

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

School Value: Thankfulness

Friday 17th January 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher...

Thankyou to Revd Jacqui who held a collective worship assembly this week. The children learnt all about how Jesus performed his first public miracle during a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Revd Jacqui told the children how he was able to turn gallons of water into wine to help with the celebrations, she then amazed the children by performing her own miracle in front of them using water and a ladle. The assembly was very uplifting and enjoyed by all. We are very much looking forward to Revd Jacqui joining us for Collective Worship on a regular basis.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, all pupils will be taking part in a Chinese dance workshop next week. This will take place on Thursday 23rd January. . This celebration offers a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to learn about and appreciate the rich traditions and culture associated with this vibrant festival. On the day, pupils will enjoy a variety of engaging activities, including storytelling, traditional crafts, and games that highlight the significance of Chinese New Year. Pupils are welcome to wear something red with their school uniform, a colour traditionally associated with good fortune and joy, to add to the festive spirit. In addition to the celebration, we are thrilled to host a Chinese cultural workshop. This interactive session will provide pupils with hands-on experiences such as calligraphy, learning simple phrases in Mandarin, and understanding the symbolism of the zodiac animals. The workshop aims to deepen pupils' cultural awareness and foster a global perspective.

We kindly ask for a small voluntary contribution of £5 per pupil to cover the costs of materials and resources for the workshop and has been set up on ParentPay. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to our Year 6 parents for returning your Bikeability consent forms. At the moment we are gauging interest from our families before we can confirm any details. More information will follow in due course and will keep you updated as to whether or not we have enough interest to secure the booking. If you have not returned your form but your child is interested, please make the school office aware as soon as possible as this could make a difference as to whether it will run or not.

A reminder to our SEN parents regarding the upcoming workshops available to attend in school with EPINS (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools)

22nd January - Neurodevelopmental Diversity

5th February - Learning & Executive Functioning

26th February - Emotional Regulation.

Thankyou to those who have made the office aware of their attendance. If you would like to come along, it is not too late to request a place—please let the office know. Thank you

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 busy week this week. We are doing really well in our Phonics lessons and this is having a positive impact on our reading. We have loved reading to different adults within school. In Literacy we continued to look at the book the BFG by Roald Dahl and we have had some fun looking at his interesting use of new made-up words such as snoozecumbers, frobscottle and whizzpoppers! In Maths, Reception have been looking at the number zero. Year 1 & 2 have been looking at adding & subtracting to the nearest 10. In Science we have started to look at our focus of plants and we are excited to start planting for the summer. In PSHE we have been looking at Who helps to keep us healthy and have focused on the dentist. I was impressed how knowledgeable the children were.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In Chestnut class we have been working really hard on our English. We have started to write in the style of Dick King-Smith and our work with Chris Connaughton last week has really helped us. In maths we have been doing some tricky multiplication skills but we have done our best to listen and understand and have made progress. In RE we have continued to look at what sacrifice means and have sorted religious and non-religious sacrifices. Geography was learning about the climate in both Egypt and England. We researched the temperatures and rainfall and then some of us went on to drawing line graphs

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have focussed on inferring information from texts in our reading lessons and completed our poetry in our writing lessons. In maths, we have learnt how to multiply and divide larger numbers using formal methods. In art, we have started our work on Identity and in science we have constructed diagrams of electrical circuits. In RE we have begun to explore Easter's significance in the Christian faith and in history, we have examined artefacts from The Kingdom of Benin.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Achiever - Phoebe is doing so well with her reading and we have had lovely feedback from the other adults she has read to this week which is lovely to hear. Well done Phoebe keep it up

Chestnut Achiever

Jesse has worked brilliantly this week. He has really applied himself and worked hard to remember what we have been talking about. He has been linking his learning too. I'm very impressed Jesse- well done!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Daniel. Daniel has produced some wonderfully creative work this week, both in his written poetry and his art portraits. Both myself and Mrs Wells were so impressed with his flair. Well done, Daniel.



Acorn class had a varied session this week and did a few different activities. Some of the children wanted to play with the soft toys again, making more homes and dens for them. Other groups of children played in the mud kitchen, did digging and clay modelling and a couple of the children helped me move the large bug hotel by dismantling it and rebuilding it in a different spot. It was lovely to see the children getting on and playing together using their imaginations. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a busy and varied session this week too. A group of the children helped Miss Francis at our allotment area, clearing, weeding and digging over the soil. Other children spent time decorating one of the trees by sticking coloured leaves up the trunk and along the branches. And of course, the popular mud kitchen was put to good use as always. I showed a couple of the girls how to weave string around nails in a circular piece of wood to create letters or patterns and I am hoping to get a few more of the class involved in doing this next week. Well done Chestnut class!

Oak class, as always, had a great session this week. A group of the boys did more whittling and then played (supervised and safely) at sword fighting with the items they had made. A group continued to prepare our allotment area, clearing, weeding and digging over the soil. The rest of the children played in the mud kitchen and made a short assault course out of logs and tyres. A fun and productive session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Evie –Rose last weekend and is very excited to be going home with Tommy-George from Chestnut class on Friday this week. Miss Francis advised me how hard Tommy-George worked at the allotment area this week, getting really stuck in, offering to help others and being extremely supportive and helpful towards his peers. Tommy-George is always a pleasure to have at forest school, he is polite, friendly and respectful at all times and he truly deserves to be rewarded for his extra hard work this week. Well done Tommy-George, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead



Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: British Value - Mutual respect, treating others how you would like to be treated.

Reece has impressed Mrs Fallon & Mrs Smith this week in how kind and supportive he has been to some members of our class who struggle a little with change.

Chestnut: River has a good understanding of respect. She is always respectful to others and participates well in RE lessons when we talk about other cultures and beliefs. Well done River!

Oak: Oak's value achiever this week is Harry-James. Harry-James has shown a real respect for individuality during our art lessons on identity. He asked thoughtful questions and made considered contributions to our discussions. Well done, Harry-James.



MENU w/c 20.01.25

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 13th January for dinners w/c 20th

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

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Sausage Pasta / Quorn pasta bake	Pepperoni Pizza / Cheese Pizza	Roast Chicken / Quorn Fillet	Beef Bolognese / Quorn Bolognese	Fish Fingers / Veggie Fingers
Jacket Potato Cheese /Beans	Ham / Cheese Baguette	Jacket Potato Cheese /Beans	Ham / Cheese Baguette	Jacket Potato Cheese /Beans / Tuna

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:

- ◇ Tesco tokens
- ◇ September Admissions reminder
- ◇ Jesters Breakfast, After School & Holiday Clubs
- ◇ Essex child and family wellbeing services.
- ◇ Free Parentkind webinars



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

BERLESDUNA – TRUSTEES/GOVERNORS closing date 31st January

CRAYS HILL – FIXED TERM SEN LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 23rd January

DOWNHAM – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM MATERNITY COVER) closing date 29th January

FAIRHOUSE – KS1 CLASS TEACHER closing date 28th January

FAIRHOUSE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 20th January

MERRYLANDS – CLEANING SUPERVISOR closing date 10th February

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

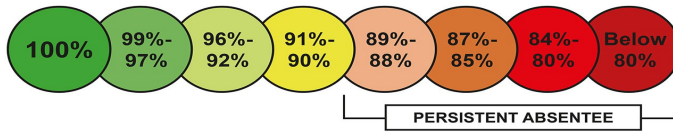
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
22nd Jan	Essex PINS Parents Session 1 9am-11am	Neurodevelopmental Diversity	SEND Parents
23rd Jan	Chinese education work- shop Chinese food tasting	PSHE Cultural	All classes Voluntary contribution £5
5th Feb	Essex PINS Parents Session 2 9am-11am	Learning & Executive Functioning	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

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
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
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	95%
Year 1	92.50%
Year 2	92.86%
Year 3	97.78%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	90.63%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **53!**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **93.87%**

If your child is absent from school please:

- ◇ Contact the school via Studybugs or phone on the first day of absence before 9.00am
- ◇ 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

We hope you've all had a wonderful start to the new year and that the children are enjoying being back at school and settled into their routines and embracing the opportunities the new term brings.

Class Coin Challenge

Thank you to all of the children who have been bringing in their loose change to put in to their class bottle. Don't forget for the class that raises the most at the end of March, FOSMS will match their amount up to £100. They will then get to decide how to spend that money to benefit their class. In this challenge there are no losers, the other two classes will also get to keep what they've raised (but no fund match) and they can decide as a class how best to spend it. I'm sure the children will already be planning what they'd like to purchase for their class.

Our exciting Class Coin Challenge is well underway! Acorn, Chestnut and Oak are competing to see who can collect the most money by the end of this term. So far, it looks like Acorn Class are our leaders but with your help and support there's still time for the other classes to catch up. Let's see if we can encourage a little healthy competition, who will end up taking the top spot! Keep those coins coming in, it's a fun and easy way to support your child's class.

Next FOSMS Meeting

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd January at 7:30pm at The White Swan pub, Bicknacre, CM3 4EX.

We'd love for you to join us at our next FOSMS meeting. It's a great chance to share your ideas, help guide what we do and have a say in how we support the children at St Mary's. Your input and involvement make all the difference, so whether you're a long time supporter or new to FOSMS, we'd be delighted to see you there.

Thank you as always for your support. Let's make 2025 a fantastic year for St Mary's School and our children.

With very grateful thanks, FOSMS

HOW IT WORKS

- Each class will get an empty bottle - over the coming weeks try to fill your class bottle with any loose change.
- At the end of March we will count up the contents. For the class with the most money, FOSMS will match the amount raised up to a value of £100 for that class to purchase fun resources.
- There are no losers in this challenge, the other two classes will also get to keep the sum they raise to spend on fun class resources too.
- Help at home, save your change, look down the back of the sofa, which class will raise the most?