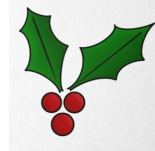




## St Mary's C of E Primary School E-Newsletter

School Value: Compassion

Friday 13th December 2024



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

### *A note from the Headteacher...*

*As the term draws to a close, we want to reflect on the incredible experiences and achievements that have brought our school community together.*

***Whole School Pantomime:** Our pupils delighted in a magical and fun-filled pantomime that brought laughter and joy to everyone.*

***School Trips to Duxford:** The visits were a fantastic opportunity for hands-on learning and an exciting way to explore history.*

***Welcome to Our New Reverend:** We warmly welcomed Rev. Jacqui, who has already become an integral part of our school family.*

***Royal British Legion Engagement:** Our pupils showed respect and understanding through meaningful participation in remembrance activities.*

***Artist Matt Mackman Visit:** We were inspired by the creativity and talent of artist Matt Mackman, who shared his passion and techniques with us.*

***Positive External Inclusion Review:** We are proud to have received glowing feedback affirming our commitment to inclusivity and supportive practices.*

***Cultural Celebration Day:** A vibrant and enriching event where all pupils participated in activities that celebrated diversity and multiculturalism.*

***FOSMS Firework Disco:** Courtesy of our wonderful parents, the fireworks and disco event was a huge hit with pupils and families alike.*

***Pupil Voice Kindness Rocks Project:** This initiative encouraged unity and creativity, involving the entire school in a meaningful way.*

***Oak Class Heritage Hub Project:** Our Oak Class pupils have embarked on an exciting heritage project, delving into local history with enthusiasm.*

***FOSMS Christmas Sale:** Your generous donations and purchases have provided more valuable funds for your children.*

*This term has been filled with unforgettable moments and valuable learning opportunities. We are incredibly proud of our pupils' participation, creativity, and kindness throughout all these activities. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and wonderful pupils for making these events so successful.*

*Here's to continuing this positive momentum in the new term!*

*This will be the last newsletter of the term due to attendance reports next week.*

*Wishing you all a lovely weekend and a wonderful Christmas for when we break up on the 20th.*

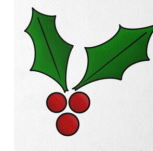
*Mrs Walker*



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

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Friday 13th December 2024



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

## 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 as your own risk, items cannot be purchased until you have received your offer letter

Thankyou for your continued support





# Classroom News

## *Acorn Class:*

Another busy week, we all enjoyed the Panto and I could not of been prouder of how sensible Acorn class were on the coach and in the theatre. We have enjoyed our two DT days where we have learnt about windmills and how they are powered. We have looked at fixings and different ways to join and have learnt about axles. We are now in the middle of our Nativity rehearsals which is keeping us very busy.

*Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher*

## *Chestnut Class:*

It's been yet another busy week in Chestnut Class this week. We had a wonderful start to the week at the Towngate Theatre watching Jack and the Beanstalk. Everyone behaved really well and we had a great time. On Tuesday morning, we used the laptops to type up our own versions of the playscript. Our focus in history this week was women on the Home Front and how their lives changed in just a few years. Some children wrote two diary entries and others drew pictures to show the changes. We've been working really hard on the Nativity. We ended the week with our DT Days which we loved. Our task was to build a structure- an Anderson Shelter and all of the children thoroughly enjoyed their learning.

*Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher*

## *Oak Class:*

This week in Oak class we have finished writing our letters in English and in maths we have been learning how to subtract two mixed numbers. Our reading has focused on vocabulary and the meaning of words in specific contexts. In history we have looked at the aftermath of World War 1 and how it shaped the world for the Second World War. We have enjoyed two days of DT researching, designing, making and evaluating our electronic greetings cards as well as rehearsing our nativity and going to the pantomime.

*Mr Austin—Class Teacher*



This week Acorn class had their forest school session in their class garden due to a lot of fallen branches, etc. in the forest school site. There were quite a few fallen branches in the garden so a couple of the children helped me clear them all to the side. A group of the children had great fun with the magnifying glasses, searching for bugs. They also painted lots of large stones to make the fairy garden area bright and colourful. The last half hour was spent indoors where the children all drew the bugs they had found as well as other bugs that they know of. Some really fantastic drawing Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class had fun whittling this week. It was lovely to see so many of the children trying a new skill and they picked it up so quickly too. A couple of the boys managed to whittle a butter knife and also made efforts to whittle spoons. Other children made glittery pine cones to hang round the site to make it look Festive and others played in the mud kitchen. Well done Chestnut class!

Oak class had free play this week so they could choose what they wanted to work on in forest school. Quite a few children continued on from last week and did whittling. They produced some great items again and we even had bow and arrow made! We also put the finishing touches to the log reindeer to get them ready for the craft sale. Well done Oak class.

This week Freddie will be going home with Alfie Brock from Acorn class. Alfie worked so hard alongside me this week, picking up and clearing all the fallen branches in the class garden and making a little log pile by the gate. Alfie was very friendly and helpful towards his classmates, showing them what to do if they were unsure. Well done Alfie, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

I would like to say and huge thank you to all the parents/carers who purchased a reindeer, bird feeder or Christmas tree decoration from our little stall at the craft sale. Your generosity has given us just over £70 to buy new tools and resources for the pupils to enjoy during their forest school sessions. The £2.50 bird feeders seemed to be a very popular item and I do still have a few left that I will have in school on Wednesday 18th December (Nativity Day) should anyone wish to purchase one.

*Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead*





## MENU w/c 16.12.24

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 9th December for dinners w/c 16th**

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Sausage / Quorn Pasta	Pepperoni Pizza / Cheese Pizza	Roast Chicken / Quorn fillet	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>	Fish Fingers / Veggie Fingers
Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Ham / Cheese baguette	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans		Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans / Tuna

### *Dojo messages this week:*

- ◇ FOSMS Sale
- ◇ Christmas Jumper day
- ◇ Nativity timings
- ◇ Raffle prizes
- ◇ Chelmsford food bank
- ◇ Spring Term Clubs

### *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

Film Club  
Thursday: 3.15pm – 4.15pm  
Mrs Walker

Year 6 Tutoring  
Thursday: 3.15pm—4:15pm  
Mr Austin  
(in groups as agreed directly by Mr Austin)




#### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

DOWNHAM – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 13<sup>th</sup> December  
DOWNHAM – PART TIME CLASS TEACHER (FIXED TERM MATERNITY COVER) closing date 20<sup>th</sup> December  
MERRYLANDS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 7<sup>th</sup> January  
MERRYLANDS – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 7<sup>th</sup> January  
WILLOWS – ASSISTANT COOK closing date 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.essexkidscamp.co.uk/activities)

**Email:** [info@essexkidscamp.co.uk](mailto:info@essexkidscamp.co.uk)



@Essex Kids Camp

# dates to Remember

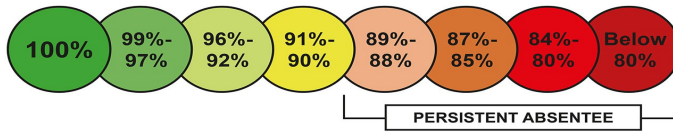
*Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info*

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
18.12.24	Nativity FOSMS Raffle		Grandparents 9.30-10.30 Parents/Carers 2-3pm
19.12.24	FOSMS Movie night 3.15pm—5pm		All pupils
19.12.24	Christingle Service at St Marys Church		Parents/Carers
19.12.24	Christmas Dinner		All pupils
20.12.24	Christmas Jumpers Christmas board games and films in class		All pupils
20.12.24	Story time with Santa		Acorn Class
20.12.24	Carol Singing at the Senior Living		Years 3-6
20.12.24	Last day of term—normal finish time		
06.01.24	Welcome back to school for the Spring term		



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



## Which CIRCLE are you in?



Reception	85%
Year 1	88.75%
Year 2	91.43%
Year 3	92.22%
Year 4	97.50%
Year 5	87.78%
Year 6	87.33%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **90%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **45**

### 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're almost there, jingle those Christmas bells it's going to be a bumper week full of festive fun!

#### **Pantomime Fun**

The children had a fantastic time at this year's pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk! We were delighted that by covering the cost of the coach for everyone, we were able to make this much-loved event more accessible for our families. We were also able to provide popcorn and sweeties for the children with were very much enjoyed.

#### **Elfridge's Christmas Sale Success**

Thank you to everyone who supported Elfridge's Christmas Sale. We had a great turnout, and we were thrilled to almost sell out! So far, over £400 has been raised. There's still time to get involved:

- Name the Elf: secure your name of choice to be in with a chance to win our Elf!
- Reverse Snowman Raffle: Add or remove a child's name.
- Raffle Tickets: These can be purchased right up to the day of the Nativity. The draw will take place after the Nativity so you can take your prizes home.

#### **A Wonderful Term**

As we head into the final week of term, we'd like to express our gratitude for all your support. It's been an amazing start to the year, filled with plenty of fun and memorable moments for the children.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Christmas Dinner: Next week, the children will enjoy their Christmas dinner, complete with a little treat for everyone. FOSMS will provide festive table wear to make the children's lunch festive along with a beautiful festive keepsake in place of the traditional Christmas cracker.
- Nativity (Wednesday): We can't wait to see the children showcase their hard work in the Nativity. The raffle will be drawn after the afternoon performance.
- Movie Night (Thursday): Our end-of-term movie night promises to be a cozy and fun evening! Children can choose between two films:
  - One will be shown in the main hall.
  - The other will be in a different area.

Popcorn and juice will be provided by FOSMS.

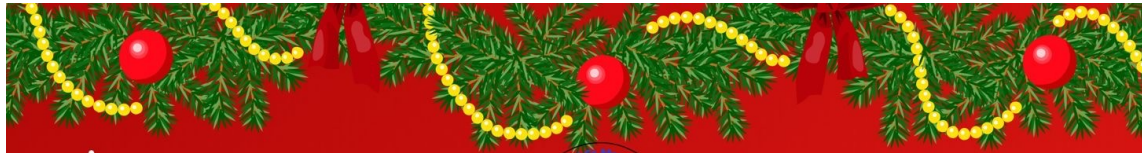
Reminder: To secure your child's spot, please book and make payment here

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

Thank you again for a fantastic term. We hope you all have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you next week! As this will be the last newsletter before Christmas, we would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. We will be back with more fun in 2025!

*With very grateful thanks,*  
**FOSMS**

*Friends of St Mary's School  
(FOSMS)*



# CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

**BLACKWATER  
LEISURE CENTRE  
FAMILY SWIM  
VOUCHER**

**COFFEE  
MACHINE**

**6 MEGACENTRE  
PASSES**

**KEVIN THE CARROT!**

**FRED'S BARBERS  
VOUCHER**

**GUIDE DOG PUPPY  
EXPERIENCE FOR A  
CLASS**

**PHONICS WITH  
ROBOT REG CLASS  
VOUCHER**

**KIDS  
PERSONALISED  
LOUNGEWEAR SETS**



**MANICURE  
VOUCHER**

**A DAYS PROFESSIONAL PAINTING WITH  
MARK JOHNSON PAINTING & DECORATING**

**NECKLACE &  
EARRINGS SET**

**LASHELLE BEAUTY  
VOUCHER**

**FLOWERS BY  
KELLY VOUCHER**

**RJ ASTHETICS  
VOUCHER**

**2 X I-I GIFT  
BASKETS**



Cuddly Olaf & Selection Box • Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Basket  
Knitted Animal Basket • Christmas Activities Basket • Pretty Cake Stand  
Star Wars Lava Lamp • Dream Secrets Doll • Ladies Pamper Carry Bag  
Ice Bucket with Bluetooth Speakers • Paw Patrol Gift Set  
Teddy Bear & Selection Box • Basket of Princesses & Make-up • LOL Jigsaw Set  
River Island Laptop Bag • Harry Potter Jigsaw • Gin Basket  
Soap Making Set • Paint by Numbers • Tea Cup Gift Set  
Ted Baker Gift Set (Ladies) • Luxury Address and Birthday Book

