

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

School Value: Community

Friday 27th September 2024

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

A note from the Headteacher...

We received a lovely letter from the Local Authority this week regarding our recent Ofsted Inspection. I have shared this on dojo for you to read and I am sure you will agree that the key points raised capture our school beautifully. We all feel incredibly proud to have received some wonderful feedback and are looking forward to the next stages of our school journey.

You may have seen my post earlier this week about volunteer readers. We would love to have a "parent reading team" at St Mary's. If you are interested please dojo Mrs Carlier and we will add you to our initial workshop on Monday 21st October to provide you with more information. We feel this will encourage a love of reading and make a big difference to our pupils.

I am thrilled that we have received lots of enquiries and interest for our September 2025 intake. If you know of anyone looking for a school place please let them know that I will be hosting some Open Mornings during the Autumn Term. All appointments will start at 09:30am and will take place on the following dates: 4.10.24, 8.10.24, 17.10.24, 6.11.24, 20.11.24, 4.12.24. I would be very grateful if they can contact the school office to let us know which session they would like to join. I can then have an idea of how many viewings to expect. If our prospective parents have a child with SEN then 1:1 appointments can be made available for them.

As mentioned last week we have started to collect non-perishable food items for our Harvest Festival. We invite you to share in the spirit by donating to our Harvest Food Bank.

What We're Collecting:

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)*

Your generosity helps provide meals for families in need and ensures that no one goes hungry during this season of plenty.

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.

Just a little reminder that dinners need to be booked before 09:00am the week before they are required. We have had quite a few children arrive to school without a packed lunch this week and this causes some difficulties in the kitchen. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Wishing you all a lovely restful weekend. Mrs Walker



Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns have had a busy week, we started a new book 'The Gruffalo' by our focus author Julia Donaldson. All our literacy activities have been based around the book. In maths we have been looking at the whole part model and number bonds. Science we have been looking at animals and their babies. Thank you to Wilfred for the very interesting question 'what is a baby spider called?' We now know it is a spiderling. Every days a learning day.

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

In English we have been writing descriptive writing about the Stone Age. We have worked very hard and tried to use expanded noun phrases and prepositional language. Some children had to use similes and metaphors too. In maths we're continuing with Place Value and making good progress. Everyone enjoyed our science lesson where we learned about the weathering of rocks and the three different types- biological, physical and chemical. In art we continued with our pathway and created our own cave art work.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have been using our place value knowledge to add and subtract integers. Our reading has focussed on inferring from texts and in grammar, we have been learning how to use possessive apostrophes for plural nouns. In writing, we have finished and published our information texts. Our geography has looked at the way transport has evolved and how that's enable global connections and in RE we have learnt about the key features of mosques. In science, we have created documentaries about the similarities of lifecycles and in art, we have begun our own branding designs. Our Forest School, next week is on Tuesday morning. The children can come in in their uniform and change or, bring their uniform to change into after their session.

Mr Austin—Class Teacher

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?



Acorn class had a very wet but also a fantastic session this week! All the children genuinely threw themselves into the activities and the pictures you will hopefully see on class dojo will show their happy and excited faces. Most of the children spent time playing with clay and making some fabulous models, none of which would have been possible without all the heavy rainfall as this enabled the children to manipulate the clay far easier than they were able to last week. A small group of the boys spent time foraging for different types of pinecones and acorns, etc. with which we will hopefully be making some woodland creatures like mice, owls, etc. An absolutely fantastic session this week Acorn class, I am so proud of each and every one of you!

Chestnut class were lucky with the weather in that it wasn't raining and although it was quite damp and miserable, you certainly wouldn't have known that from the children's' eagerness to get stuck in. We had "mud food" from The Dirty Burger (their mud restaurant) and we had a lot of singing too which was fabulous. I provided each of the children with a Forest School Journal this week, this is for them to record anything they like about forest school, their favourite activities, things they're not so keen on and funny moments, etc. Quite a few of the children began decorating the covers of their journals and I was very impressed by their imaginative designs. A fabulous session again this week Chestnut class, you are making my job very enjoyable, thank you!

Oak class never fail to impress me with how dedicated and hardworking they are at forest school. Their 'never give up' attitude is such a great quality to have. They worked extremely hard and continued to create and build their nature spots and added some personalisation to them. A group of the girls cleared and cleaned our stage area and even varnished it too so that it is protected from the winter weather. During our reflection time at the end of the session it was wonderful to hear the children explaining what they had done to everyone at the fire circle, they spoke with enthusiasm and it was clear that they were proud of what they had achieved, and so they should be. Well done Oak class, a very impressive group of young people!

I can confirm that Freddie the Forest School Bear has now woken from his hibernation. He will be making his way to one of your homes after school on Monday! Whilst Freddie does enjoy going out, please don't feel that Freddie expects to be taken out to do extravagant and expensive activities. He is more than happy with just going for a walk or just spending time playing with your family at home. I hope you enjoy your time with Freddie and just ask that he is returned to school on the following Monday morning.

Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead





MENU w/c 30.09.24

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 23rd for dinners w/c 30th September.

Deadline 9:00am Monday 30th for dinners w/c 7th 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	Cheese/Beans Jacket Potato	Cheese/Beans Jacket Potato	Cheese/Beans Jacket Potato	Cheese/Beans/Tuna Jacket Potato

Dojo messages this week:

- ◇ Cool Milk Registration letter
- ◇ Half Term Bikeability course
- ◇ Reading letter for Volunteers
- ◇ Head lice
- ◇ Secondary School Tours
- ◇ Local Authority Ofsted Letter

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 4th October
- FAIRHOUSE – CLASS TEACHER (Fixed Term Contract) closing date 9th October
- FAIRHOUSE – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 7th October
- MERRYLANDS – FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER closing date 11th October
- MERRYLANDS – OFFICE ASSISTANT closing date 11th October
- MERRYLANDS – OFFICE MANAGER closing date 11th October
- MERRYLANDS – EYFS LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT closing date 8th October
- MERRYLANDS – CLEANER closing date 8th October
- WILLOWS – FIXED TERM ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT closing date 27th September

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

Email: 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
02.10.24	Virtual Art Visit	Art & Design	All Pupils
3.11.24	School Census		
4.10.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
8.10.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
10.10.24	Trust Poetry Slam Celebra- tion	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 work- shop	PSHE	Y5/6 Pupils
21/22/23.10.24	Parent & Child Consulta- tions (No clubs this week)		Parents/Carers with Pu- pils
23.10.24	Trust Pupil Voice	PSHE	Selected pupils

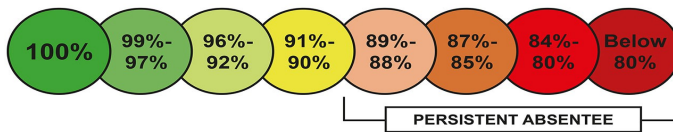
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
25.10.24	Harvest Festival	RE	Grandparents 9.15am Parents/Carers 2-3pm
28.10.24— 1.11.24	Half Term		
4.11.24	Trust Non pupil day		
5.11.24	Pupils return to School		
6.11.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
w/c 4.11.24— w/c 16.11.24	After school Clubs No Film or Tutoring Club 7.11 due to moderation		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	90%
Year 1	95%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	92.22%
Year 4	65%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	90.63%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **90%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **45**

Please find attached link to the new DfE guidance which will be in force from September 2024

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/>

[Working together to improve school attendance applies from 19 August 2024 .pdf](#)

Important changes to school attendance

Please be aware that, any applications for leave of absence which relates to leave which you plan to take after 19 August 2024, your child's absence will be considered under the Department for Education's (DfE's) new National Framework for Penalty Notices, which includes increased fine levels and limits on the number of fines which local authorities may issue to parents in response to school attendance concerns. More information from the Department of Education can be found here.

[Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

The definition of Exceptional Circumstances:

The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are events that are 'rare, significant, unavoidable and short.'

Unavoidable means an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time, outside of school term time.

Every state school in England will now share their daily attendance registers across the education sector - including with the department for education, councils, and trusts in the next stage of the government's drive to reduce pupil absence in school. These reforms are the next phase in the government's plan to improve attendance following the pandemic which has seen a worldwide rise in absence and persistent absence driven by broken habits of attendance, and new and exacerbated barriers like mental ill health.'

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 have an exciting update to share with you this week!

Lottery Licence Approved!

We are thrilled to announce that our lottery licence has been officially approved! This means we can now extend our raffle ticket sales outside of school premises, opening up more opportunities for fundraising. Keep an eye out for our upcoming raffles, and please do share the news with friends, family, and the wider community! The next raffle will be at Christmas and we already have some wonderful prizes lined up. If you wanted to donate a prize or have any contacts who would be willing to donate a prize, please send them my way! We're always happy to share the love across our socials and on our wonderful website.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) –Thursday, 17th October at 2:30pm in the Main School Hall

Mark your calendars for our AGM, coming up on **Thursday 17th October at 2:30pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to:

- **Review last year's achievements:** We will be sharing a summary of what FOSMS has done over the past year and providing access to our records.
- **Contribute your ideas:** We value your input! This is your chance to voice suggestions for what you'd like to see us focus on in the upcoming year.
- **Show your support:** Vote for your preferred committee members to run the FOSMS charity.
- **Enjoy some homemade treats:** Refreshments, including homemade cakes, will be available at a small cost, so come along for a friendly and informal meeting.

We would love to see as many of you as possible there. Whether you're a regular PTA attendee or just curious about what we do, all are welcome!

Thank you for your continued support. Let's work together to make the upcoming year even more successful!

*With very grateful thanks,
FOSMS*

