

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

School Value: Community

Friday 4th October 2024

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

*A note from the Headteacher... On Saturday it is World Teachers' Day, we take a moment to celebrate the incredible dedication, passion, and tireless work of our teachers. Their commitment to nurturing young minds and shaping the future is truly remarkable. A big thank you also goes out to all the families who have contributed such wonderful, thoughtful, and funny comments—your kind words and heartfelt appreciation mean the world to us. Together, we create a strong, supportive community where learning and growth thrive. A big thank you to Mrs Matthews for taking the time to pull this together and well done for keeping it top secret! Happy World Teachers' Day!*

*We are excited that our tours have started for the upcoming reception intake for new families! These tours offer a wonderful opportunity to explore our school, meet our passionate staff, and experience first hand the welcoming and nurturing environment we provide for our youngest learners. During the tour, new families will 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.*

*Recently, I have been supporting the Head of School at Downham C of E Primary School. I have been able to share the good practice we have implemented and embedded at St Mary's as we support them in their journey. This has been incredibly rewarding and being able to share our success with another school is a measure of how far St Mary's has come over the last four years.*

*Congratulations to Mrs Richardson who achieved a 5 star food rating this week following an unscheduled hygiene inspection. We wouldn't have expected anything less—your meals are delicious and your organisation skills in the kitchen are very inspiring! Thank you!*

*Today is our last swimming lesson for Oak class and completes our 5 week course. Well done to all the children for embracing the lessons and for your good behaviour whilst representing our school. I feel very proud of you all.*

*A little reminder that 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. If you have donations for our Harvest table we welcome you to bring them in prior to our assembly. Thank you for your support.*

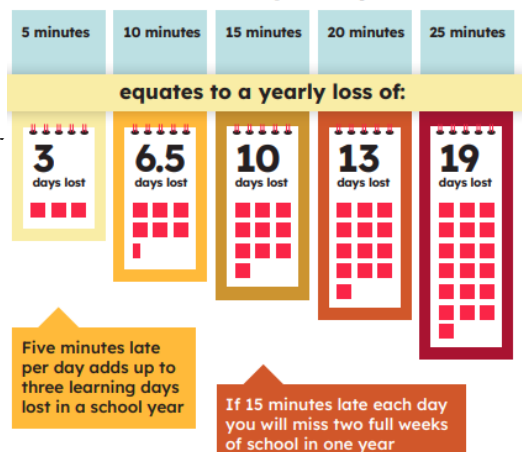
*Sadly we have seen a big increase in pupil lateness over the last few weeks. Setting good attendance patterns from the start of any academic year is vital for all of our pupils, and will aid them in life beyond school and into the workplace. As a school we expect all pupils to strive for 100% attendance and to arrive on time every day. Please work with us to ensure your child begins their day positively, please ensure you arrive before 09:00am when our school gates close.*

*Wishing you a lovely weekend, Mrs Walker*



Here, every day, ready and on time

## Minutes lost per day





# Classroom News

## Acorn Class:

This week Acorns have enjoyed the book 'The smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson. We have also taken part in a virtual Art experience where we explored two paintings from Art galleries in Glasgow and Walsall. we then made layering collages about our lovely school. This week in Science we have looked at the seasons and focused on Autumn, such a beautiful time of the year.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

## Chestnut Class:

It's been another busy week in Chestnut Class. We have enjoyed maths this week, we have continued to look at place value and finished the week with rounding to 10. In Spanish we have learned how to say a sentence that includes the word "but". We have really grown in confidence with our speaking and everyone attempted to speak in Spanish. Our focus in English has been descriptive writing and we've looked at using a wide variety of language in our descriptions. In science we had great fun investigating the properties of rocks and testing whether they were hard or soft and if they were permeable.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

## Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have begun our unit on multiplication and division in maths. We have identified multiples and factors of numbers and developed strategies to find common examples across pairs of numbers. Our reading lessons have focussed on retrieving information from a text. In grammar, we have been learning about how prefixes and suffixes alter a root words word class and meaning and, in writing, we have begun creating a balanced argument about humans' right to explore space. In geography, we have been learning about how the climate can change naturally and in art we have created collages of 'The Self.' In RE, we have learnt about the second Pillar of Islam, Salah, and the role it plays in a Muslim's life.

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.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL

### GOINS 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?



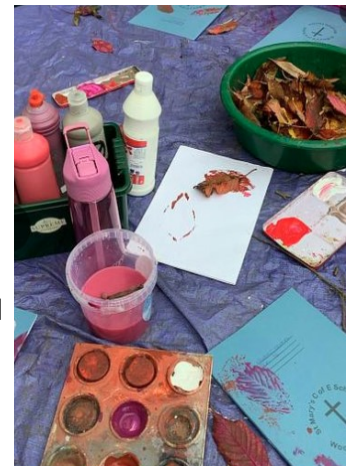
This week Acorn class continued to decorate the covers of their Forest School journals. The children painted the under-side of leaves and printed the patterns onto their books. There were so many different shape and size of leaves, coupled with brightly coloured paint, that made for some truly wonderful designs. We also had some time sitting peacefully in our nature spots and the children enjoyed talking about all the different sounds they could hear, from the whistling wind to different types of birdcall. A wonderful session Acorn Class, I am looking forward to next week's session already.

Chestnut class once again threw themselves into their forest school session with great enthusiasm this week. We all chose forest school names for ourselves which we will use throughout this term. Mrs De Wet, who is a regular helper in Chestnut classes forest school sessions brought in some DIY Christmas tree decorations which the children thoroughly enjoyed colouring in and making. These will be on sale at St Mary's Christmas Craft Sale and any money raised will go towards equipment and supplies for Forest School sessions. Fun was also had playing in the mud kitchen and clay moulding. A productive and fun session this week Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class had another fantastic session this week. After waiting patiently for new needle felting equipment to be delivered, it finally arrived just in time for this week's session. A very excited group of children worked safely and sensibly with the needles and created numerous different things ranging from a needle felt football to a needle felt full English breakfast. Very impressive indeed! Other children continued with their nature spot and den building. The thought and work that is going into some of them is fantastic. Keep it up Oak class, you are doing a great job!

Freddie the Forest School Bear is on his first home visit of the school year and has gone to stay with the Murphy family. I made the decision to award Reece with the honour of taking Freddie home this week as his kindness towards his friends and classmates shone through during our session last Friday. Reece was enthusiastic about helping his classmates when they were all taking turns to climb a tree, even though he could have walked off after his turn he chose to stand at the bottom of the tree and help his classmates down until they were safely back on the ground. Reece was polite and helpful throughout the session and just generally a joy to be around. Well done Reece!

*Miss Wilson—  
Forest School Lead*





## MENU w/c 07.10.24

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. Please note the deadlines below:

**Deadline 9:00am Monday 30th September for dinners w/c 7th October**  
**Deadline 9:00am Monday 7th October for dinners w/c 14th October**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese & Tomato Pasta	Chicken Nuggets / Quorn Nuggets	Roast Gammon / Quorn fillet	Macaroni Cheese	Sausage Roll / Quorn Sausage Roll
Ham/Cheese baguette	Cheese/Beans Jacket Potato	Ham / Cheese baguette	Cheese/Beans Jacket Potato	Ham / Cheese / Tuna baguette

- Dojo messages this week:*
- ◇ Dinner booking reminder
  - ◇ Attendance reminder
  - ◇ Pantomime payment reminder
  - ◇ Essex Activate clubs

### *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 advised directly by Mr Austin)



### BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST – JOB VACANCIES

- BERLESDUNA – HR BUSINESS PARTNER closing date 4<sup>th</sup> October
- CRAYS HILL – HLTA closing date 11<sup>th</sup> October
- FAIRHOUSE – CLASS TEACHER (Fixed Term Contract) closing date 9<sup>th</sup> October
- FAIRHOUSE – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 7<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 – CLEANER closing date 8<sup>th</sup> October
- MERRYLANDS – SEND PROVISION MANAGER closing date 14<sup>th</sup> October
- MERRYLANDS – FIXED TERM CLASS TEACHER closing date 18<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
8.10.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
10.10.24	Trust Poetry Slam Celebration	English	Selected pupils
17.10.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
17.10.24	FOSMS AGM Meeting		
18.10.24	Heritage Hub—launching exhibition	History	Y5/6 Pupils
18.10.24	Red Card to Racism workshop	PSHE	Y5/6 Pupils
21/22/23.10.24	Parent & Child Consultations (No clubs this week)		Parents/Carers with Pupils
23.10.24	Trust Pupil Voice	PSHE	Selected pupils

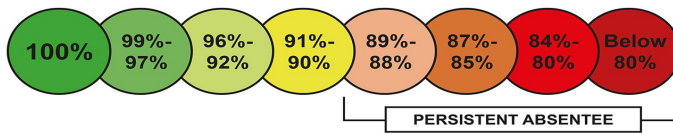
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
25.10.24	Harvest Festival	RE	Grandparents 9.15am Parents/Carers 2-3pm
28.10.24— 1.11.24	Half Term		
4.11.24	Trust Non pupil day		
5.11.24	Pupils return to School		
6.11.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
w/c 4.11.24— w/c 16.11.24	After school Clubs <b>No Film 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	FOSMS African dance and Drumming—info to follow 3.15pm—5pm	Music	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 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	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	90%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	85.56%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	98%
Year 6	95%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **93.28**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **50**

### 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 has flown by! We have a few exciting updates and some important events coming up that we'd like to share with you!

#### **World Teachers' Day – A Big Thank You!**

We'd like to take a moment to recognise and celebrate **World Teachers' Day**. A huge thank you goes out to all the children who showed their appreciation for our wonderful staff by writing special thank you messages. These thoughtful messages have been beautifully collated and shared with the staff, making their day even more special. We are so proud of the children for their kindness and support! A huge thank you to our wonderful teaching staff for their dedication to our children.

#### **Autumn Term Book Purchases**

We're pleased to share that FOSMS has recently invested in a fantastic selection of new books as part of the English curriculum. Last year, we purchased the books for 'Year A', and this year we are purchasing the 'Year B' books, which are essential to the curriculum set by Mrs. Walker. These Autumn books had a recommended retail price (RRP) of £1,500, but thanks to the diligent work of our Vice-Chair Rhian, we secured them for just £843.07, saving over £600! We still have the Spring and Summer books to purchase later in the year, but this is a great step forward in ensuring the children have the best resources for their learning. Once again, a huge thank you to Rhian for her help in securing the best possible prices, a lot of time and work went in to making this happen.



#### **No Cold Child – Coat Orders Update**

For those who ordered a coat through the **No Cold Child** initiatives, we have good news! The coats have arrived at the port and are currently being sorted. As soon as we receive a confirmed delivery date, we will update all the parents who placed orders. Thank you for your patience—we're looking forward to getting these warm coats to the children as quickly as possible!

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



### *A note from FOSMS*

#### **Upcoming AGM and Cake Sale – October 17th**

A reminder that our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is scheduled for **Thursday, October 17th** at **2:30 pm** in the school hall. This is a great opportunity to hear about our achievements over the past year, elect new committee members, and discuss plans for future events. We encourage all parents and guardians to attend.

In addition to the meeting, we will also be holding a **Cake Sale** and providing **refreshments**. It's the perfect chance to chat with other parents, enjoy some sweet treats, and help us raise funds for the school. Cake donations are welcome and appreciated!

Thank you as always for your support. We look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM!

*With very grateful thanks,*

*FOSMS*

