities
- ◇ Chinese Workshop payment reminder
- ◇ Parent / Child consultations



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – TRUSTEES/GOVERNORS closing date 31st January
 DOWNHAM – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM MATERNITY COVER) closing date 29th January
 FAIRHOUSE – KS1 CLASS TEACHER closing date 28th January
 MERRYLANDS – CLEANING SUPERVISOR closing date 31st January
 MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 2nd 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

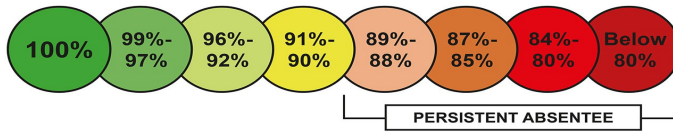
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
5th Feb	Essex PINS Parents Session 2 9am-11am	Learning & Executive Functioning	SEND Parents
10th Feb	Parent & Child Consultations 3.15pm—5:45pm	Working in Partnership	All classes
w/c 10th Feb	No Clubs This week		
11th Feb	Safer Internet day		
11th Feb	Parent & Child Consultations 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		

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
26th Feb	Essex PINS Parents Session 3 9am-11am	Emotional Regulation	SEND Parents
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 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	90%
Year 1	86.25%
Year 2	85.71%
Year 3	95.56%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	88%
Year 6	92.50%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **91.45%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **48**

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

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

As January draws to a close, we hope you're feeling optimistic about the year ahead. We've had a busy start to 2025, and we're excited to share some updates and plans with you this week.

FOSMS Meeting – Thank You for Joining!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined our FOSMS meeting this week. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, sharing ideas and helping us plan upcoming events. If you couldn't make it but have suggestions or would like to get involved, please email us at contact@fosms.co.uk.

Planning Ahead: Mother's Day Sale

Mother's Day might seem far away (Sunday, 30th March), but we're already planning a special sale for the children to purchase small gifts for their mums, grandmothers, or other loved ones. Watch this space for more details.

Easter Raffle Prizes Needed

We're preparing for our Easter raffle, and we need your help! If you have any leftover or unwanted Christmas gifts that could make fantastic raffle prizes, we'd be so grateful for your donations. Whether it's chocolates, candles, toys, or anything else, every contribution will help make our raffle a success. Please drop donations off at school or contact us to arrange collection.

Looking Forward to the Week Ahead

As we head into the final stretch of January, let's celebrate getting through the darkest month of the year together! There's lots to look forward to in the coming weeks, and we'll keep you updated on all FOSMS events and activities.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Every idea, donation, and helping hand makes a difference to the school and our children.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Warm regards, FOSMS