

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

School Value: Community

Friday 20th September 2024

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

A note from the Headteacher...

As you are aware we had the school nurse in this week to provide the Flu nasal spray for our pupils. If your child was not in school and you missed the immunisation, please be assured that the team will be running catch up clinics in the area. Once I have received further information about when and where this will take place I will share this with you.

Apologies for the confusion with Forest School this week. I can confirm that week commencing 23rd September will be as follows: Chestnut class will be Monday morning, Oak class will be Monday afternoon and Acorn class will be Friday morning. As previously communicated, whilst Mrs Wilson is settling in, Forest School will be running ad hoc sessions during the first half term. Please note that each child will still have a Forest School session each week. After October half term we will be in a position to publish regular time slots which will remain the same for the children each week. Please ensure your child has suitable Forest School clothing in school with them for their planned session.

Following on from the Good Ofsted last term the staff and children are continuing to work really hard to improve the school even further. The school building, displays and classrooms are exceptionally clear, welcoming and interesting. The staff have been delighted with the Ofsted outcome and are dedicated to completing a great SIAMS inspection, possibly next academic year.

Do you know anyone looking for a school place in September intake 2025? If you do then please let them know that I will be hosting some Open Mornings during the Autumn Term for prospective parents. 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 we embrace the beauty of the harvest season, we are excited to come together and support our local food banks and families in need. This is a time of abundance and gratitude, and 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)*

We will be collecting donations from Monday 23rd September. Your generosity helps provide meals for families in need and ensures that no one goes hungry during this season of plenty. Together, we can make a difference and spread the warmth and care that defines our community. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful initiative. Let's harvest not just food, but hope and kindness as well.

Whilst mentioning donations, if any of our lovely families can donate some pea shingle and top soil for outdoor area, it would be very gratefully received.

Wishing you all a lovely restful weekend. Mrs Walker



Classroom News

Acorn Class:

Acorns are really enjoying our book of the week 'A squash and a squeeze' by Julia Donaldson. We have completed lots of Literacy work around the book. The children are excited to see which next book we will read next... This week we have also enjoyed music and looking at friendship songs, and Art where we are looking at the physical movements when producing a piece of Art. Thank you to those who have contributed to our money bottle challenge, Acorns are desperate to win!

Mrs Fallon—Class Teacher

Chestnut Class:

We've worked really hard this week in maths. We've developed our understanding of place value and worked well on our times tables. We really enjoyed rocking on Friday morning. In English, we've enjoyed writing instructions for how to clean and brush a woolly mammoth's task. We're glad that we wouldn't really have to! In science, we are continuing to look at types of rocks and we're trying to learn which are which. In PSHE we've looked at friendship and kind hands and kind words.

Mrs Carlier—Class Teacher

Oak Class:

This week in Oak class we have continued our work on place value in our maths lessons. In our reading lessons, we have focussed on retrieving information from texts we have read and in writing, we have started our information texts about the history of transport. In RE, we have looked at the significance of Ramadan to Muslims, how it's marked and which of the Five Pillars it relates to. In geography, we have learnt about the Suez Canal and how it has improved logistics around the world. In art, we have continued our graphic Design pathway, identifying how branding can be layered. Our Forest School is on Monday afternoon, the children will need to come in uniform and change at lunchtime.

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

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?



Forest School

Acorn class had a fun and varied session this week. Some of the children enjoyed choosing a nature teddy from our selection and found homes and hiding places for them. Other children enjoyed digging and playing in the mud kitchen while small groups did some colouring and created "leaf art". There were lots of smiles and giggles this week now that the younger children have settled into Forest Schools. Well done Acorn class, keep up with your enthusiasm!

Chestnut class had a great session this week. Several children helped to clear the site after a large willow tree had to be cut down last week. In doing so they created a clear space for the mud kitchen, the children made lots of mud coffee and mud food and decided to call their mud restaurant "The Dirty Burger". Other children cut back the overgrown weeds and small groups created "leaf art". Well done Chestnut class, a fantastic and imaginative session!

Oak class worked very hard this week. After the site was vandalised over the summer the children have spent two weeks clearing, tidying and recreating the forest school site. They have worked well in small groups to dig and build dens and have also created a "tyre fort" which some of the girls began to paint this morning. Small groups also enjoyed swinging on the rope swing and tyre swing. Well done Oak class, keep up the good work!

I have been told by the children that Freddie the Forest School Bear goes home with a different child each week, to have adventures with their family. I will wake Freddie from his summer hibernation for next week and who knows, maybe he'll be coming to your house soon!



Miss Wilson—Forest School Lead





MENU w/c 23.09.24

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 16th for dinners w/c 23rd September.

Deadline 9:00am Monday 23rd for dinners w/c 30th September

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Cheese and 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:

- ◇ No cold child initiative
- ◇ Weekly achievers
- ◇ Forest School Sessions next week

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)



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 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

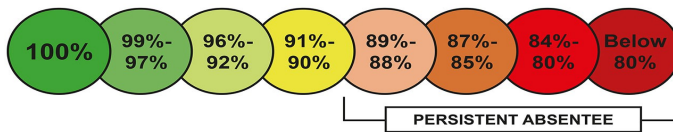
Date	Activity	Enrichment	Who
25.10.24	Harvest Festival	RE	Grandparents 9.15am Parents/Carers 2-3pm
28.10.24— 1.11.24	Half Term		
4.11.24	Trust Non pupil day		
5.11.24	Pupils return to School		
6.11.24	Open Morning 9.30-11.00		Prospective Parents
w/c 4.11.24— w/c 16.11.24	After school Clubs No Film or 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	100%
Year 1	85%
Year 2	86.67%
Year 3	92.22%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	96.88%



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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.79%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **46**

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 hope this newsletter finds you all well! FOSMS is working hard to make a positive impact on our school community, and we have some exciting updates to share with you.

Playground Initiative – Seeking Funding Support

We are thrilled to announce a new project aimed at transforming our playground into a more fun, safe, and engaging space for all the children to enjoy. We are currently seeking funding for this initiative and would love to collaborate with any individuals, local businesses, or organisations that can help bring this vision to life. Every donation, big or small, will make a difference, so if you or someone you know can support us, please get in touch! Together, we can build a playground that enhances our children's school experience.

'No Cold Child' Scheme in Partnership with Parentkind and FatFace

With colder months approaching, we are pleased to report that the 'No Cold Child' project, in collaboration with Parentkind and FatFace, is drawing to a close with a great number of coats already ordered. Thanks to this initiative, families have been able to purchase high-quality coats at a reduced price of **£10**. A special thank you goes to FatFace and Parentkind for their generous support in making this possible and helping many children stay warm this winter. Once we receive our order, the coats can be collected from school and you can either pay cash or bank transfer, more details to follow.

Kindness Day Sponsorship

Our Year 6 pupils have curated a wonderful event called **Kindness Day**, which will be celebrated by the entire school. The goal is to promote acts of kindness, positivity, and inclusivity. We sent out an SOS across our socials this week looking for a hero to sponsor this event and we are so happy to report that we found that hero! A huge thanks to Paul and Carol from DCS - Disposables and Catering Supplies for their donation of £100, this will ensure the day is extra special and we can fund all of the special resources that are needed.

Coins in a Jar - Class Challenge

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.

FOSMS AGM

We will be holding our AGM in the school hall this year at 2:30pm on Thursday 17th October. It would be amazing to see some new faces. Our resident Mary Berry, Rhian has offered to bake some cakes and muffins which we will sell at a small cost to add to the FOSMS fund. This is your opportunity to vote for the people you want to look after the FOSMS charity. We need to have this vote in order to keep us compliant with charity commission requirements so your support would really be appreciated. We're not going to be tricking you into volunteering, just a show of hands and a little cake.

Of course, if you did want to volunteer for any of the trustee roles please fill out a nomination form available from the school office and I'll buy you a cake myself!

Thank you all for your continued support.

With very grateful thanks,
FOSMS

