

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

School Value: Compassion

Friday 29th November 2024

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

A note from the Headteacher... I am delighted to share that I have been asked to take on the role of Executive Headteacher at Downham Church of England Primary School, where I will be supporting the Head of School from a strategic perspective to drive improvement forward. I will continue as Headteacher and SENCO at St Mary's C of E Primary School. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to share the successful practices and insights from St Mary's with the team at Downham, fostering collaboration and enhancing their Christian distinctiveness.

This dual role will allow me to leverage best practices and drive continuous improvement, benefiting all our pupils. I look forward to working closely with both school communities to support their growth and success.

A big well done to Oak class for a fantastic class assembly this week. I am very proud of how confident you all were and was blown away by your amazing artwork and poetry. Thank you to the adults who came along to support the children.

Regrettably I received another phone call this week from an unhappy resident regarding the parking at the crescent. Whilst we appreciate how challenging parking can be for our families at busy periods, please be reminded that it is not acceptable to park on the green. Residents are very upset that the green is being destroyed and churned up by cars. Please remain respectful and mindful of our neighbours at all times. Please be reminded that there is alternative parking at Lodge Road which is a short walk from the school as another option.

We are very much looking forward to visiting the Towngate Theatre Monday 9th December to watch the Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime. A reminder that children will be travelling by coach and we will be leaving school at 9.30am. We have been informed that the show is approximately 2 hours 40 minutes, therefore we anticipate our arrival back at school to be at 2pm. We ask that all children bring a packed lunch with them on this day as we will be eating our lunch in the interval. FOSMS have kindly paid for our coach and have organised some snacks for the children. I am sure the children will have a fun day.

Hopefully you have seen our dojo post regarding our "Reverse Advent Calendar". This year we would love to provide the resident of Eastham some Christmas gifts when KS2 visit them to sing carols. We are asking for donations (new or unused) to be dropped into the school office by Thursday 12th December. We appreciate anything you can donate and thank you for your continued support.

We are very much looking forward to taking Chestnut and Oak class to Duxford next week. If parents/carers can kindly return the consent slip and make payment for this trip via ParentPay as soon as possible it would be very much appreciated. The day will be normal times. Arrive at school at 8.45, we will leave at 9.15 and scheduled to arrive at 10.15. We shall leave the Museum and be back in time for the end of the school day at 3.15p.m. The deadline has now past for school lunches therefore unless you have already made us aware your child will need to bring a disposable packed lunch with them.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker



Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns are enjoying PE and learning all the skills in gymnastics. At Forest Schools they had great fun despite the chilly weather making toasted marshmallows and s'mores, wrong day for me to have a morning appointment! We had a lovely session this week with Artist Matt Mackman following on our Black History work. We looked at the work of black artist Jean-Michel Basquiat for inspiration. In literacy we have been looking at the fabulous book 'The magic paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson and this is helping to inspire our writing.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In English this week we have continued to write letters as Evacuees. We have tried really hard to think about the experiences that children had during WWII. In maths we've made great progress with adding and regrouping. It took us a while but we kept persevering, and it has paid off. In reading this week, we read some interesting facts about WWII technology. History this week was all about The Blitz, we learned about the important roles of Air Raid Wardens and illustrated images of the Blitz to show our understanding. In RE we took "virtual tours" of three types of Christian Churches and looked at the similarities and differences between them.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak we have written up our World War 1 poems and started looking at the features of letters in English. In maths we have been adding and subtracting mixed numbers where the denominators are multiples of each other and when they're not. In history, we have been learning about The Christmas Truce of 1914. We have completed another project with Matt Mackman and also performed our class assembly to the school.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

Achiever – Aria has completed some beautiful reading with Mrs Fallon. It was lovely to hear her read the words as we played with our class puppet Raquel, Aria helped Raquel with some real and alien words.

Chestnut Achiever

Amelia Richardson is our work achiever this week. She has had an excellent attitude and applied herself well in every lesson. I've been really pleased with the progress she's making with understanding and recalling her two times table too.

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Jacob. Jacob did an amazing job in our class assembly and presented his work clearly and confidently. It was lovely to see how confident he was and how well he delivered his presentation. Well done, Jacob.



Acorn class had an exciting forest school session this week as we had a campfire. First, we discussed fire safety and I explained to the children what equipment we use to build a campfire and how to build it safely and efficiently. I had a year 6 pupil helping out for the morning and he showed a few of the children how to cut the kindling into thinner pieces, using a sheath knife and a mallet. Two other boys helped me to build the fire and we lit it using a flint and steel. When the fire was ready, the children toasted marshmallows and made s'mores. These were a real hit and the children enjoyed them. All of Acorn class behaved impeccably, they followed the fire safety rules at all times and I am confident that we will have more campfires in the future. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class were back to the outdoors this week as the temperature had risen after the freezing conditions last week. The pupils were excited to go back to the bigger off site area again and had great fun on the long swing and building dens. A small group of children took part in making log reindeers which will be added to our other creations at the Christmas craft sale. During reflection time we discussed having a campfire next week and weather permitting, this is the plan. Well done Chestnut class, let's hope we have good camp fire weather next week.

Oak class had another very productive week and made great headway with the site revamp worked hard clearing a tidying. Some of the children had fun in the mud kitchen and the digging area and a group of the children made garlands out of dried orange slices and pine cones. The children of Oak class are always very enthusiastic at forest school and they work so hard in thinking up ideas and then creating these ideas in reality. It really is a pleasure to spend time with them. Well done Oak class.

This week Freddie will be going home with Harry Yates from Oak class. Harry always offers to help me with any task that I am doing at forest school and never complains, no matter how difficult something might be. Harry is enthusiastic and eager to please and in recent weeks he has really come into his own with his imagination and creativity. Well done Harry!



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead

Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: Bobbi-Rae, always demonstrates the school values. She is well behaved, helpful and kind She is a good role model to the other children in class.

Chestnut: River is our value achiever this week. She volunteered to help another child at lunchtime without expecting anything in return. I was so impressed that I decided she deserved a little of the ice cream too.

Oak: Oak's value achiever is Daniel. Daniel wrote an incredibly emotive and compassionate poem about the First World War. His use of English was wonderful and he delivered it perfectly in our class assembly. Well done, Daniel.



MENU w/c 02.12.24

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 25th November for dinners w/c 2nd December

Deadline 9:00am Monday 2nd December for dinners w/c 9th December

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Sausage / Quorn pasta	Pepperoni / Cheese Pitta Pizza	Roast / Quorn Chicken	Chilli con carne / Quorn	Fish Fingers / Veggie Fingers
Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Baguette Ham / Cheese	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans	Baguette Ham / Cheese	Jacket Potato Cheese / Beans / Tuna

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre Activities
- ◇ Christmas Tree Recycling service
- ◇ Change of Menu on Friday 13th December
- ◇ Reverse Advent Calendar
- ◇ Parking
- ◇ Essex Library Service Winter Reading Challenge
- ◇ Holiday Activity Fund for pupil premium families
- ◇ FOSMS Raffle donations

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

CANEWDON – HLTA closing date 2nd December

CHERRY TREE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 29th November

DOWNHAM – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 11th December

FELMORE – CATERING MANAGER (FIXED TERM) closing date 29th November


WHITMORE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 9th December

WILLOWS – ASSISTANT COOK closing date 4th December


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

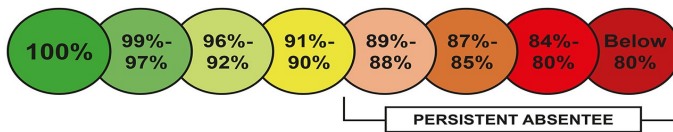
Please note that dates are subject to change.— Check Dojo events page for further info

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
4.12.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
6.12.24	Duxford Trip		Chestnut and Oak Class
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	85%
Year 1	85%
Year 2	87.14%
Year 3	87.78%
Year 4	92.50%
Year 5	87%
Year 6	89.33%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **88.03%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **39**

If your child is absent from school please:

- ◇ Contact the school 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

We have received all of the items placed in the main school order and messages have been sent to collect your wonderful items from the office. We think they've turned out so well and we hope you are thrilled with them. Items ordered after the main order will be posted to you direct. 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

We are in the final few days of earning money while you shop at Asda. Our pot currently stands at £267.45. Thank you all so much for helping us reach this wonderful amount. The pot closes on Saturday 30th November so we may even break £270!!

Upcoming Fun and Festivities

- 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!!
- 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.
- 10th December - Christmas Raffle ticket sales open at the Elfridges Christmas sale, they will remain on sale until 18th December. We have some amazing prizes so don't miss your chance to get your tickets!
- 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.

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!

If you'd like to take a look at the minutes from our FOSMS committee last week to see what we get up to please do

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

*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!

