



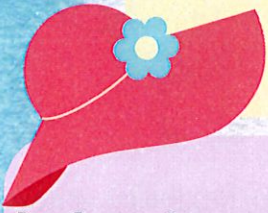
Newsletter – Friday 8th May 2026

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,

As we move further into the summer term, it has been wonderful to see the energy and enthusiasm our children are bringing to school each day. They are truly throwing themselves into all aspects of their learning, embracing new challenges with curiosity, resilience, and a real sense of enjoyment. It is a pleasure to see such positive attitudes in classrooms and beyond.

We have also been fortunate to enjoy some warmer weather recently, which has allowed us to make the most of our outdoor spaces. The children have particularly appreciated being able to spend break and lunchtime on the school field, where they can play, socialise, and recharge in the fresh air.

With the sunnier days continuing, we kindly ask that you ensure your child comes to school with a sunhat and has sun cream either applied before the school day or to apply in school as needed. This helps us keep everyone safe and comfortable while enjoying the outdoors.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend - Mrs. Walker

Mindful Moments

HOW TO BE MORE MINDFUL

Listen but don't interrupt

Notice but don't react

Feel but don't be bothered

Breathe but don't rush

Think but don't worry

Do but don't hurry

OurMindfullife.com



Dojo Messages

- Ms Walker surgery and school leadership arrangements.
- Burst Water Main
- Water Main and School Updates
- Studybugs Update
- Picnic Lunch on Field



A note from Mrs Walker

We are incredibly proud of the Adeline, Amelia R, Harrison, Jesse W, Phoebe B, and River who recently represented the school at the Trust Orienteering Competition. They approached the event with great determination and enthusiasm, working hard as a team and showing excellent perseverance throughout. They did a fantastic job and were wonderful ambassadors for our school - Well done to them!

Acorn Class have also enjoyed a memorable trip to Call of the Wild this week. The children were impeccably behaved and fully engaged in the experience, showing great interest in learning about the wide variety of animals they encountered. It was a joy to see their curiosity and excitement throughout the day. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the parents who supported the trip by transporting the children. Your help truly makes opportunities like this possible by reducing the cost of travel, and we are very grateful.

We are delighted to have welcomed a new child into Acorn Class, and he has already been given a big St Mary's welcome by staff and classmates alike. It has also been a pleasure to show several other children and their families around our wonderful school recently. We are hopeful that we will be able to welcome even more new children into our school community as the term continues.

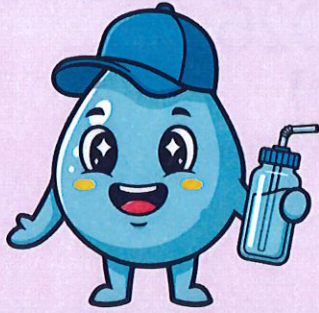
Finally, we would like to wish our Year 6 children the very best of luck as they begin their SATs next week. They have worked incredibly hard and are well prepared to do their best. We hope they enjoy the well-earned SATs breakfast and approach the week with confidence.

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 & YEAR 5 - Wednesday 13th May, Morning session.
CHESTNUT & YEAR 5 - Thursday 14th May, Morning session.
OAK Year 5 only - Thursday 14th May, Afternoon session.



THANKFULNESS - COMMUNITY - COMPASSION - TRUTHFULNESS - COURAGE - FORGIVENESS



Water Main Problems



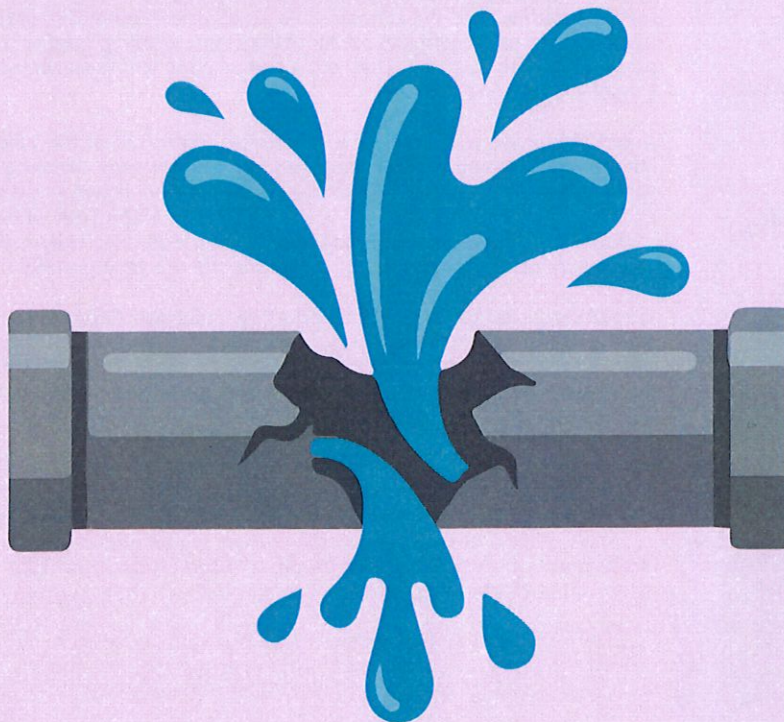
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for your cooperation, flexibility, and continued support as we have dealt with the burst water main on Main Road outside school.

We appreciate that the disruption and uncertainty over the past day has been challenging for families, and I would like to reassure you that we have been doing everything possible to keep parents updated with the information available to us at the time. As the situation developed, we worked closely with the relevant services to ensure that any decisions made were in the best interests of our children and staff.

I am pleased to confirm that we were able to overcome the situation and open the school from 10:00am today once our hot water supply had been restored, allowing essential cleaning procedures to take place. We felt it was vital that all necessary precautions were in place to ensure the children's safety and that proper hygiene routines could be fully carried out before reopening.

Thank you once again for your patience, understanding, and the kindness shown throughout this situation. The support from our school community has been greatly appreciated and is a real reflection of the strong partnership we share.

Mrs Walker





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

This week, Acorns had our fantastic trip to Call of the Wild! We were really lucky with the weather because it was forecast to rain for a lot of the time and it did not! We had a fantastic talk about minibeasts (or invertebrates) which matches our overall topic and especially our science work. We could not believe that the millipede we were shown had between 300 and 400 legs! Later we went into the lemur enclosure for a talk and to watch them being fed, and had a great play at lunchtime. We watched a really exciting birds or prey show, featuring tiny owls up to a gigantic turkey vulture. You would be amazed at his wing span!

Also this week we have been writing stories that are based on traditional tales and have a diary structure. This means that every paragraph begins, "Once upon a time on a..." and we go through the whole week. We really enjoyed planning for this, thinking of characters and moments from traditional tales that we would spot like the three billy goats gruff, the gingerbread man, a wicked witch and Pinocchio.

In maths, we Reception have continued to work hard on learning about 2D shapes in different ways for example making a 2D shape house and combining triangles to make other shapes. Year 1 and 2 have completed their learning about money for this year and are starting to learn about fractions! This sounds hard, but we begin with recognising equal and unequal, and then finding halves.

Achiever

This week our achiever goes to Wilfred. Wilfred has worked extremely hard in maths today and used lots of different strategies to complete a mixed arithmetic activity. He was determined and resilient and fixed any mistakes as he went.



Value Achiever

This week our value achiever goes to George. George has shown great compassion this week supporting other children in class. Today, our newest and most shy member of Reception said that George was his friend, and George made sure he sat with him to eat his lunch.



Call of the Wild





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

This week we have managed to do lots of work even though we weren't in school on Monday. In English we have been researching and planning our explanation texts about Climate Change. In maths we have been continuing with our work on fractions and decimals and working really hard. In RE we started to look at our big question and wrote what we already know, what we have learned and what we would like to know. We are really enjoying our art pathway and have drawn a supermarket background which we are going to colour using pastels. In computing we enjoyed continuing to look at Scratch and learning how to code. On Friday we were very busy. We did some lovely artistic handwriting. We also practiced our TTRS. We really enjoyed our lunch as we all sat on the field and it was like a picnic. In the afternoon we had fun in PE.

Achiever

Phoebe has worked incredibly hard in Art this week and has shown wonderful imagination and creativity throughout all of her work. She approached each task with enthusiasm and care, producing some truly lovely pieces. Her continuous line drawing was especially impressive and demonstrated great focus, confidence, and artistic flair.



Value Achiever

Value achiever is Joe. Joe has shown fantastic determination in improving his behaviour choices and has been using great courage to have sensible, respectful, and helpful conversations with adults. He should be very proud of the positive progress he is making every day. Well done, Joe – keep up the amazing effort!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class, we have focused on retrieving information in our reading lessons and have learnt how to correctly use colons and semi-colons in our grammar lessons. In maths, we have finished our unit on the properties of shape and have started revising how to read tables. In history, we have looked the Trojan War and the link between fact and myth and in science, we have planned an investigation into the effects of exercise on our pulse rate. In RE we have furthered our understanding of the features of mosques and in PE we have continued our athletics program.

Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Ivy. Ivy showed just how strong her work ethic is by completing some of the home learning set before coming to school this morning. It is this level of effect that ensures that she is always making great progress and continues to show what she is capable of.



Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever this week is Eva. Eva has shown great courage and endeavor in the run up to the Year 6 SATs. She has intentionally deprived herself of supporting resources in order to cement facts and strategies into her mind. We are very proud of her and we know she'll do brilliantly.





Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	63%
Year 1	80%
Year 2	83%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	82%
Year 5	84%
Year 6	78%

TARGETS

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **81%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **24**



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

Acorn class had a great session this week and we were lucky to have a nice dry and bright day. We split the class into groups and rotated round a few different activities. We made a huge spider web between two trees by fixing long sticks into a cross and then weaved white wool around the sticks in a web design. The children then made spiders out of long black pipe cleaners and attached them to the web. The children also made mobiles by decorating sticks and then hanging ribbon from them and attached beads, leaves and other decorative things from them. The children had some free play where they enjoyed the mud kitchen, climbing trees and chilling out in our hammocks and we ended the session with a game of Cuckoo on the field. A lovely session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class also had a great session and took part in some creative activities in their groups. We have finished planting the flowers in our Schools in Bloom garden and are starting to make some clay bee and butterfly water dishes out of clay. The children all made a dish and they will paint and decorate them next week once they have dried. The children also made some Mandala Art. Mandala art is a sacred, circular design symbolizing the universe, wholeness, and unity, with patterns radiating outward from a central point. Originating from Hinduism and Buddhism, it is used for meditation, spiritual practice, and stress relief. The children used leaves, grass, flowers and other natural resources that they found around the school field. We also did some weeding in the allotment and had some free time to play and chill out in the hammocks. A fabulous creative session Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class also had a creative session this week and were excited to have new equipment for needle felting. Most of the children had a go and some made so really lovely designs. The children also continued with their whittling projects and their knife skills are improving dramatically. Oak class also made some clay bee and butterfly bowls and they too will paint and decorate them next week. At the end of the summer before we break up for the summer holidays, the children will have the opportunity to bring their whittling and clay items home with them. After all the activities, the children enjoyed some free play time and we finished the session with a game of Cuckoo on the field. A fantastic session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear is very excited to be going home with Benji from Acorn class. Benji is a lovely little boy who can sometimes be a little unsure of some of the activities at forest school. This week however, Benji really enjoyed his forest school session and made a wonderful mobile with yellow ribbons and purple beads. Benji also joined in the Cuckoo game at the end of the session and it was lovely to see him embracing our outdoor activities. Well done Benji, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



Collective Worship

THIS WEEK

This week in Collective Worship, we were delighted to welcome Rev. Jacqui, who led a thoughtful and engaging session with the children. She introduced them to the Greek word Koinonia, exploring its meaning of community, fellowship, and working together in unity.

To help bring this idea to life, some of the children took part in a practical activity where they stood in a circle, joined hands with someone opposite them, and then worked cooperatively to untangle themselves without letting go. This was a fun and memorable way to demonstrate the importance of teamwork, communication, and supporting one another.

The worship concluded with the children singing "Build Up," a song that reflects the message of encouraging and uplifting each other. It was a joyful and meaningful time that reinforced the value of community within our school.

We thank Rev. Jacqui for sharing such an inspiring message with us.

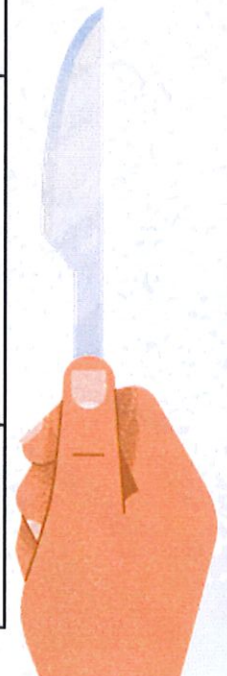
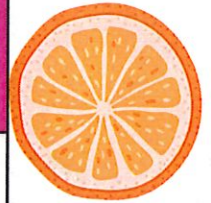


UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
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
23.06.26	Food and Farming Trip	Chestnut Class
26.06.26	Inset Day	Whole School
06.07.26	Sports Day	Whole School
07.07.26	Dance for Rights Workshop	Whole School
08.07.26	Bikability at St Mary's	Year 6
13.07.26	Reserve Sports Day	Whole School
14.07.26	Bikeability at SWF Leisure Centre	Year 6

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.



Year 6

To all of our wonderful Year 6 children – we would like to wish you the very best of luck with your SATs next week!

You have all worked incredibly hard, shown great determination and prepared so well. Remember, these tests are just one small moment in your journey and they do not define the amazing, talented individuals you are.

We are immensely proud of each and every one of you for your effort, resilience and positive attitude throughout the year. Believe in yourselves, do your best and remember how capable you are.

Good luck, Year 6 – we know you will shine!

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 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

MARCH 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

Trust Qualified Teacher - Complex Needs and SEND. Applications close 14th May 2026. Interviews 19th May 2026. Governor / Trustee. Applications close 22nd May 2026. Interviews to be confirmed.

Crays Hill Primary School

Class Teacher (EYFS/Year1). Applications close: 15th May 2026. Interviews 21st May 2026.

Felmore Primary School

Class Teacher. Applications close: 18th May 2026. Interviews 4th June 2026.

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery

Lead Teacher for Autism Support Centre. Applications close 13th May 2026. Interviews 20th May 2026. HLTA. Applications close 10th May 2026. Interviews 20th May 2026. EYFS Teacher (part-time). Applications close 10th May 2026. Interviews 18th May 2026.



ROYAL
BALLET &
OPERA

Dance for Rights

Every Child Every Move

On Tuesday 7 July 2026, hundreds of KS2 classrooms across the nation will join together in a joyful, two-hour live dance session celebrating children's rights. Streamed from the Royal Opera House, straight into our classroom.

For our KS2 pupils this will build confidence and spark creativity. Research shows that quieter pupils often engage most during dance, and 82% say they enjoy learning more when they have creative ownership.

Strengthen empathy, collaboration and wellbeing. Research shows pupils naturally include and support one another, build strong teamwork skills, and regulate their energy in ways that improve focus and emotional balance.


Improve learning across subjects. Study shows that dance improves understanding in English, maths, science and history through embodied, active learning.




UNCRC-aligned inclusive choreography, for every child

The movement is simple, inclusive, and confidence-building, enabling every child to take part - whatever their experience. The focus is on expression, participation, and shared meaning, not perfection, making it ideal for whole-class involvement.





Quiz Night



at The Bell Public House
Woodham Ferrers

Put Your Knowledge to the Test!

Join us for a fun evening of trivia with all proceeds going to St Mary's C of E Primary School. Free parking on the night, Please call Gill 07803 149339 to reserve a table.


Sat 20 June



7:15pm for 7:30pm start

Things to know

Tables of 4 are £12, raffle tickets are £5 a strip.
All cash at the bar, bring your own snacks!
Children are welcome



Raffle prize donations
would be amazing - please
drop to the Office.



Please book your table
direct with Gill.