

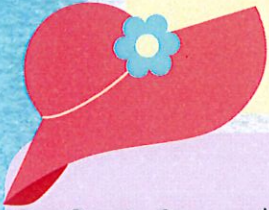
Newsletter – Friday 24th April 2026

St Mary's Primary School

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

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

School Value - Truthfulness



Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of our School Community,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It has been another busy and positive week in school, with many opportunities for the children to learn, reflect and grow together.

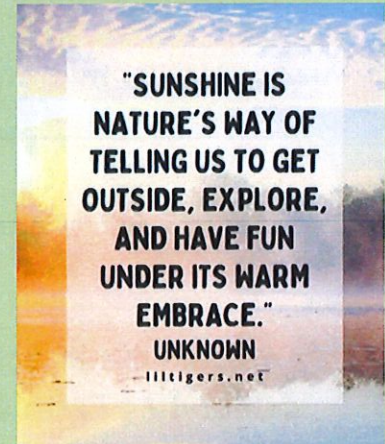
This week we also marked Earth Day, taking time to think about how we can care for our world. Across the school, children explored the importance of looking after the environment, discussing small but meaningful actions such as reducing waste, recycling, and being mindful of how we use energy. It has been encouraging to see their enthusiasm and sense of responsibility as they consider how they can make a difference both in school and at home.

We were also pleased to welcome Rev. Jacqui into school to lead collective worship, where the children reflected on the importance of recognising the presence of Jesus in everyday life. These moments of reflection are an important part of our school community, helping to nurture our shared values and support the children's spiritual development.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support. It makes a great difference to the life of the school and to your children's experiences. I hope you enjoy reading about the many activities that have taken place this week.

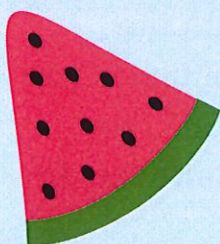
Wishing you all a wonderful weekend - Mrs. Walker

Mindful Moments



Dojo Messages

- 26/27 Term Dates
- Medical Appointment Form
- Residential 2026!
- SWF Leisure Centre Half Term Activities
-



A note from Mrs Walker

This week has been full of memorable experiences and opportunities for our children across the school.

Our Year 5 and 6 children have had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Essex Outdoors in Danbury. They have taken part in a wide range of exciting and challenging activities, building confidence, resilience and teamwork along the way. From outdoor adventures to problem-solving tasks, the children have represented the school beautifully and embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and positivity. It has been wonderful to see them supporting one another and developing independence in such a meaningful setting.

Back in school, and on the residential, we also took time to celebrate Earth Day. At St Mary's, children explored ways to care for our planet, thinking carefully about how their everyday actions can make a difference. Meanwhile, our pupils at Danbury ensured they did not miss out, taking the opportunity to appreciate the natural environment around them and reflect on the importance of protecting it. Experiencing the outdoors first-hand made this message even more powerful, helping the children to develop a deeper connection with the world around them.

We would also like to acknowledge School Offer Day, which has now taken place. We are delighted to be looking ahead to September and are very much looking forward to welcoming a lovely new cohort of children and their families into our school community. It is always a special time as we begin to build relationships with those who will soon be starting their journey with us.

It has truly been a week of growth, reflection and excitement, and we are proud of all that our children have achieved.

Please note - Forest School will be taking place on different days. Please do take the time to make a note of the changes. The upcoming dates have now been added to class dojo.

- ACORN - Wednesday 29th April, Morning session.
- CHESTNUT - Wednesday 29th April, Afternoon session.
- OAK - Thursday 30th April, Afternoon session.



THANKFULNESS - COMMUNITY - COMPASSION - TRUTHFULNESS - COURAGE - FORGIVENESS



Acorn Class

This Week In Class

The children in Acorns Class enjoyed their Forest School time celebrating Earth Day this week!

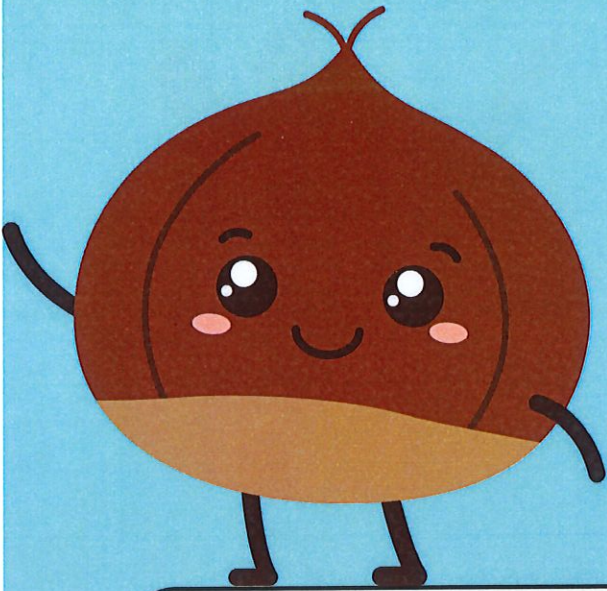
In writing, we wrote up last week's animal poem onto a top copy sheet and added these to our writing books and the class writing wall. They are really looking fantastic!

In maths, we have nearly finished learning all about money in Year 1 and 2, and in EYFS we have been learning more about adding and subtracting practically and written.

We have had a very exciting week in our foundation subjects. In science, we continued our learning about microhabitats and minibeasts and created our very own wormery (worm habitat).

In computing, we carried on learning about digital music. We used counters to help us to make a pattern, and then played instruments in the pattern so that we created a rhythm. After that, we used Chrome Music Lab on the iPads to create our own rhythms in a similar way. We then had to decide whether we preferred making a rhythm using instruments or digitally.

In PE with Mr Thomas we practiced our athletics skills with the upcoming sports day in mind, and with Mr Gatenby we continued to develop our bat and ball skills with tennis activities. In PSHE, we learned more about adults who keep us safe, from police officers to fire fighters and from doctors to dentists.



Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

We have had a very busy week this week and we have been really lucky with the weather. In English we have finished our work on poetry. This week we wrote poems based on Earth Day. The children were really engaged and wrote some wonderful poems. In maths we have continued with fractions and decimals- tenths and hundredths. In our Vipers reading session, we read about the anatomy of bees.

We really enjoyed geography this week. We were looking at pollution in the UK and used a great website to do some research. The children enjoyed planting a tree on Earth Day. In PSHE we were looking at whether sharing information with everyone was appropriate or not and if it made a difference if it was something good or bad. In science we looked at the parts of flowering plants and the jobs of each part.

A big well done to Poppy this week for being named "Girl of the Game" for her football club!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

Oak Class had an unforgettable residential trip to Essex Outdoors this week, packed full of adventure, creativity, and teamwork. From the moment they arrived, pupils embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity—and they were especially lucky to enjoy lovely weather throughout their stay, making the experience even more enjoyable.

Throughout their time away, Oak Class challenged themselves with a wide range of exciting activities. They soared through the air on the zip line, showing great bravery and resilience, and explored their artistic side while sketching the beautiful scenery around the lake. Pupils also tackled an exciting obstacle course, pushing themselves physically and supporting one another to complete each challenge.

Evenings were just as special, with pupils gathering together to make s'mores and share stories, creating memories that will last a lifetime. During bushcraft sessions, they developed valuable practical skills, learning how to work with nature and problem-solve as a team. Their teamwork shone through during the bridge building challenge, with fantastic cooperation and creativity on display.

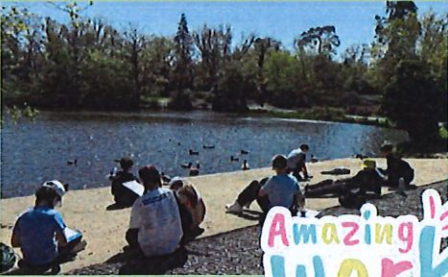
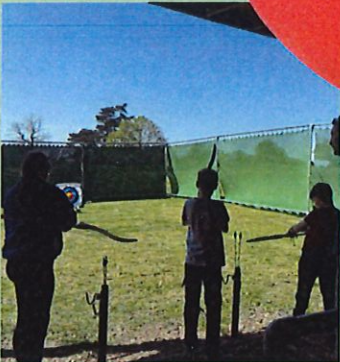
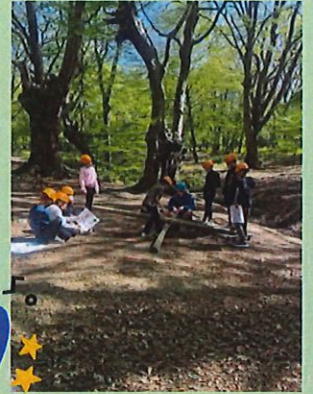
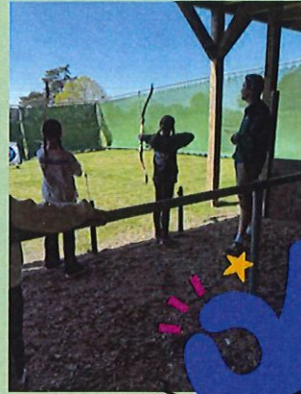
Adventurous spirits were high during caving, as pupils navigated dark and narrow spaces with determination, while archery sessions brought out focus, precision, and a healthy sense of competition.

Most importantly, Oak Class had an incredible amount of fun. The residential provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to build confidence, strengthen friendships, and step outside their comfort zones.

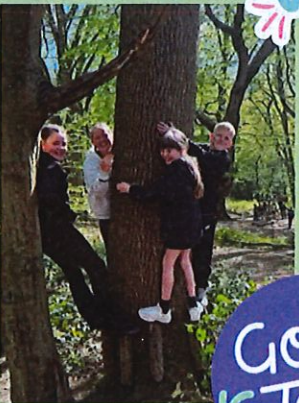
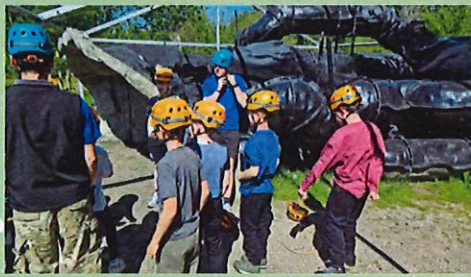
We are incredibly proud of Oak Class for their positive attitude, teamwork, and willingness to try new things. It was truly a memorable experience for everyone involved!



Residential 2026



Amazing work



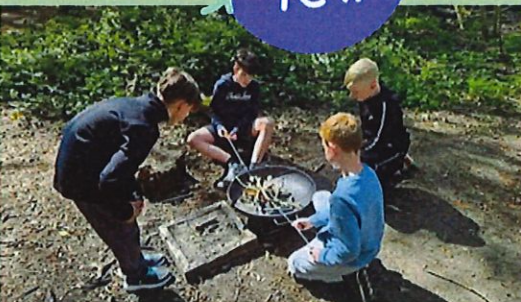
Go TEAM



Let's go!

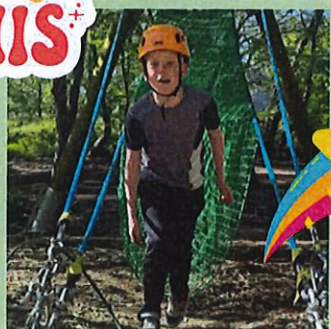
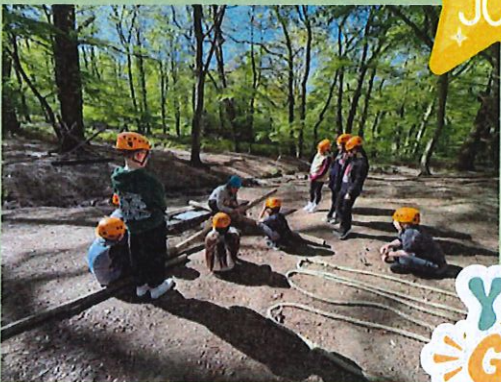
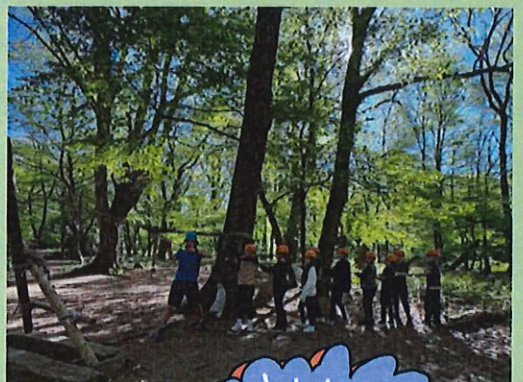
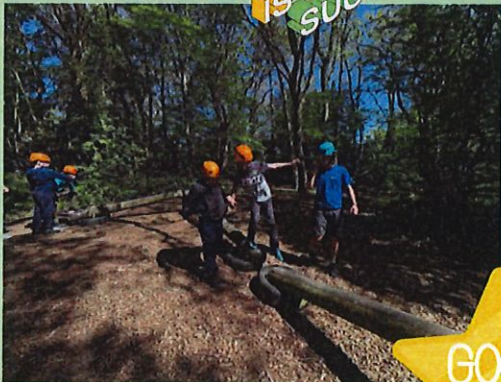
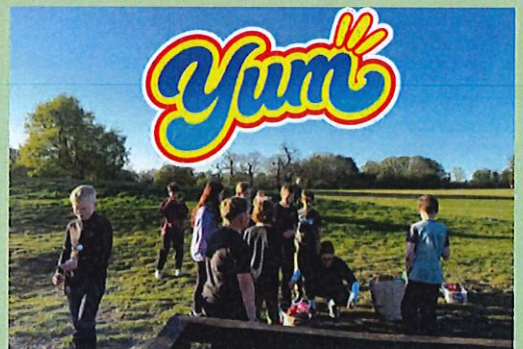
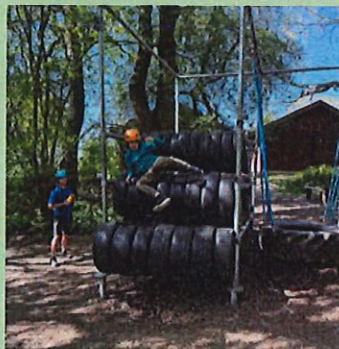
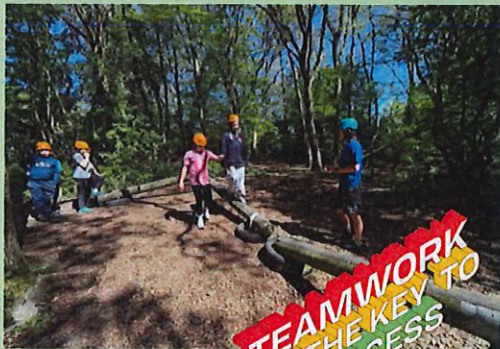
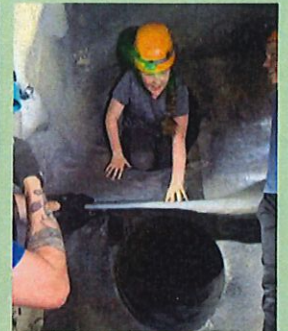
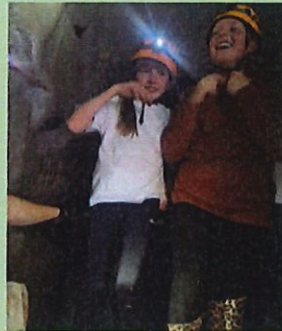
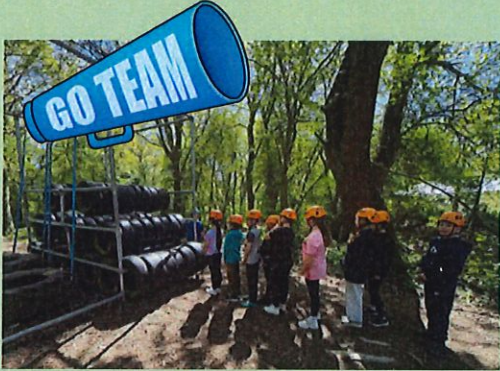


Yum Yum!





Residential 2026





Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	74%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	92%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	98%

TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is: **92%**

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **94%**

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



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.

STUDYBUGS

If your child is absent from school please:

- Contact the school via Studybugs on the first day of absence before 9.00am . (This is our preferred method of communication for sickness absence)
- Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.00am;
- Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible.



If you haven't already, please download the free studybugs app, or register on the studybugs website and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

The tool helps us to know sooner if your child is unaccounted for. It is quick and easy to register and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. Please use the following link to register:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office



FOREST SCHOOL

THIS WEEK

We marked Earth Day with a very special activity—tree planting. The children showed great enthusiasm as they carefully planted and learned about the importance of trees for our environment. It was a meaningful way to reflect on how we can all play a part in looking after our planet.

In preparation for the upcoming Schools in Bloom competition, we have also been busy developing one of our outdoor areas. Working in partnership with Meadowcroft Garden Centre, the children have been helping to clear, plan, and begin transforming the space. Their ideas and efforts are already making a wonderful difference, and we are excited to see it continue to grow.

Our allotment has also been a hub of activity, with plenty of watering and care taking place—alongside lots of laughter! The children are really enjoying nurturing the plants and watching their progress.

Of course, there has also been plenty of time for exploration and creativity using our outdoor resources. From imaginative play to teamwork challenges, it has been fantastic to see the children making the most of the environment around them.

Meanwhile, Oak Class, who are currently on their residential, didn't miss out on the Earth Day celebrations. I had the pleasure of visiting them, and they fully embraced the occasion, taking part in activities and enjoying their time outdoors. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and engagement in such a different setting. A brilliant week all round—well done to everyone involved!

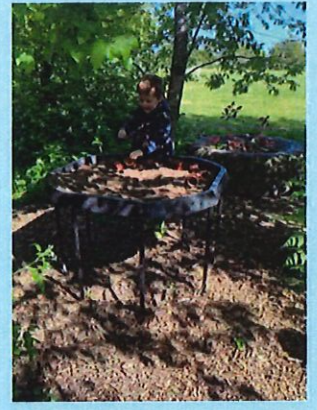
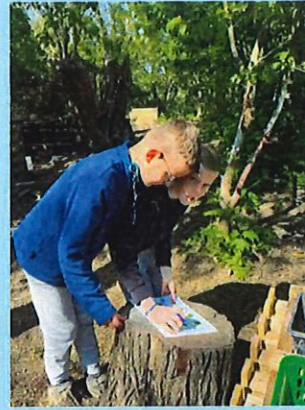
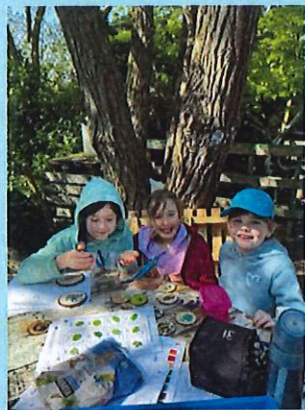
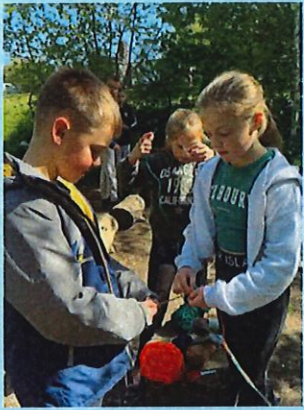
Freddie the Forest School bear is enjoying a restful week this week and will be back ready for another adventure next week.

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead





EARTH DAY



Collective Worship

THIS WEEK

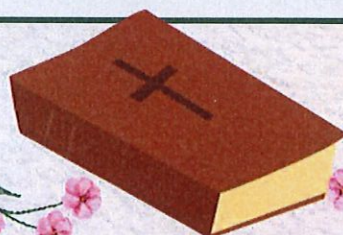
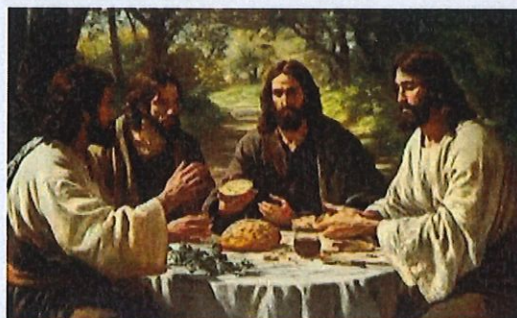
This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev. Jacqui, who led our collective worship with a thoughtful and engaging message for the children. She spoke about the presence of Jesus in our daily lives, helping the children to reflect on how we can know He is with us, even when we cannot see Him.

Rev. Jacqui introduced the story of Cleopas from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 24:13–35), where two followers of Jesus walk along the road to Emmaus. They do not recognise Jesus at first as He walks and talks with them, but later, in the simple and familiar act of breaking bread, their eyes are opened and they realise who He is. This powerful moment helped the children understand how everyday actions can reveal something much deeper and more meaningful.

To make this idea relatable, Rev. Jacqui encouraged the children to think about how we sometimes recognise someone without actually seeing them – perhaps by the sound of a car arriving, the way someone walks, or even a familiar scent. In the same way, she explained, Jesus is always present with us, even if we do not recognise Him straight away.

The theme of bread became central to the worship, symbolising not only the story of Emmaus but also how we remember Jesus in shared moments. Rev. Jacqui invited the children to share their favourite types of bread, sparking lots of enthusiastic responses and smiles. This simple question helped connect the biblical story to the children's own lives, making the message both memorable and meaningful.

The children also took part in singing a song called Every Step, enthusiastically following along with the accompanying sign language, which added a wonderful sense of unity and expression to the worship. Collective worship ended with a time of prayer, giving everyone a moment to reflect quietly on the message they had heard.

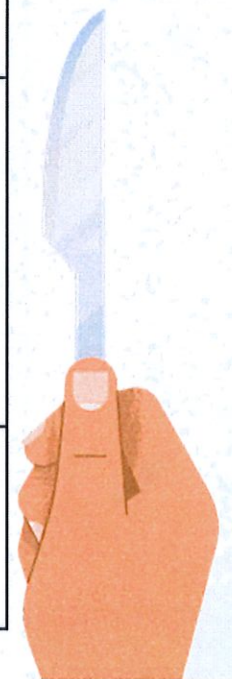
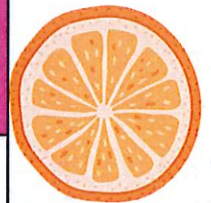


UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
30.04.26	Trust Orienteering – The Willows Primary School	Selected pupils
01.05.26	Inset Day	Whole School
04.05.26	May Bank Holiday	Whole School
06.05.26	Acorn class trip – Call of the Wild	Acorn Class
11.05.26	Year 6 SATS	Year 6
05.06.26	Swimming lessons - 6 weeks	Year 5 & 6
18.06.26	Trust Netball Competition	Selected Pupils
22.06.26	Ormiston Rivers Academy Induction Day	Year 6
23.06.26	Chestnut Class Trip - Food And Farming	Chestnut Class
23-24 June 26	WDF Induction Days	Year 6
26.06.26	Inset Day	Whole School

TERMLY MENU

This is our new menu which begins on 23rd February and runs through to taking us right up to 22nd May. This is now published on ParentPay for bookings. We work a week in advance for bookings. The deadline for bookings is 9am Monday for the following week.



	Meat-free Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Tomato and basil pasta V with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Sausage or Quorn sausage V with mash, peas and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Roast chicken or Quorn fillet V with roast potatoes, veg and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Beef bolognese or Quorn bolognese V pasta bake with side salad or Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Fish fingers or veggie fingers V with chips, peas and sweetcorn or Cheese / ham / tuna baguette
	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Baked treat
Week 2	Cheese and tomato pasta V with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Pitta bread pizza with cheese V or ham with potato wedges and side salad or Cheese / ham baguette	Sausage roast or Quorn sausage roast V or Cheese / ham baguette	Meatball or no meat ball V pasta bake with salad or Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Chicken nuggets or Quorn nuggets V with potato wedges and beans or Cheese / ham / tuna baguette
	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Baked treat



Clubs

Spring Term After School Clubs
February - March 2026

We are delighted to confirm that we will be providing the Clubs below from January.

All after school clubs will be starting w/c 5th January 2026 through to w/c 23rd March 2026.

**Clubs Commence on Monday 13th April 2026
and run up to Friday 15th May**

KS1 & KS2 Games & Creative Arts Club – Tuesday: 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Carlier

KS1 & KS2 Film Club – Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Beard

KS2 Netball Club – Wednesday 12:00pm – 1:00pm

This lunch club is available for KS2 and will be run by Miss Francis. PE Kit will need to be worn, no jewellery!

KS1 & KS2 Art Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm


This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Fallon

KS1 & KS2 Lego Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Richardson

Year 6 Tutoring Club – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for Year 6 and will be run by Mr Austin
(This will be managed in groups throughout the year)





Friends of St Mary's School

FOSMS



Welcome Summer!

Let's embrace the sunshine and fresh beginnings
the world feels lighter when Summer arrives!

Coins in a bottle

We are looking forward to sharing the winning class with you next week. Who is it going to be!

Watch this space.



Musicadoo

With the money we raised at Easter we are going to fund a special music day for the children in celebration of world music day in June.

The children will be able to discover the instruments of the world traveling on a world map, merging music with geography, history, anthropology, civic education, and psychology. During these classes, children will also be invited to sing and play without worrying about being right or wrong, and this greatly boosts their self-confidence.

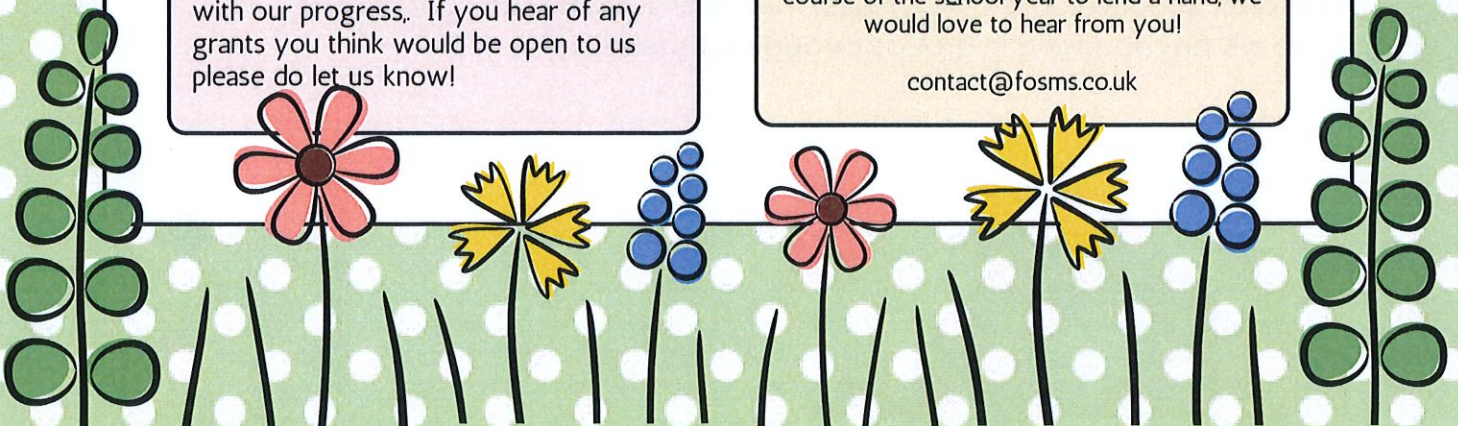
Grants

We may be a little quieter over this half term, but fear not we are busy working hard in the background trying to source grants and funding to see if we can raise enough for the playground to be updated. We will keep you to to date with our progress. If you hear of any grants you think would be open to us please do let us know!

Can you help?

As always, we can only run our fun events and raise money for our school with help from volunteers. If you feel you could spare a few hours or share some new ideas over the course of the school year to lend a hand, we would love to hear from you!

contact@fosms.co.uk





BERLESDUNA VACANCIES

APRIL 2026



<https://www.berlesduna.co.uk/information/vacancies/>

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We expect all staff and volunteers to share our commitment. All successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and satisfactory references. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Berlesduna Academy Trust

Governor / Trustee. Applications close 22nd May 2026. Interviews to be confirmed.

Cherry Tree Primary School and Nursery

SEMH Assistant. Applications close: 11th May 2026. Interviews 15th May 2026.

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery

HLTA. Applications close 10th May 2026. Interviews 20th May 2026. EYFS Teacher (part-time). Applications close 10th May 2026. Interviews 18th May 2026.

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

Class Teacher (Fixed Term Contract). Applications close: 1st May 2026. Interviews 8th May 2026. Assistant Headteacher. Applications close 27th April 2026. Interviews 30th April 2026. Family Support Officer. Applications close 29th April 2026. Interviews 8th May 2026



