



Newsletter - Friday 27th February 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 - Forgiveness

## Welcome

It is with great excitement and optimism that I welcome you all back for the Spring Term. I hope the half term break provided an opportunity for rest, family time, and new experiences. As we open our doors once again, we look forward to a term filled with learning, growth, and achievement.

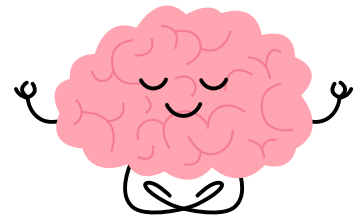
The start of a new term brings fresh opportunities. Our dedicated staff have been working hard to prepare engaging lessons, enriching activities, and supportive environments where every child can thrive. We remain committed to nurturing not only academic excellence, but also confidence, resilience, creativity, and kindness in each of our students.

This term, we will continue to strengthen our partnership between home and school. Your involvement and encouragement make a tremendous difference in your child's success. Together, we can ensure that every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Wishing everyone a positive and productive term ahead - Mrs. Walker

## Mindful Moments

Forgiveness is a powerful expression of the love within our heart.



## Dojo Messages

- Lunch Bookings
- Essex Kids Camp
- After School Club
- Chinese New Year Activities
- Dojo Upgrade
- World Book Day - Book Token
- Mrs Fallon's Retirement



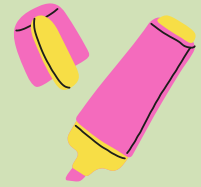
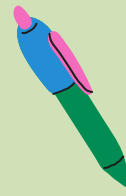
## A note from Mrs Walker

This week we have welcomed another pupil into Acorn Class, she has settled in beautifully and been given a big St Mary's welcome.

On Monday we celebrated Chinese New Year with a day packed full of activities - a big thanks to Mrs Richardson for cooking up a delicious feast of Chinese food for lunch.

A World Book Day book voucher has been sent home with the children this week, please do make the most of the voucher by visiting your local supermarket and choosing a book for £1 with your voucher.

We will be celebrating World Book Day in school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March and children can come dressed as their favourite character or word. FOSMS will be selling a selection of new costumes for £5 and all proceeds from the sale will be used for the benefit of the children and our school. Of course there is no pressure to dress up and if your child prefers to wear their school uniform this is absolutely welcomed.



# Acorn Class

## This Week In Class

Acorns have had a good start to the term. We have appointed our new ambassador, librarian and eco warriors. We have started a new topic 'Kings & Queens' and have even started making a castle in the role play area.

In maths we have been looking at arrays and multiplication. In Literacy we have focused on the book ; The queens hat' In Science we are learning all about habitats.

### Achiever

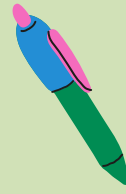
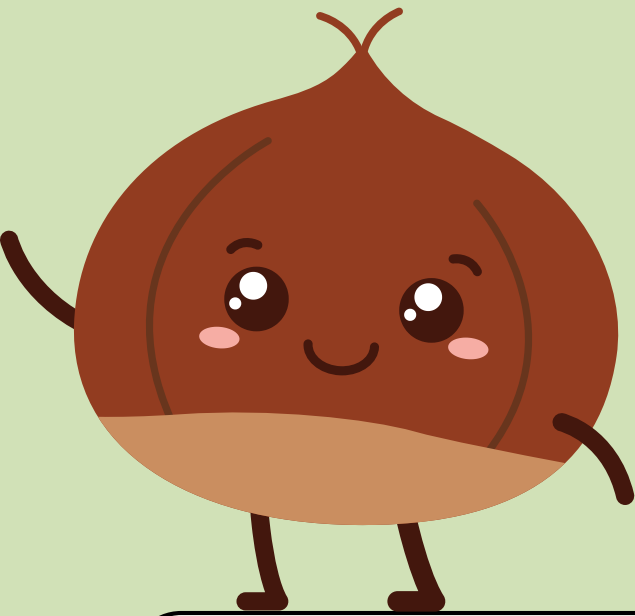
Reece Reece, has impressed us this week. He is more focussed and not listening to others, he is completing his work, and asking for help should he need it. He is answering questions well and really engaging with his learning. Well done keep it up.



### Value Achiever

Lexie has shown great courage starting a new school only yesterday. she has settled so well into Acorn class and is making all the right choices. Well done Lexie it is lovely to have you in Acorn class.





# Chestnut Class

## This Week In Class

This week, Chestnut Class has completed some amazing work! We celebrated Chinese New Year on Monday, completing some activities linked to the Year of the Horse. The children produced some beautiful horse collages capturing the spirit of Chinese New Year. In Science we looked at the effect of using multiple lightbulbs in a circuit. The children enjoyed the practical activity and were able to independently put together their own circuits. We also began our new topic on vertebrates and invertebrates, and explored the human skeleton. In English, we have begun planning and writing our stories. The class has been incredibly engaged and has produced some fantastic ideas. For History, we have been researching the Roman Empire, which the children found interesting and enjoyed. This week in Maths we have been looking at perimeter - this is a tricky topic, but the children have been trying their best and persevering through the questions.

### Achiever

Adeline is this week's work achiever. She completed a wonderful story plan. She included all of the features that she needed to. I'm really looking forward to reading her story when it's written.



### Value Achiever

Axel is this week's value achiever for courage. He has really used his courage to do his best. We are very proud of him. Well done Axel!





# Oak Class

## This Week In Class

This week in Oak Class, we have looked at the features of a 'How to Guide' and furthered our understanding of imperative verbs. In our reading lessons, we have found and recorded information in texts. In maths, we have continued our work on ratios and looked at enlarging and reducing shapes by scale factors. In history, we have sequenced the events of the space race and in science; we have created representations of The Solar System. We have also enjoyed creating fortune cookies and participating in traditional Chinese dance as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations.

### Achiever

The achiever in Oak Class this week is Dolly. Dolly has really impressed me this week with her understanding of ratios. She has quickly and confidently grasped the steps to solving the problems and has used her understanding of times tables and corresponding division facts to accurately complete the tasks. Well done, Dolly.



### Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever is Benji. Benji is a valued member of our class community, showing kindness, respect, and a willingness to help others. He brings positive energy to our classroom each day and contributes thoughtfully to discussions and group activities. Well done, Benji.





# Attendance



## TARGETS

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

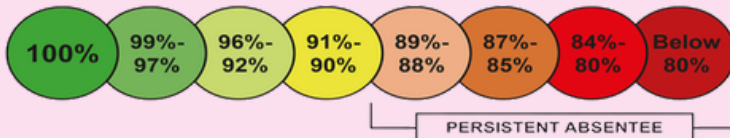
National Attendance Target is: **93.5 %**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **93.69 %**

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

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which **CIRCLE** are you in?



## THIS WEEK



Reception	74%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	89%

## 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 fabulous first session back this week and had lots of fun exploring the forest school area, making potions and spells in the mud kitchen and digging for bugs in our tuff tray. We had a couple of difference crafty projects for the children today and they thoroughly enjoyed painting and decorating large pebbles. These have been decorated using nail polish and once dry, they will be placed around the forest school area to make it look colourful and pretty. The children also made disks out of clay and decorated them by printing leaves, pinecones and other natural resources onto them. The clay has been left indoors to set and hopefully next week the children will be able to paint them and take them home. We ended our session with a game of Cuckoo on the field before going indoors to get cleaned up and changed ready for lunch. A fabulous session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class also had a wonderful first session back and the children were all excited to get outdoors into the sunshine. As with Acorn class, the children were all given a large pebble to decorate and they decorated theirs with some paint pens that we bought with the money raised from our Christmas Decoration Sale. The children did some fantastic artwork on their pebbles and we had all sorts ranging from flowers, a beach scene, fruit and a superb bumble-bee done by Benji. The children also made some clay disks and leaf prints, which they too will paint once they have dried and set. During free play time the children enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen and climbing trees and we ended our session with a game of Cuckoo on the field. Well done Chestnut class, a fantastic first session back!

Oak class had a great first session back and were happy to be back outdoors in nature. We started our session round the fire circle and discussed plans for the allotment and what we wanted to grow this year. We split the class into groups and Mrs Valentine took each group over to the allotment to start to weed and dig it over in preparation for sowing seeds, etc. in the coming months. As with the other two classes, each child was given a large pebble, which they decorated using the paint pens. The children also had the opportunity to make a clay disk which they will paint once they are dried and set. For oak class we had whittling available too. We invested in some safe children's whittling knives and some wooden whittling blocks and the children chose a project to make from a set of pictures with instructions of how to make them. We will continue with the projects over the next few weeks after which the children will be able to take them home. A really creative session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Minnie-Mai before half term and is now looking forward to going home with Harrison from Acorn class this weekend. Our digging area has not been in use for the past few weeks while we reviewed how the space was set up. Harrison has really missed spending time there and was keen to help improve it. After discussing ways we could enhance the area, he took the initiative to design and build a protective barrier using wood, tyres and large logs, with the aim of making the space even better for everyone to use. Harrison showed great creativity and maturity throughout the project. When parts of his design didn't initially work, he persevered, adapted his ideas and continued until he achieved what he set out to do. We were very impressed with his problem-solving skills and determination. Well done Harrison, myself and Mrs Valentine were very impressed by you this week! Enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson  
Forest School Lead



# Collective Worship

## This week...

Today we were delighted to welcome Rev Jacqui, who led our assembly and spoke to the children about temptation. She began by asking the children what sorts of things might tempt them during the school day. There were some thoughtful and honest responses. Together, they considered how we can sometimes be tempted to say unkind words, take shortcuts with our learning, or show off to impress others.

Rev Jacqui explained that temptation often feels like two different voices inside us. One voice might say, "Go on, do it!" while the other gently reminds us, "Is this the right choice?" She asked the children which voice they thought we should listen to.

To help explore this idea, she showed a picture of Scar and Mufasa from The Lion King. Scar represents the voice that tempts us to make poor choices — selfish, unkind, or unwise. Mufasa represents the voice of wisdom, love, and guidance. When asked which voice helped Simba become the kind of king he was meant to be, the children confidently answered: Mufasa.

It was a powerful reminder that we all have choices to make every day. Just like Simba, we can choose to listen to the voice that guides us towards courage, kindness, honesty, and responsibility.

Rev Jacqui then reminded the children that the Bible gives us a powerful example of choosing the right voice. In the wilderness, Jesus was hungry and tired. Each time the devil tried to tempt Him to do the wrong thing, Jesus chose to respond by saying, "It is written," and went on to quote Scripture. Even when He was at His weakest, Jesus chose to listen to God's voice rather than the voice that tempted Him or caused doubt.

Jesus teaches us to turn up the volume on God's voice in our lives and to turn down the voices that tempt us or cause us to doubt.

**Together, the children recited Psalm 119 verse 105:  
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."**

It was a wonderful reminder that God's word guides us, helping us to see clearly and choose wisely. Just like Simba listened to Mufasa, and just as Jesus chose the truth of Scripture, we too can pause when faced with difficult choices and ask: Which voice am I listening to?

May we all choose the voice that leads us towards kindness, honesty, courage and faithfulness this week.

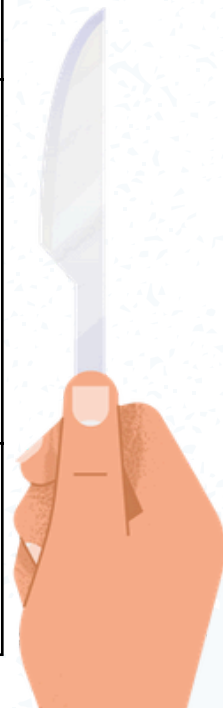
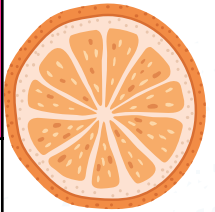


# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
5th March	World Book Day - Dress as your favourite character or word.	Whole school
13th March	Science Fair - Parents invited into school from 2:30pm.	Whole School
20th March	Red Nose Day - <b>Wear something RED with your school uniform. Link for donations to follow..</b>	Whole School
23rd March	Yr 5 and 6 Parents Residential Meeting 2pm in the school hall.	Yr 5 & 6 Parents
24th March	SATS meeting and SRE meeting 3:15pm in the school hall.	Year 6 parents
25th March	EYFS Parent Partnership Session.	EYFS
25th March	Easter Performance - Parents and carers invited in for 2pm.	Whole School
27th March	Easter Service at St Marys Church - Parents and carers to attend 2-3pm.	Whole School
<b>30th Mar - 10th Apr</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>Whole School</b>
<b>13th April</b>	<b>Return to School</b>	

# NEW TERM MENU

This is our new menu which begins on 23rd February and runs through to taking us right up to 27th March. 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 <b>V</b> with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Sausage or Quorn sausage <b>V</b> with mash, peas and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Roast chicken or Quorn fillet <b>V</b> with roast potatoes, veg and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Beef bolognese or Quorn bolognese <b>V</b> pasta bake with side salad or Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Fish fingers or veggie fingers <b>V</b> 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 <b>V</b> with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Pitta bread pizza with cheese <b>V</b> or ham with potato wedges and side salad or Cheese / ham baguette	Sausage roast or Quorn sausage roast <b>V</b> or Cheese / ham baguette	Meatball or no meat ball <b>V</b> pasta bake with salad or Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Chicken nuggets or Quorn nuggets <b>V</b> 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.

**Please note there will be no after school clubs w/c 23rd March 2026 with the exception of Mr Thomas' Multi Skills Club**

### **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

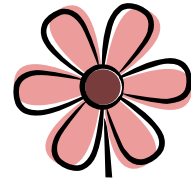
### **Year 6 Tutoring Club – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm**

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 Spring!

Let's embrace the sunshine and fresh beginnings that Spring brings to our community!

#### Coins in a bottle

**LAST CHANCE** - We still have our coins in a bottle challenge running in the classrooms, this little challenge is live until the **end of March**. Every penny raised will be given back to the class to purchase fun resources for the last term. The winning class will have their amount matched (up to £100) by FOSMS, so all is to play for. Please do send in a few pennies for your class Jar. Last year Acorn were the winners - can they do it again?

#### Mother's Day / Significant Female Sale

Mother's Day / Significant Female sale Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Please see the flyer below for more details and payments can be made via [www.fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events](http://www.fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events)



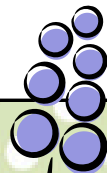
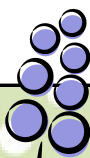
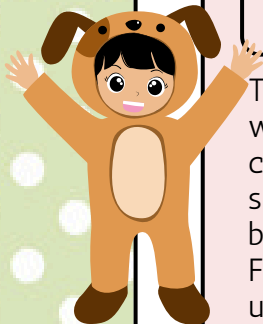
#### World Book Day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We will have a whole selection of brand new costumes for sale in a variety of sizes for £5.00 each. Costumes will be on sale from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Mrs Richardson will update the group WhatsApp with what we have available and a payment link.

#### 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](mailto:contact@fosms.co.uk)





# BERLESDUNA VACANCIES

FEBRUARY 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.

## **Canewdon Endowed CofE Primary School**

Caretaker. Applications close 9th March 2026. Interviews 12th March 2026.

## **Cherry Tree Primary School and Nursery**

EYFS Teacher. Applications close: 8th March 2026. Interviews : To be confirmed.

## **Merrylands Primary School and Nursery**

Cleaner. Applications close: 8th March 2026. Interviews: Week commencing 9th March 2026.





# Mother's Day / Special Female Sale

**FRIDAY 13TH MARCH**

WE HAVE A LOVELY SELECTION OF GIFTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CHILD TO BUY A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR THEIR WONDERFUL MUM'S, NAN'S, AUNTIE'S AND SPECIAL LADIES IN THEIR LIVES.

EACH GIFT WILL BE £2 AND WE'VE GOT SOME EXTRAS THIS YEAR SO CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO BUY MORE THAN ONE GIFT IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO.

PLEASE PAY VIA THE PAYMENT LINK WHICH IS VIA OUR WEBSITE AND ADD YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

[HTTPS://FOSMS.CO.UK/UPCOMING-EVENTS](https://fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events)

ALTERNATIVELY SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH THE MONEY OR POP IT IN A NAMED ENVELOPE TO THE OFFICE AND WE WILL SORT IT FROM THERE.

♥ THANK YOU ♥

