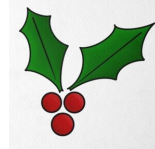




St Mary's C of E Primary School E-Newsletter

School Value: Compassion

Friday 6th December 2024



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

A note from the Headteacher...

Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas at St Mary's. The children did a fantastic job of decorating our Christmas tree and it is wonderful to hear them singing carols during Collective Worship.

This week we welcomed the Rotary club into school to discuss the formation of a Rotakids club. This is something we are very much looking forward to setting up in the new year and I know our pupils will enjoy supporting local, national and international charities. I will provide more information in due course.

Our Nativity production is in full preparation mode and we are looking forward to welcoming you into school on 18th December to watch the performance. (Senior Citizens at 09:30am and Parents/Carers at 1:30pm.) The children have all been told which part they will play in the Nativity and this will be rehearsed in school. If you have a costume at home to support their part, we ask that this is brought into school by Friday 13th at the latest in readiness for our dress rehearsal.

I am in discussion with Reverend Jacqui to secure a regular time slot for her to visit us for Collective Worship in the new year. In the meantime please be aware of the festive activities and services taking place over the next few weeks at the Holy Trinity Church and St Marys Church— attached overleaf.

*We are very much looking forward to visiting the Towngate Theatre Monday 9th December to watch the Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime. **We ask that all children bring a packed lunch with them on this day as we will be eating our lunch during the interval.***

Thank you for the donations towards our "Reverse Advent Calendar". I know this will mean a lot to the residents of Eastham care home. The deadline for donations is Thursday 12th December to allow us time to get everything wrapped. We appreciate anything you can donate and thank you for your continued support.

*13th December—A reminder that we amended our Menu on Friday 13th December as Mrs Richardson will be cooking Christmas Dinner for another school. I have noticed that we have very few updated bookings for this date. Please ensure you provide your child with a packed lunch if you missed the **9am** deadline on **Monday 2nd December** with your updated choices.*

As you know, forest school is part of the scheduled timetable at St Mary's, therefore all children are expected to take part unless they have a valid medical reason. Could I therefore please ask that you ensure that all children have suitable clothing and footwear for the colder and wetter weather. If anyone finds themselves struggling, please do not hesitate to email Miss Wilson at deborah.wilson@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk as we have a small selection of spare wellies and clothing that can be passed discreetly to your child. .

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker





Children's Crafts and



PARKING
AVAILABLE

An Audience with Father Christmas

AT
**ST MARY'S
WOODHAM
FERRERS**

10.00-12.30 & 1.30-4.00
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Tickets from
www.stmarysheritagehub.co.uk
£16 per child

Christmas Services

Holy Trinity Church South Woodham Ferrers

Sunday, 8th December

Nine Lessons and Carols at 10am

Friday, 13th December

Town Carol Service at 5.30 pm
(refreshments from 5pm)

Christmas Eve

Crib Service at 3pm

Roman Catholic Mass at 7pm
Holy Communion Service at 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Roman Catholic Mass at 8.45 am
Anglican & Methodist Holy Communion at 10.15am

St Mary's Church Woodham Ferrers

Sunday, 15th December

Carols by Candlelight
at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion
Midnight Service
at 11.15pm



Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns have been really excited to start the month December, I wonder why? In science we have looked at the changing seasons and have discussed winter. In literacy we have continued our book the magic paintbrush focussing on rhyming words and character descriptions. In maths we have finished place value and are now looking at shapes. In History we have continued to look at the local Edwins Hall and its historical features, so another busy week.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In English we have written lots of stories this week. Everyone worked independently and produced some great work. In maths we continued with adding and subtracting. In music we continued with learning Three Little Birds and sang our Christmas songs too. We really enjoyed learning about rationing in history and everyone was concentrating to make sure that they used their "coupons" wisely. In science, we looked at materials changing state when heating and cooling. We have started to plan an investigation on melting chocolate and we look forward to carrying out our investigation next week.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

In Oak Class this week, we have planned and written letters about the Christmas Truce from the perspective of a soldier at the time. In maths, we have moved on to adding and subtracting mixed numbers where one fraction is a multiple of the other. In reading, we have focussed on summarising texts about the Battle of the Somme. In RE we have revisited our big question, 'Is believing in God reasonable?' and written a balanced argument based on what we have learnt. In art, we have finished our Christmas Truce piece and in History, we have learnt about the Battle of the Somme and generated our own lines of enquiry for research based on our individual interests

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Forest School:

Acorn class had some creative fun this week and a small group of children made glittery pine cones. Once they are fully dry we will attach some nice string or ribbon to them for the children to take home and put on their Christmas trees. Some of the children also coloured some wooden decorations which they took home with them. All of the children enjoyed exploring the site and playing in the various play areas. Well done Acorn class!

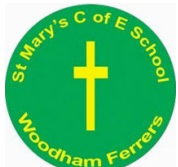
Chestnut class were excited that the weather was dry and we were able to have our campfire. First, we discussed fire safety, quite a lot of the children knew what equipment was used to build a campfire and how to build it safely and efficiently. I showed the children how to cut the kindling into thinner pieces, using a sheath knife and a mallet. Two of the boys built the campfires and I lit them using a flint and steel. When the fire was ready, the children toasted marshmallows and made s'mores. Well done Chestnut class.

Oak class tried whittling this week which was a very popular activity. The children took to whittling with ease and they made various items which they were very proud of. I also showed the children how to make a log swing on one of the larger trees on the school field. This was a huge success and the children had great fun taking it in turns to have a go on it. Well done Oak class.

This week Freddie will be going home with Lilly-May Smith from Acorn class to spend the weekend with the Smith family. Lilly-May is always perfectly behaved during forest school sessions and is consistently polite and respectful. Lilly-May takes part in every new craft or activity that I provide and is always smiling and excited to show me what she has made. Her confidence has grown so much since she first started forest school sessions and it is wonderful to see her now coming out of her shell. Well done Lilly-May!

Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead





MENU w/c 9.12.24

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 2nd December for dinners w/c 9th December

Deadline 9:00am Monday 9th December for dinners w/c 16th December

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
PANTO Packed lunches only	Ham & Pineapple pizza	Toad in the hole	Beef /Quorn Bolognaise Pasta Bake	Ham / Cheese / Tuna Baguette
PANTO Packed lunches only	Cheese / Beans Jacket Potato	Ham / Cheese Baguette	Cheese / Beans Jacket Potato	

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ E-Scooter safety
- ◇ School photos
- ◇ Lunch bookings on 9th December
- ◇ Forest School
- ◇ Change of Menu—13th December
- ◇ Reverse Advent Calendar
- ◇ Term dates 2025/2026
- ◇ Hand Foot & Mouth

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)

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

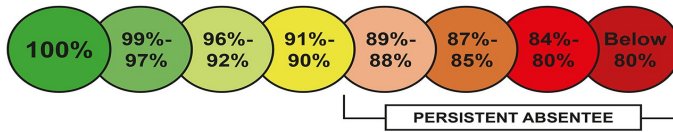
Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
9.12.24	Christmas Pantomime		All Pupils
10.12.24	FOSMS Christmas Sale From 2.30pm		All pupils
12.12.24	Christmas Jumper Day		All Pupils
12/13.12.24	DT Day	DT	All Pupils
13.12.24	DT Day Open Afternoon for Parents to view work from 2.30pm	DT	Parents/Carers
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



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



Reception	91.87%
Year 1	90.77%
Year 2	95.02%
Year 3	95.06%
Year 4	92.66%
Year 5	93.28%
Year 6	90.65%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.54%**

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 excited to share some wonderful festive updates and reminders with you!

Cauliflower Cards

All orders have now been distributed to families, we hope you love them! We will announce the commission we have raised in the new year once all orders are complete. There's still time to place an order if you're thinking about it - we kept a record of the codes so drop us a message if you need help.



Asda Cash Pot for Schools

Our total raised at 30th November was £278.12. We look forward to receiving that in the Spring term. Thank you all so much for helping us reach this wonderful amount.

Upcoming Fun and Festivities

- Monday 9th December - Christmas Panto! FOSMS paid for the coach again this year in an effort to keep costs low for parents. We will also be providing a little snack for each child - oh yes we will!!
- Tuesday 10th December - Elfridges Christmas sale from 2:30pm in the school hall. Come and pick out a few little gifts and treats with your child/children.
- Tuesday 10th December - Christmas Raffle ticket sales open at the Elfridges Christmas sale, they will remain on sale until Wednesday 18th December. We have some amazing prizes so don't miss your chance to get your tickets!
- Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Raffle draw! We will do the draw at the afternoon performance of the Nativity, so you'll be able to take any winnings straight home.
- Thursday 19th December - Christmas Movie Night 3:15pm/5pm. Tickets are on sale now via our website, movies will be voted on by the children closer to the day. We have a movie showing in Mrs Fallons class and one in the main hall - children are free to pick which one they'd like to watch. FOSMS will provide squash and popcorn. <https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>

We are hunting for raffle prizes to make our Christmas raffle even more amazing! If you can help with a prize or a donation please do let us know! We are so very grateful for your continued generosity when supporting our raffles. This is going to be a super one!

Mr Snowman - we announced our Snowman Reverse Raffle this week. All of your children have been entered into the draw to win him - he is huge!

Please find more details on the poster below it the pinned post on the WhatsApp chat. I've already received some payments to remove their child's name and also extra payments to add a child's name! The raffle will be open until 18th December - good luck!

Link to remove your child's name - <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QUW2FF5B>

Link to add another child's name - <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QYLDIHLV>

Friends of St Mary's School (FOSMS)



A note from FOSMS

We also have Name the Elf happening for £1 you can pick a name from the card and if you are the lucky one to select his name when the winning envelope is opened you will win him! At the moment he is loafing about school waiting for his new family!

Kevin the Carrot - If you haven't been following Kevin's adventures on the FOSMS Facebook page please do, He's already been on some wonderful adventures with lots more to come. Kevin is making his way to school to become a part of our Christmas raffle. Please take a look here <https://fosms.co.uk/kevins-adventures>

As always, thank you so much for your support, it really does mean the world to our school and to the committee members who make the fun happen - we couldn't do it without you!

*With very grateful thanks,
FOSMS*

The poster has a light blue background with white snowflakes scattered around. At the top, the title 'Snowman Reverse Raffle' is written in large, bold, orange and black letters. Below the title, 'Congratulations Parents and Carers' is written in orange. The main text is in black and explains the raffle rules. At the bottom, there is a cartoon illustration of a snowman wearing a blue hat and scarf, standing between two green Christmas trees. The entire poster is framed by a decorative border of snowflakes.

Snowman Reverse Raffle

Congratulations Parents and Carers

All of your children have been entered into a draw to win a giant cuddly snowman that has been kindly donated to us.

Now, I know the idea of winning this wonderful prize may fill you with dread. However, as the kind PTA we are, we're offering you an out! For the bargain price of 50p you can remove your child's name from the draw.

However, please be warned, we are also offering parents the chance to purchase tickets to add ANY child's name. So is your friend really your friend - would they purchase £2 worth of tickets to increase your child's chances of winning?

You can remove your child's name in advance by dropping 50p to the office in a named envelope with the word REMOVE or do it on the day of the Christmas Sale.

Alternatively, you can add names to the raffle in advance with 50p in a named envelope with the word ADD! Again this can also be done on the day of the Christmas sale.

The draw will take place on 18th December and the lucky winner will receive their prize - you're welcome!

A cartoon snowman with a blue hat and scarf stands between two green Christmas trees. The snowman has a carrot nose and stick arms. The trees are decorated with snowflakes.

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



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

**WE'RE SEEKING DONATIONS FOR
OUR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!**

**Do you have a gift, voucher, or
service to offer? Your generous
support helps us raise vital funds
for our school community.**

**🎁 ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY
RECEIVED!**

**📅 DEADLINE FOR PRIZES: 10TH
DECEMBER**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

