

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

School Value: Thankfulness

Friday 10th January 2025

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

A note from the Headteacher...

Welcome back to the Spring Term, I hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas break. It is fantastic to see the children back in school with a positive start to the new term. We're looking forward to a busy and exciting few months ahead, with plenty of opportunities for your children to learn, grow, and thrive. As always, we're here to support them every step of the way, and we can't wait to see what they'll achieve this term.

Whilst we are experiencing the colder icy temperatures, please ensure you are taking extra care when entering the school. It was -5° this morning! Whilst we do our best to ensure the playground and carpark is gritted there may still be some hidden icy patches. Please ensure your child/ren are being sensible and do not run and take extra precautions.

*Proper clothing and footwear are essential in all PE lessons and games for reasons of health and safety and comfort. Our PE kit is very simple - a plain white or green t-shirt and black shorts or joggers. Kit is not to contain large logos/pictures or captions. Children who are not wearing the correct PE kit will be given spare kit from school to wear. One of the reasons that children have been asked to change into PE kit at school for PE has been for reasons of hygiene. It has also been the case that changing for PE in school allows younger children to develop their independence from parents and learn how to dress themselves, e.g. putting jumpers on, buttoning up shirts, putting shoes on and tying up laces, etc. **PE kit should be in school every Monday.***

We have held attendance meetings this week and will continue to monitor any pupil who is persistently absent and those who have dropped below 90% attendance. If your child is late you will be issued with a "late slip" and this will be recorded on your child's attendance. We appreciate your co-operation and understand that this time of year there are lots of germs and illnesses going around. Please ensure you keep us up to date on Studybugs to prevent the office from making extra phone calls home to chase the reasons for absence. Studybugs is our preferred method of communication for absences therefore if you have any problems setting up the app please let the school office know and we can help you with this.

Congratulations to our Attendance Ambassadors for the Spring Term—Zach, River, Max, Albie.

Thank you to the author Chris Connaughton for visiting us this week. The children have been fascinated to listen to some of his stories and have written and illustrated their own versions.

Thank you also to PC Dan who came in to visit all classes to speak to the children about the role of the Police. The children particularly enjoyed trying on some of the uniform. A very informative session with some well prepared questions from the children.

I have had the pleasure of showing some prospective parents around the school this week who are looking for Mid year and Reception places for September. Please do get in touch with the school office if you know of any families who would like to have a school tour.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, all pupils will be taking part in a Chinese dance workshop on Thursday 23rd January. During the afternoon the children will also have the opportunity to taste some Chinese food. We are asking for a donation of £5 per child to help support these activities and this has been set up for you on ParentPay. Thank you for your support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker

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Tesco In-Store Vote

We are delighted to let you know that our application to Tesco Stronger Starts has been successful. Voting will commence in store from Mid-January 2025 until the end of March 2025.

Please cast your vote in store for our project— "St Mary's myHappyMind"—This programme will teach children the science behind their mental health, and give them the skills to create positive wellbeing that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

How it works:

The project with the highest number of votes will receive £1,500 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), the second placed project £1,000 (or the amount that was requested up to this value), and the third placed project £500. To re-iterate, if you are first in the vote, you will receive the amount that you requested in your application (or the amount that was requested up to £1,500).

What happens next?

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on our project:

2190 Burnham On Crouch Express Express CM0 8HQ

2391 Danbury Express Express CM3 4QW

2882 Maldon Extra CM9 4LE

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here: <http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk>

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.

Additional information

Please note the below advice in terms of do's and don'ts before and during the voting period:

Do:

- Cast your vote as soon as you receive your token for a project in the current voting round
- Only submit Stronger Starts tokens to cast your vote
- Maximise promotion of your project during the voting period by making best use of press and social media guidance
- Encourage the local community and your supporters to get involved with Stronger Starts voting

Don't:

- Tamper with the voting unit (otherwise your project may be void from the vote)
- Influence customers casting their vote at the voting unit
- Take more than one token from the self-serve checkouts
- Encourage supporters to hoard then submit multiple tokens in the voting unit
- Promote your project in store without permission from the Store Manager
- Collect Stronger Starts tokens from stores that are not within your region to vote for your project
- Starting spending your grant, as this is done at your own risk, items cannot be purchased until you have received your offer letter

Thankyou for your continued support





Classroom News

Acorn Achiever

Acorn Class:

Acorn's have had a great start to 2025! We have started a new topic 'Dahlicious Delights' an author study of Roald Dahl and have begun looking at the book the BFG. We have had a visit from the author Chris Connaughton, who told us the story of Little Red Riding Hood, which we acted to and then did some writing. We also had a visit from the Police as part of our understanding of people who help us. We learnt about their job and looked at parts of their uniform and hats. The children had a great time as we were allowed to try them on

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Minnie-Mai has had a good start to 2025 and today produced some lovely maths work. We were looking at simple number bonds to 10 and related facts of how we can add 0 to a number to increase the sum eg $2 + 1 = 3$ $20 + 10 = 30$
Well done Minnie-Mai

Chestnut Class:

In Chestnut Class, we cannot believe that it's only the first week back after the Christmas holidays. We have had a jam-packed fun week and managed to do some great learning. In English, we have written Cinquain poetry about our emotions. In maths we have continued with multiplication and improved our understanding of all of the times tables. In R.E. we have looked at what sacrifice means, particularly in terms of Christianity. We had a visit from a Police Officer and the children loved to try on his hats. The highlight of our week though was Chris Connaughton coming in and working with us. He really made reading and stories exciting and inspired all of the children. They really listened to him and acted upon his advice.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Chestnut Achiever

This week it's John-Boy. I was thrilled with his participation in the sessions with Chris and he confidently shared some amazing ideas!

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have started our unit on multiplication and division in maths, using formal methods to multiply 4-digit by 3-digit numbers. Our reading lessons have focussed on retrieving information from texts. In writing, we have analysed poets' structural devices as well as written a recount of our Christmas break. We have started our new history unit, The Kingdom of Benin and in RE we have looked at the cultural significance of celebrations as an introduction to our Resurrection focus. We have also had a visit from Chris Connaughton who shared with the children strategies to develop their creative writing and it was thoroughly engaging.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Dolly. Dolly has really impressed us with the quality and quantity of her work this week. Everything she produces is beautifully presented and she is showing a greater confidence in herself across the curriculum. Well done, Dolly.



Acorn class had a fantastic first session back after the Christmas break and were excited and eager to get back to our forest school site. We spent the initial 15 minutes sitting round the fire circle talking about our nature spots and discussing ideas for the weeks ahead and the children had lots of great suggestions. The children were then free to explore and play and they had fun in the mud kitchen, bug hunting and finding nature spots for the forest school soft toys. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut were also excited to get back to forest school and we spent some time discussing the weeks ahead and what activities they would like to have a go at trying. We discussed nature spots and I asked the children to think about what they can hear, what they can smell and what they can see while sitting in their nature spot. I explained that we are going to make a note of these things each week which will give the children an insight into how much just one small area of nature can change over the seasons. The children then had some time for free play and groups played in the mud kitchen and digging area while others personalised and decorated their nature spots. A great first session Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class were very enthusiastic about being back at forest school and during our fire circle discussions we came up with some great ideas for projects for all to get involved in. We discussed the idea of planting wild flower seeds in the large tyres we have on site and a couple of the girls spent the session weeding the tyre circles and digging over the soil inside them. The children also found new nature spots and some of them spent time personalising them or building camps around them. We also discussed creating a vegetable plot in an over grown grassy area at the top of the school field and a group of children began clearing the grass and turning over the ground in preparation. It was a very productive session, well done Oak class!

Freddie Forest Bear is very excited to be going home with Evie-Rose from Acorn class on Friday this week. Evie-Rose worked extremely hard at the end of last term and got really stuck in, tidying and cleaning the class garden. Evie-Rose played beautifully with her friends and is always happy and polite. Well done Evie-Rose, enjoy the weekend with Freddie.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Mrs De Wet, who, during the Christmas holidays purchased this fabulous wagon trolley as a gift for our forest school sessions. This trolley will enable us to transport lots of materials, activities and equipment when we have sessions at the off school site. Myself and the children are all very grateful to Mrs De Wet for this gift.



Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Alfie has been very helpful around the class. He is really becoming part of the Acorn class community. He has helped Mrs Fallon and also helped by tidying the classroom without being asked.

Good job Alfie Thank you

Chestnut: This week it's Benji. Benji showed our value of Thankfulness by independently, without any prompting, thanking Chris for working with the class. I was very impressed by his consideration and kindness.

Oak: Oak's value achiever this week is Isabelle. Isabelle shows great community and compassion every lunchtime as she offers to help the staff to clean up and sweep the hall. I know this is very much appreciated. Well done, Isabelle.



MENU w/c 13.01.25

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 6th January for dinners w/c 13th

Deadline 9:00am Monday 13th January for dinners w/c 20th

<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 hole / Quorn toad in the hole	Beef Bolognese / Quorn Bolognese	Chicken Nuggets/ Quorn Nuggets
Cheese / Ham Baguette	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Cheese/Ham Baguette	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Cheese/Ham / 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:

- ◇ Chinese New Year
- ◇ NHS Pharmacy First Service available at Boots
- ◇ Breakfast / After School Club T's & C's
- ◇ PE Kit in school
- ◇ Chris Connaughton author visit and book sale
- ◇ ACL Free Courses
- ◇ Year 6 Bikeability
- ◇ SWF Leisure Centre—Netball course



BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

DOWNHAM – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM MATERNITY COVER) closing date 15th January

DOWNHAM – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT & MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 15th January

FAIRHOUSE – KS1 CLASS TEACHER closing date 28th January


FAIRHOUSE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 20th January

WILLOWS – ASSISTANT COOK closing date 10th January


For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)

Coins in a bottle

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.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL



COINS IN A BOTTLE CLASS CHALLENGE

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?



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

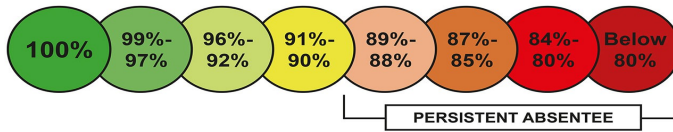
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
15th Jan	Closing date for Reception intake—September 2025		
22nd Jan	Essex PINS Parents Session 1 9am-11am	Neurodevelopmental Diversity	SEND Parents
23rd Jan	Chinese education work- shop Chinese food tasting	PSHE Cultural	All classes Voluntary contribution £5
5th Feb	Essex 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	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	100%
Year 1	92.50%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	95.56%
Year 6	94.67%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **95.17%**

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

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

Happy New Year to you all, we hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas break. We thought this would be a lovely opportunity to share with you what we managed to achieve last term. FOSMS are planning more of the same fun and frolics this term!

- * We launched the class coin challenge where FOSMS will fund match the class that raises the most up to £100. The other two classes will keep what they raise but with no fund match. This will run until the end of March so please do remember to send in any spare change you have to support your child's class bottle.
- * We took advantage of the no cold child initiative and managed to secure winter coats for families at a cost of £10 each.
- * We launched our preloved uniform E-Shop. Take a look here, this is updated regularly so please do message us if you're looking for a specific item.

fosms.sumupstore.com

- * We held a "Firework" Disco which was a super success and was fully funded by the Denny Family. They paid for the entertainment and also the food and refreshments. We made an amazing £262.28.
- * We secured a sponsor (£100) for kindness day which was successfully run by our year 6 girls for the whole school. We were able to purchase all resources and small prizes for the girls to have what they needed.
- * All our Christmas activities combined raised a staggering £824.17 which is just incredible. The raffle made up the majority (£371.58) which was so well supported by you all. The Sum Up machine has really helped to boost sales not to mention our amazing prizes!
- * We ran the Christmas card project via cauliflower cards, we are expecting £51.00 commission.
- * Asda cash pot which will be paid to us before the end of March raised £278.12.
- * Easy fundraising has brought in £193.27 so far, this is where we earn when our supporters' shop. Please consider signing up for this as it's a way you could help us to earn while you shop.

[St Mary's C of E Primary School Woodham Ferrers Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)

- * We paid for the Panto coach at a cost of £426.00 for the whole school which helped to make the trip a little more affordable for all families. We also provided sweets and popcorn for the children to enjoy.
- * We paid for all children to have Christmas lunch at a cost of £150.00, we paid for the festive table-wear and a small Christmas gift for each child in place of a Christmas cracker - costing £133.40. We invested in wipe-clean tablecloths and by removing Christmas cracker waste we have been very ecofriendly this year!
- * We paid £843.07 for term 1's class reading books to compliment the English curriculum. With careful shopping around we managed to save £625.73 off the retail price of the books. We have a projected spend of £159.80 coming up for term 2 English curriculum books.
- * Our next planned event is the Mother's Day / Special Person Sale in March.
- * We are also committed to funding a road safety banner once we receive the children's artwork. This will be displayed outside school in an effort to encourage traffic to adhere to the speed limit.
- * We currently have £5056.18 in the bank. This includes the £1050.00 Fords Grant that is to be used towards upgrading the playground in due course.
- * This term we raised just over £1700.00, and we spent just over £1600.00 directly on the children in our school.

This is all possible due to your amazing support - Thank you so much, we couldn't have achieved this without you.

With very grateful thanks, FOSMS