

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

School Value: Compassion

Friday 22nd November 2024

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

A note from the Headteacher...

What a cold week it has been. The temperature has continued to drop this week and the roads and paths have been very icy. Please take extra care when coming into the school grounds. We do grit the paths however some areas are more icy than others. Please ensure your child comes to school with an appropriate coat - if they do not have a coat in school then they will stay inside at break/lunch times.

Please can I ask that you ensure all items of clothing (uniform, PE kit, Forest school clothes etc) are labelled clearly with your child's name. We are often informed of missing items and they will be much easier to find if labelled. If you can check your child's bag for any items that do not belong to them and return to the school office it would be much appreciated. Thank you

I have attended the second residential in Birmingham this week for the National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership. It has been so insightful working with other Headteachers and leaders, problem solving and discussing challenges around SEND and Behaviour within mainstream schools.

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.

I have published our Christmas Calendar on dojo this week to help plan for the upcoming events during the festive period. I hope this is useful for you.

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations for the foodbank during our Harvest festival. We had a total of 80kg of food donated and have been sent a special thank you and certificate from the foodbank. I know this means so much to those in a crisis situation in our local area and will make a huge difference.

We are very much looking forward to taking Chestnut and Oak class to Duxford on 6th December. If parents/carers can kindly return the consent slip and make payment for this trip via ParentPay as soon as possible. The school office will need to be aware of any lunch orders by no later than 9am on Monday 25th November.

This week Year 5 had a visit from the Safer Essex Road Safety Partnership. The pupils were reminded how they should behave when they are near the road, including how to cross the road in the safest way. They were also reminded why they should always wear a seat belt and the importance of wearing their cycle helmet. Every pupil was given a fluorescent bag to remind them to Be Bright, Be Seen. We encourage you to reinforce this learning with your child following Stop, Look, Listen and Think. For more information and additional free resources visit <https://saferessexroads.org/> and <https://www.think.gov.uk/>.

The trainer said "I do hope the children enjoyed the road safety session this week, they were a fantastic class, who really listened and were very enthusiastic."

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker



Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns have been enjoying our topic 'Fireworks & Festivals'. We have continued to learn about other cultures and how they celebrate. In Art with continued looking at the work of Alma Thomas and created some circles in the style of her work. As it is road safety week, we have been looking at staying safe, I was very impressed how much the children knew. In History we have been looking at houses in Woodham, the children were very excited to see houses they knew and the fact that one of the houses was built in the time of Guy Fawkes!

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In maths this week we have continued to look at addition and subtraction and mental arithmetic. We've also continued with our efforts to learn our times tables and using TTR. In English we have started to think about writing letters. In history we did lots of research to find out about the evacuations in WW2. As it has been Road Safety week, for PSHE we have also completed a reading comprehension and produced some great posters to show our understanding.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have completed our unit on figurative language and written our own World War One Poetry. Our maths has built on our understanding of improper fractions and mixed numbers and we have been adding and subtracting these. In our history lessons we have looked at the role animals played in the war effort and in RE we have started to look at the Humanism. Our art has been based on the art of World War One.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

Acorn Achiever

George has been working really hard and trying his best. We have seen an improvement in his spellings and maths work. Keep up the good work George.

Chestnut Achiever

Aimee for the amazing effort and improvements she has made with her handwriting and her presentation in all of her work. She doesn't just do her best in handwriting lessons, but all of the time. I'm very impressed Aimee. Well done!

Oak Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Frankie. Frankie has really impressed me with his perseverance in maths and made excellent progress with his understanding of equivalence of fractions. An excellent week Frankie, well done.



What a cold week it has been! Acorn class certainly didn't lack in their enthusiasm for forest school though and had a fun session painting trees and playing in the mud kitchen. The children used their imaginations wonderfully and opened a pretend café at the far end of the site. We succumbed to the cold after an hour and headed indoors to the warm where we made up stories about woodland creatures.

This week, due to staff shortage, Chestnut class stayed at the school forest school site for health and safety reasons. The site has changed quite a bit since the children last saw it and they were excited to explore and see the new areas and dens that have been made. The children enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and we had a game of Simon Says on the school field in an attempt to keep warm. The temperature had dropped significantly however, so after a while, we made our way into the school hall where the children made Christmas characters out of pine cones, cut out egg boxes and felt.

Oak class had another fantastic week and continued on with their nature spots. The children enjoyed painting signs for their areas and also painted pine cones and hung them on the trees to make it look Christmassy. The mud kitchen was in good use again and a few of the boys created café signs for the entrance. It was so wonderful to see their imaginations running wild with ideas, well done Oak Class.

This week Freddie will be going home with Francesca from Oak class for the weekend. Francesca is showing herself to be a very creative young lady and planned out a whole area that she wanted to clear. She had a clear vision of what she wanted it to look like and she has worked tirelessly to succeed. Whilst it was a project that Francesca thought of all by herself, she happily involved others and shared her vision with them. I am extremely impressed by Francesca and cannot wait to see what ideas she comes up with in the future. Well done Francesca, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Finally, as you all 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 that we are now experiencing. The ideal clothing being, long sleeve jumpers, warm padded trousers and coats, warm socks, waterproofs, hats and gloves. Wellies are ideal footwear providing they are not split or leaking. I understand that with Christmas fast upon us and the increasing cost of living, it is not always possible to be buying new wellies or hats, gloves, etc. If anyone finds themselves struggling, please do not hesitate to email me privately at deborah.wilson@st-marys-woodham.essex.sch.uk as I do have a small selection of spare wellies and clothing that can be passed discreetly to your child.

Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead

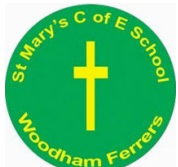
Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

Acorn: It has been a very busy week and Eve has displayed lots of our values. She has been super helpful to her teachers. Kind and supportive to children within class. Great at tidying up, which helps Warren the cleaner. As well as being a good role model and getting all her work completed.

Chestnut: This week is the whole class for their fantastic behaviour while I was off. Compliments were given about the class and their good behaviour and attitude to learning from Mrs Fallon and the Supply Teacher.

Oak: Oak's value achiever this week is Leo. Leo showed a real sense of compassion for the soldiers of the Great War with his emotive poetry in our English lessons this week. Well done, Leo.



MENU

w/c 25.11.24

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 18th November for dinners w/c 25th November
Deadline 9:00am Monday 25th November for dinners w/c 2nd December

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Cheese & Tomato pasta	Ham & Pineapple / Cheese Pizza	Toad in the hole	Beef Bolognese / Quorn	Chicken /Quorn nuggets
Ham / Cheese Baguette	Cheese / Beans Jacket Potato	Ham / Cheese Baguette	Cheese / Beans Jacket Potato	Ham / Cheese/ 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


KS1 & KS2 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)


- ### *Dojo messages this week:*
- ◇ Children in Need raised total
 - ◇ Christmas flyer from Heritage Hub
 - ◇ Christmas Dinner
 - ◇ Christingle Service
 - ◇ Christmas Calendar
 - ◇ Coats in school
 - ◇ Harvest donations to the Foodbank
 - ◇ Christmas Jumper day
 - ◇ Love your Chelmsford Programme
 - ◇ Missing Forest school item

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

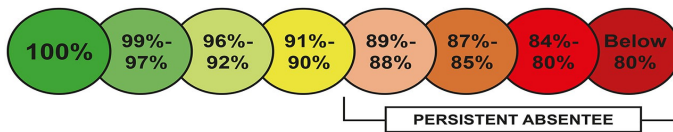
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
28.11.24	Oak Class Assembly		Parents/Carers
4.12.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
6.12.24	Duxford Trip		Chestnut and Oak Class
9.12.24	Christmas Pantomime		All Pupils
10.12.24	FOSMS Christmas Sale From 2.30pm		All pupils
12.12.24	Christmas Jumper Day		All Pupils
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

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
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	95%
Year 1	91.25%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	90%
Year 6	86.36%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.83%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **47**

Lateness

Schools are required to take an attendance register twice a day. One at the start of the morning session and one at the start of the afternoon session. A child who is not present when the register is taken will be marked absent for that session.

It's been shown that being late to school will:

- disrupt other pupils in the class
- increase stress and anxiety for the child who has missed out
- achieve poorer outcomes

If your child is frequently late to school, this may result in a penalty fine from the Local Authority as after 9.05am this is marked as unauthorised.

Please support us by supporting your child to arrive at school on time.

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 updates and reminders with you!

Fundraising Success!

We are thrilled to announce that this week, **£193.27** was deposited into our FOSMS account from **Easyfundraising!** This fantastic result showcases just how much our community can support the school at **no extra cost to you**. With the festive season fast approaching, we kindly ask all families to consider using **Easyfundraising** while doing your Christmas shopping. It's simple: download the app, enable donations to our school and it will run seamlessly in the background. Every penny counts, and together, we can make a big difference for our little school!

Meeting Highlights

We had a productive FOSMS meeting this week, filled with great discussions and exciting plans. Topics included:

- Upcoming events and how we can make them even more fun and engaging while continuing to be affordable for families.
- Planned **grant applications** to secure additional resources for the school.
- Preliminary ideas for **next terms events and celebrations**, ensuring an unforgettable experience for the children.

Upcoming Fun and Festivities

We're delighted to share that there are lots of little fun events in the pipeline for all the children as the festive season approaches. Don't miss out on the fun—stay connected and watch for our **Christmas Countdown** on Facebook, starting soon!

We are hunting for raffle prizes to make our Christmas raffle 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! Tickets go on sale from 10th December.

Thank you for your continued support. Every effort, big or small, helps us enrich the school experience for all our children. Let's make this festive season a joyful and successful one!

With very grateful thanks,
FOSMS

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

