

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

School Value: Community

Friday 25th October 2024

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

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

*A Big well done to Matilda, Isabelle and Mia this week. The girls confidently hosted a whole school assembly to promote their "Kindness Rocks" event on 15th November. All pupils were fully engaged and asked lots of questions which the girls answered enthusiastically and with ease. They also visited St Nicholas school for the Trust Pupil Voice project where they confidently shared their vision with all the other children in the Trust schools. Girls you have demonstrated so many of our core values and should be very proud of yourselves. Well done girls!*

*Thankyou for everyone who took the time to visit our Harvest Festival today. It is always so heartwarming to hear the children sing and our audiences are getting fuller each year. We have received so many generous food donations too that we have struggled to fit them all on our harvest table this year—your support is very much appreciated.*

*Thank you to Sheila our mindfulness mentor for hosting our parent workshop this morning and to the parents that attended. We hope you found the session useful.*

*After half term our Forest School sessions will begin to settle on the same day each week with only a few changes due to clashes in the diary. All dates have been added to the dojo calendar and we will continue to keep this updated with any unforeseen changes. Please ensure your child has their Forest School kit in school each week with plenty of warm waterproof layers. Thank you*

*Our school photographer will be joining us on 12th November to take individual, class and sibling photographs in school. We have changed the planned forest school sessions on this day to accommodate this as per our dojo calendar.*

## *Mobile phones in school*

*Effective immediately, children are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school. If your child has a specific need to bring a mobile phone to school (for emergency contact purposes), please reach out to the school administration to discuss the situation. These cases will be considered on an individual basis. If you need to get in touch with your child during the school day, please contact the school office, and we will ensure that your message is relayed promptly.*

- Any mobile phones brought to school without permission will be confiscated and returned to parents at the end of the school day.*
- We kindly ask for your cooperation in helping us enforce this to maintain a positive and productive school environment.*

*All pupils will come home today with their attendance report for this half term. If your child is below 95% this will be closely monitored. If your child's attendance is below 90% then we may invite you in for a school based attendance meeting to discuss further. If you have any questions regarding your child's attendance please speak to our school office.*

*Please note that Monday 4th November is an inset day. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 5th November.*

*Wishing you a wonderful half term break. Mrs Walker*



## Classroom News

### *Acorn Class:*

Well, my little Acorns have made it to the end of the long term! I am so proud of how they have worked their little socks off and this week has been no exception. Our book has been 'Room on the broom' which the children have really enjoyed. We have looked at place value within 20 and 100. In PSHE we have looked at the qualities we need to be a good friend. As well as practising for the Harvest Festival and making all their hats and fruit and vegetable pictures. Now we are ready for a long rest.

*Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher*

### *Chestnut Class:*

We have had a wonderful first half term. Everyone has worked really hard and deserves a lovely rest. We have still been busy this week though. In English we've been writing balanced arguments and stories. In maths we finished our place value work. We really enjoyed science and looking at soil and having a couple of wriggly guests was a treat too. We've finished our history and are already starting to look at next half term's topic.

*Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher*

### *Oak Class:*

In Oak class this week we have begun our unit of fractions in maths. In grammar we have been learning about active and passive voice as well as expanded noun phrases. Our RE has been learning about Islamic art and geometric patterns. We have also been busy rehearsing for our harvest festival.

*Mr Austin—Class Teacher*

### 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.

### *Acorn Achiever*

Alfie has really impressed all the adults with how well he has settled into Acorn class. He has joined in with activities and completed some work. What a great start, keep it up Alfie.

### *Chestnut Achiever*

Stanley has completed some amazing work this week. I have been very pleased with his effort with all topics, especially his maths and writing. He has really shown how clever he is.

### *Oak Achiever*

Oak's achievers this week are Matilda, Mia and Isabelle. The three girls represented our school superbly at the Trust Pupil Voice Event. They also presented a whole school assembly at St Mary's and did so brilliantly. Well done girls.



Acorn class have ended this half term on a fabulous session. Their classroom topic this week has been “Room on The Broom” by Julia Donaldson and in keeping with this topic, the children found the perfect long thick stick together with lots of little sticks to make a witch’s broomstick for the classroom display. The children enjoyed this activity so much that we decided to make magic wands, using lots of different coloured wool and thread, wrapped around wand sized sticks. It was a lovely imaginative session to end the half term on, well done Acorn class!

This week’s session with Chestnut class was absolutely fantastic. The children worked so hard from start to finish and achieved a huge amount. We started a project at the top end of our site, with a view to clearing it to build a new den. Several of the children got involved in this and I was amazed by the amount that they got done! Another group of children got crafty and made “conker reindeer”. The children had to carefully make holes in the conkers and then find specific size and shape sticks for the legs and antlers. Well done Chestnut class, an extremely productive session!

Oak class were very happy this week because we had a camp fire and made s’mores. Two small groups of children built two fires and did a fantastic job lighting them themselves with a flint. Each child had the opportunity to toast a marshmallow on a skewer, before sandwiching it between two chocolate biscuits and eating it. Before starting the session, we discussed fire safety and the children all understood what the rules were and why rules have to be in place when having fires outdoors. As a result, the children behaved exceptionally well around the camp fire and adhered to all the necessary safety rules. Well done Oak class, a great end to this half term.

Freddie the Forest School Bear enjoyed his weekend with the Roberts family and is excited to be going home with Matilda Medcalf from Oak class this week. Matilda is a pure joy to be around, she always has a smile on her face and is never one to complain or let anything get her down. She almost always helps me carry some of the equipment to the site and when doing activities, like the marshmallow toasting this week, she happily waits and lets others go in front of her. Well done Matilda, have a fun week with Freddie!



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead

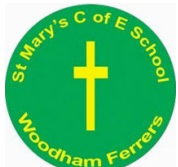
## Demonstrating our School Values

THANKFULNESS COMPASSION COMMUNITY TRUTHFULNESS COURAGE FORGIVENESS

**Acorn:** Minnie Mai spent her own time making a musical instrument for the craft box and after she had made it she kindly gave it to another child who was admiring it. What a wonderfully kind thing to do.

**Chestnut:** John-Boy has shown great courage this week in the Harvest Festival Assembly. I was very proud of how confident he was and how clearly he spoke

**Oak:** Oak's value achiever is Eva. Eva showed a great sense of community during our RE lesson on Islamic geometric patterns. She supported children who were struggling and was very helpful to those around her. Well done, Eva.



# MENU

w/c 04.11.24

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 Thursday 24th October for dinners w/c 4th November**  
**Deadline 9:00am Tuesday 5th November for dinners w/c 11th November**

| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>Tuesday</i>           | <i>Wednesday</i>             | <i>Thursday</i>                 | <i>Friday</i>                      |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Inset Day</b> | Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza | Roast Chicken / Quorn Fillet | Chilli con carne / Quorn chilli | Fish Fingers / Veggie Fingers      |
|                  | Ham / Cheese Baguette    | Cheese / Beans Jacket Potato | Ham / Cheese Baguette           | Cheese / Beans /Tuna Jacket Potato |

## *Dojo messages this week:*

- ◇ FOSMS Christmas Cards order form
- ◇ Lunch bookings
- ◇ ParentPay account up to date
- ◇ Mindfulness parent morning
- ◇ Can you help us with our History
- ◇ PINS Coffee morning
- ◇ Heritage Hub exhibition article

## *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)**



# 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

## Do you shop in Asda??

If you shop in Asda we are encouraging our school community to sign up to this new initiative. If you use the rewards app please select our school as your chosen beneficiary. (CM3 8RJ)

This will not affect your reward points in any way but each time you spend in Asda a % is donated to the schools cashpot. This initiative is only available for 2 months so we would love for you to get involved.

Just another little way we can earn some money for the school which will benefit our pupils.

**you scan,  
we donate  
££s TO  
SCHOOLS.**



### **Cashpot for Schools is our mission to support primary schools across the UK.**

Every time you shop with Asda Rewards from 2nd September to 30th November, we will donate 0.5% of your total spend to a primary school of your choice. Plus, Asda will pop £1 into your school's Cashpot every time someone opts in.

Even more, Asda will get your school started with a further £50. To redeem this, make sure to shop & scan and remind your school to sign up with Parentkind.

For more info, please see our **Terms & Conditions**.

You won't give up any of your own earnings, and your Cashpot will continue to grow! **Shop. Scan. We donate!**



Great, count me in

# dates to Remember

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

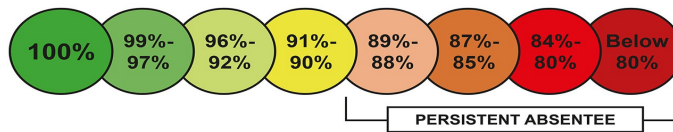
| Date                         | Activity   | Enrichment                        | Who                            |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 28.10.24—<br>1.11.24         | Half Term  |                                   |                                |
| 4.11.24                      | Trust Non pupil day  |                                   |                                |
| 5.11.24                      | Pupils return to School  |                                   |                                |
| 6.11.24                      | Open Morning 9.30-11.00  |                                   | Prospective Parents            |
| w/c 4.11.24—<br>w/c 16.11.24 | After school Clubs<br>No Film or Tutoring Club<br>7.11 due to moderation |                                   | Open to all pupils             |
| 8.11.24                      | Remembrance Activities &<br>Service                                      | RE<br>History                     | All pupils                     |
| 11.11.24—<br>15.11.24        | Anti Bullying Week—chase<br>Respect                                      | PSHE /Personal<br>Development     | All pupils                     |
| 12.11.24                     | School Photographs   |                                   | Individual,<br>Class & sibling |
| 14.11.24                     | PINS Coffee afternoon at<br>2pm—Willows room                             |                                   | SEND Parents/Carers            |
| 14.11.24                     | Cultural Celebration Day   | Mu-<br>sic/RE/PSHE/<br>Humanities | All pupils                     |
| 14.11.24                     | Trust Maths Challenge  | Maths                             | Selected Pupils                |
| 14.11.24                     | FOSMS Firework Disco—<br>3:15—5pm  |                                   | All pupils                     |

| Date                  | Activity   | Enrichment                 | Who   |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 15.11.24              | Children in Need & Odd sock day—Spotty themed                    | PSHE /Personal Development | All pupils  |
| 15.11.24              | Pupil Voice—Kindness Rocks                                       | PSHE /Personal Development | All pupils  |
| 20.11.24              | Open Morning 9.30-11.00  |                            | Prospective Parents                                 |
| 18.11.24—<br>22.11.24 | Road Safety Week<br>Road Safety Banner                           | PSHE /Personal Development | All pupils  |
| 19.11.24              | Road Safety Presentation   | PSHE /Personal Development | EYFS & Year 5                                       |
| 28.11.24              | Oak Class Assembly   |                            | Parents/Carers                                      |
| 4.12.24               | Open Morning 9.30-11.00  |                            | Prospective Parents                                 |
| 9.12.24               | Christmas Pantomime  |                            | All Pupils  |
| 10.12.24              | FOSMS Christmas Sale<br>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<br>for Parents to view work<br>from 2.30pm | DT                         | Parents/Carers                                      |
| 18.12.24              | Nativity<br>FOSMS Raffle   |                            | Grandparents 9.30-<br>10.30<br>Parents/Carers 2-3pm |
| 19.12.24              | FOSMS Movie night<br>3.15pm—5pm                                  |                            | All pupils  |
| 19.12.24              | Christmas Dinner   |                            | All pupils  |
| 20.12.24              | Christmas Jumpers<br>Christmas board games<br>and films in class |                            | All pupils  |
| 20.12.24              | Story time with Santa  |                            | Acorn Class   |
| 20.12.24              | Carol Singing at the Senior<br>Living                            |                            | Years 3-6   |



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



## Which CIRCLE are you in?



|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Reception | 90.71% |
| Year 1    | 91.67% |
| Year 2    | 95.51% |
| Year 3    | 94.44% |
| Year 4    | 91.03% |
| Year 5    | 95.38% |
| Year 6    | 91.75% |



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.94%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **52**

### Unauthorised Absences

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider essential or reasonable. Unauthorised absences can include:

1. Minor complaints:
  - Mild headaches or stomach aches (unless linked to more serious symptoms)
  - Tiredness or general fatigue (unless due to a diagnosed condition)
2. Non-contagious conditions:
  - Hay fever or mild allergies
  - Minor colds or sniffles without fever or significant symptoms
  - Minor skin conditions that aren't contagious
3. Medical visits:
  - Routine appointments (dental / eye exams) that do not require the entire day off from school
4. Non-medical issues:
  - Oversleeping or staying up late
  - Avoidance due to anxiety or dislike of school (unless diagnosed and part of a care plan)
  - Family holidays, Birthdays or trips not approved by the school

The above will not be authorised, they will be marked as **unauthorised**.

### ***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*

Half term is almost upon us, we have a few little updates to share with you before we sign off for the week.

#### **No Cold Child Update**

We're pleased to share that the coats from our No Cold Child campaign have started to arrive - we will contact you individually to arrange payment and collection.

#### **Christmas Cards**

All of the children's artwork has been sent off to Cauliflower Cards and will be updated on your account over the coming days. Using the school code and your child's unique code you will be able to view your child's artwork and continue to place orders. We have already seen orders flowing in which has generated a small sum for FOSMS - thank you!

We hope you love the design your child selected, their little handprint is available in lots of different forms and will make the perfect little Christmas gift or keepsake.

We have kept a record of the codes so please let us know if you need to be reminded of them.

The deadline for orders to be delivered in the main school order is **31 October**. After this time you can still place orders but they will incur a delivery charge and be delivered direct to you.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Mark your calendars for our next exciting event - our Firework disco on 14th November straight after school! It's set to be an evening full of music, dancing, fun and games. For more details, and to pay via our payment link please visit our website <https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events>

This event is being very generously sponsored by the Denny family and we can't wait to surprise the children with a disco and entertainment. We send our heartfelt thanks to the Denny family for their kindness - we really do have the best school community!

The next FOSMS meeting will be held on Thursday 21st November at The White Swan pub at 7pm. Please feel free to pop along and see what we get up to, this evening will be mainly for finalising our plans for Christmas and making the festive period as fun as possible for the children.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support. We couldn't do it without you!

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

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



**FOSMS PRESENTS...**

# **OUR FIREWORK DISCO**

**14TH NOVEMBER  
3:15PM-5PM**

**TICKETS £5 PER CHILD  
PAY IN ADVANCE VIA THE  
PAYMENT LINK ON OUR WEBSITE**

**INCLUDED IN THE TICKET PRICE:**

**HOTDOG  
CRISPS  
FRUIT  
GLOWSTICK**

**KINDLY SPONSORED BY THE DENNY FAMILY**

## **FUN ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC AND GAMES**

**CHILDREN MAY BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND GET  
CHANGED AT SCHOOL SO THEY'RE DISCO READY!**

