

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

School Value: Community

Friday 11th October 2024

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

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

*It has been another super busy but productive week at St Mary's.*

*A big well done to our 4 pupils who attended the Trust Poetry Slam Competition at Cherry Tree this week. Amelia, Daniel, George A and Amelia all worked very hard on their poems and were a credit to our school, your medals are very well deserved.*



*I have shown around a few families this week who are looking for school places in September 2025. I feel very proud showcasing our school. During the tour, new families have the chance to see our classrooms in action, learn about our curriculum, and ask any questions they may have about our approach to early education. Please feel free to share our dates on your socials and continue to recommend our lovely school. We still have availability on tours planned for 17.10.24, 6.11.24, 20.11.24 and 4.12.24. I can also offer 1:1 appointments for families with SEN children if this is preferred.*

*Thank you to the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service who came in to school this week to deliver a whole school assembly on Halloween & Firework Safety. The Assembly was very engaging and the children asked lots of sensible safety questions.*



*Thank you for our Harvest Festival donations, our table is starting to look very healthy now. We are seeking non-perishable food items such as: Canned Vegetables & Fruits, Soups & Stews, Rice & Pasta, Grains & Cereals, Canned Proteins (tuna, chicken, beans), Nut Butters, Cooking Essentials (oil, sugar, flour) Our whole school Harvest Festival assembly will take place on 25th October. We welcome grandparents / Senior Citizens to attend at 09:15am and Parents/Carers to join us at 2pm. We are still welcoming donations prior to our assembly.*

*Next Friday we have FOSMS coming into school to help the children create their Christmas card artwork. All children were sent home this week with an Artwork form, this is for you to order the artwork in the form of: Christmas Cards, Mugs, Spiral bound books, Wrapping paper and gift labels, if you wish to. On the form you have a "school code" and "Unique code" that has been set up for each individual child, you will be required to add this to your online order. Once the artwork has been completed you will be able to view your child's artwork online. Please let the school office know if you DO NOT provide consent for your child's artwork to be displayed online as it may be used as a sample for future projects. Thank you to FOSMS for supporting this.*

*We have our Parent and Child consultations taking place after school on 21st, 22nd and 23rd October. Please note there will be no after school clubs this week.*

*Monday 21st October will be from 3:15pm—5:45pm and Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd will be from 3:15pm—4:45pm. Please dojo your child's class teacher with your availability and they will be happy to arrange a slot for you.*

*Wishing you a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker*



# Classroom News

## Acorn Class:

Acorns have had a busy week; in maths we have been looking at addition to 10 and 20. Literacy we have enjoyed our book of stick man. In Art we enjoyed learning all about how we use our bodies to make extra large scale drawings. we went onto the playground to make large chalk spirals. The playground looked lovely when we had finished. In science we learnt about us as human animals, and we looked at life cycles. In RE we learnt about the importance of our senses to help us explore and understand religion.

*Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher*

## Chestnut Class:

We have started our maths and spelling and grammar assessments this week and everyone has had an excellent attitude and tried their very best. When not doing our assessments, we have continued with our Stone Age cave description. Everyone enjoyed the art lesson this week where the children voted to choose to focus on the dance and music element of our pathway. In Science we have looked at how fossils are formed and a very important person- Mary Anning. I'm sure that if you ask your child, they will be able to tell you all about her.

*Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher*

## Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have been learning the rules of divisibility in maths. In our reading lessons we have focused on inferring information from a text and in grammar, we have learnt how to punctuate direct speech. Our geography has been learning about carbon emissions and researching; what they are, what causes them and the reasons for the discrepancies between countries' emissions. In art, we have experimented with 3D shapes for packaging design and in RE we have been learning about Hajj.

*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.

The poster is titled "COINS IN A BOTTLE CLASS CHALLENGE" and is organized by "FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL". It features a central illustration of a hand dropping a coin into a glass bottle that is already filled with various coins. The poster includes the following text:

**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?



Acorn class had a lot of fun this week bug hunting and bird watching. We took out some magnifying glasses and a few pairs of binoculars and found lots of beetles, worms and slugs. The children showed no fear in picking up the bugs and then found a safe place to put them. They made a log pile home for them and named the area the "Slug and Bug House". It was so lovely to see the children's inquisitive minds at work. Well done Acorn class.

Chestnut class had another great session this week making more craft items for the Christmas craft sale. Small groups successfully made several "conker cars" which I am sure you will be as impressed by as I am. Other children played in the mud kitchen and created a clearing at the top end of the site while another group made some fabulous creations with needle felt. Another productive and fun session this week Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class also got their craft on this week and made some log reindeers for the Christmas craft sale. These were quite tricky to make as the stick legs have to be the exact same length in order for the reindeer to stand up unsupported. The picture here really does not do them justice. Other children enjoyed playing on the tyre swing and a couple of girls even made up a dance show on the stage. Well done Oak class, a creative and fun week.

Freddie the Forest School Bear enjoyed his week with the Murphy family and returned to school excited for his next adventure. This week I chose to give Freddie to Eva Addison in Oak class. Eva has proven to be a very kind and thoughtful girl at forest school, always supporting others and offering help where she can. George and Wilfred also had a great week at forest school so I thought this was the perfect family for Freddie to spend this week with. Enjoy your week with the Freddie, Addison family!



*Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead*





## MENU w/c 14.10.24

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 7th October for dinners w/c 14th October**  
**Deadline 9:00am Monday 14th October for dinners w/c 21st October**

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Spaghetti Bolognese / Quorn Bolognese	Cheese & Tomato Whirl	Roast Chicken / Quorn Fillet	Sausage & Mash / Quorn Sausages	Fish Fingers / Veggie Fingers
Cheese/Beans Jacket Potato	Ham / Cheese baguette	Cheese/Beans Jacket Potato	Ham / Cheese baguette	Cheese/Beans/Tuna Jacket Potato

### *Dojo messages this week:*

- ◇ FOSMS Christmas Cards
- ◇ Harvest Festival donations
- ◇ SWF Library activities for half term
- ◇ FOSMS AGM & Cake sale
- ◇ SWF Leisure Centre activities for half term

## *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)



### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

CHERRY TREE – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
CHERRY TREE – SEND LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 5<sup>th</sup> November  
CRAYS HILL – HLTA closing date 11<sup>th</sup> October  
MERRYLANDS – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 11<sup>th</sup> October  
MERRYLANDS – OFFICE ASSISTANT closing date 11<sup>th</sup> October  
MERRYLANDS – OFFICE MANAGER closing date 11<sup>th</sup> October  
MERRYLANDS – EYFS LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 8<sup>th</sup> October  
MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 18<sup>th</sup> October  
MERRYLANDS – CLASS TEACHER closing date 18<sup>th</sup> October  
WILLOWS – MIDDAY ASSISTANT closing date 16<sup>th</sup> October

For more information and to apply for any of our roles, please follow the link to our website [Vacancies – Berlesduna Academy Trust](#)



# 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
w/c 09.09.24— w/c 14.10.24	After school Clubs 3.15- 4.15pm		Open to all pupils
17.10.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
17.10.24	FOSMS AGM Meeting Cake sale & Refreshments 2.30pm		
18.10.24	Heritage Hub—launching exhibition	History	Y5/6 Pupils
18.10.24	Red Card to Racism work- shop	PSHE	Y5/6 Pupils
21/22/23.10.24	Parent & Child Consulta- tions <i>(No clubs this week)</i>		Parents/Carers with Pu- pils
23.10.24	Trust Pupil Voice	PSHE	Selected pupils
25.10.24	Harvest Festival	RE	Grandparents 9.15am Parents/Carers 2-3pm
28.10.24— 1.11.24	Half Term		
4.11.24 5.11.24	Trust Non pupil day Pupils return to School		

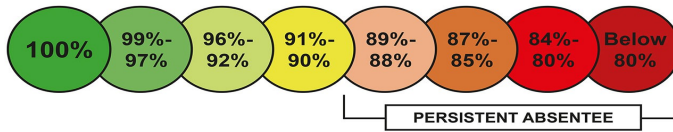
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
6.11.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
w/c 4.11.24— w/c 16.11.24	After school Clubs <b>No Film or Tutoring Club 7.11 due to moderation</b>		Open to all pupils
8.11.24	Remembrance Activities & Service	RE History	All pupils
11.11.24— 15.11.24	Anti Bullying Week—chase Respect	PSHE /Personal Development	All pupils
12.11.24	School Photographs		Individual, Class & sibling
12.11.24	Heritage Hub Activity at St Marys Church, 1-3pm	History	Year 5 &6
14.11.24	Cultural Celebration Day	Music/RE/PSHE/ Humanities	All pupils
14.11.24	Trust Maths Challenge	Maths	Selected Pupils
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— 22.11.24	Road Safety Week 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

Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
9.12.24	Christmas Pantomime		All Pupils
10.12.24	FOSMS Christmas Sale		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	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	95%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	98.33%
Year 3	92.22%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	85%
Year 6	86.88%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.46**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **49**

### Unauthorised Absences

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

- Minor complaints:
  - Mild headaches or stomach aches (unless linked to more serious symptoms)
  - Tiredness or general fatigue (unless due to a diagnosed condition)
- Non-contagious conditions:
  - Hay fever or mild allergies
  - Minor colds or sniffles without fever or significant symptoms
  - Minor skin conditions that aren't contagious
- Medical visits:
  - Routine appointments (dental / eye exams) that do not require the entire day off from school
- 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*

Another week had whizzed by and our AGM is almost upon us. We will be meeting in the school hall at 2:30pm on Thursday 17th October. This is your opportunity to see what the FOSMS charity has achieved over the last year in support of our children and school. You will also get to vote in your new committee members who will take on the responsibility of running things for another year of fun and fundraising.

Rhian has kindly offered to bake up a storm, we will have cakes and muffins for sale, never an opportunity missed to add a few pennies to the PTA pot! We do hope you can join us, your support is vital to the smooth running of our charity committee set up.

Christmas Cards - We will be in school this coming week to do some beautiful artwork with the children for their Christmas cards. The children have selected their designs and forms have been sent home for you to place your online orders. You will need the School Code and also your child's Unique Code to place an order. We have kept a record of the codes so please let us know if you need to be reminded of them. Once we have submitted artwork I will be able to share the deadline for orders.

This week I put out an SOS for donations of board games you may be clearing out in preparation for Christmas. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Sandra and Fawn for their kind and generous donations. These games will be used for wet play and breakfast club and I know the children will absolutely love them. We really do have the kindest school community ♥

*With very grateful thanks,  
FOSMS*

