



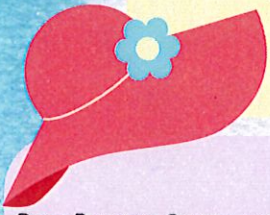
Newsletter – Friday 15th May 2026

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,

Firstly, I would like to say a huge congratulations to our Year 6 children, who have worked incredibly hard during their SATs this week. We are extremely proud of the determination, resilience, and positive attitude they have shown throughout. They approached each day with maturity and gave every test their very best effort.

I would also like to thank all of the other children across the school for the fantastic way they helped support our Year 6 pupils. Everyone played their part in maintaining a calm, quiet, and respectful atmosphere around school during the week, and this consideration was greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils alike.

A special thank you must also go to our staff team for helping provide the children with hearty breakfasts each morning to ensure they were settled and ready for the day ahead.

Finally, I would like to remind you that I will be starting my planned surgery leave from Friday. In my absence, the school will remain in very safe hands, and we thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend - Mrs. Walker

Mindful Moments



Dojo Messages

- A Little Poem for our Year 6 Children
- Calm, Connected and Confidence sessions.
- Parking.
- School Lunches.
- Please Clear your ParentPay Balance.



A note from Mrs Walker

Congratulations to all of our wonderful Year 6 children for completing your SATs this week! We are incredibly proud of the hard work, determination, and resilience you have shown throughout the week. You approached each test with positivity and gave it your very best effort – and that is something to truly celebrate.

We also hope the hearty breakfasts each morning helped set you up for the day ahead and gave you the energy and confidence you needed. Now it's time to relax, smile, and feel proud of everything you have achieved. Well done, Year 6!

We are delighted to have welcomed a new child into Chestnut Class, he has already been given a big St Mary's welcome by staff and classmates alike.

Please be reminded that there are no clubs W/C Mon 18th May with the exception of Multi Skills on Monday 18th May.

From 1st June, we will be introducing an exciting new initiative across school called "Caught You Caring". This is designed to celebrate and recognise the many acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, and teamwork that our children demonstrate each day. Staff will be looking out for children who go above and beyond to care for others, show empathy, include their friends, help members of the school community, or demonstrate our school values through their actions.

Each week, we will be celebrating the children who have been "Caught Caring", and we encourage parents and families to check our newsletters and school communications to see who has been recognised. We are very much looking forward to celebrating the positive difference our children make to our school community every day.

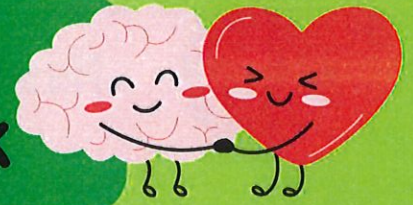
Please note - Forest School will be taking place on different days. Please do take the time to make a note of the changes. The upcoming dates have now been added to class dojo.

ACORN - Wednesday 20th May, Morning session.
CHESTNUT - Thursday 21st May, Morning session.
OAK - Thursday 21st May, Afternoon session.





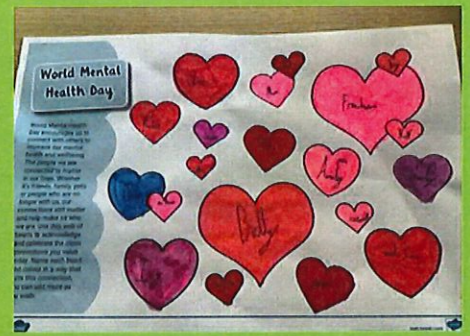
Mental Health Awareness Week



This week, we have marked Mental Health Awareness Week across the school. The children have taken part in a range of thoughtful and engaging activities designed to help raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing, while encouraging positive conversations about feelings, emotions, and self-care.

Each class explored the importance of looking after both our mental and physical health through age-appropriate discussions, creative activities, teamwork tasks, mindfulness exercises, and opportunities to reflect on what helps us feel happy, calm, and supported. The children showed great maturity, kindness, and understanding as they shared ideas about how we can support ourselves and others.

Mental Health Awareness Week provides an important opportunity to remind everyone that it is okay to talk about feelings and to ask for help when needed. We are very proud of the way our children embraced the week's activities and demonstrated our school values of kindness, respect, and compassion throughout.



Mental Health Matters





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

In Acorns Class this week, we have been writing about our trip to Call of the Wild. This is called writing a recount. We made very carefully drawn writing plans and we are writing two paragraphs each day. In maths, Year 1 and 2 are learning more about fractions, starting with knowing that the sharing must be equal or it isn't a true fraction, and then learning about halves and quarters. In EYFS, the children have been deepening their knowledge of 2D shapes by making them, making images with them, and even taking them apart and putting them back together again.

We had a fantastic science lesson with live woodlice (although they didn't move for a long time and we had to wait and wait!) Once they got more comfortable, we used a petri dish with some damp towel and a dry half and used a timer to see how many were on each side every minute for five minutes. They definitely prefer the damp! Even when Mr Gatenby very gently urged one into the dry, it would wander around and go back to the damp. We realised that this is why they are usually found under logs and rocks where it will be the most cold and damp.

In art, we continued our study of artists inspired by flora and fauna and created minibeast collage tiles. I think you would agree that Acorn Class's work is even better than the example we saw!

Achiever

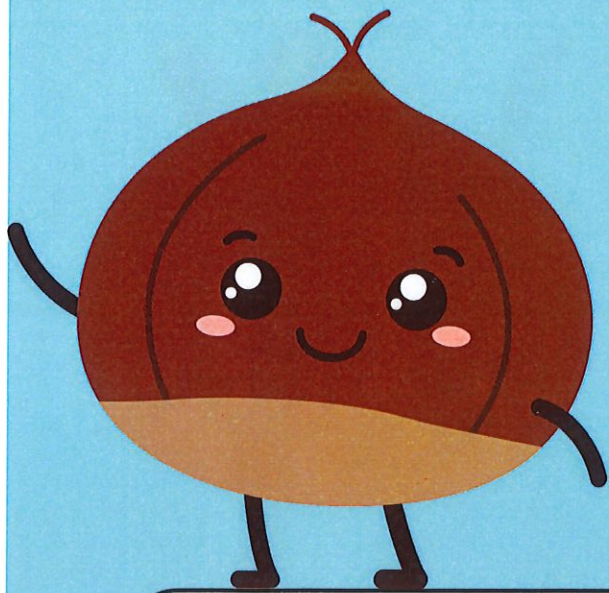
This week our achiever goes to Lexie for working so hard to her phonics including both reading and letter formation. Yesterday Mr Gatenby spent a few minutes with her and asked her to write her name, which she did instantly, and then some short animal names like dog, cat and pig. She wrote all of these words herself with confidence and lovely letter formation!



Value Achiever

This week our value achiever goes to Mia. Mia has shown a wonderful sense of community this week as she invited our newest child to come and play with her and her friends this week. She was very keen that he join in with their continuous provision activities as part of the group.





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

We have worked very hard this week. We have also had the pleasure of some year five children who have behaved excellently. In English we have been writing our explanation reports. I've been very impressed with the children have used the key features and vocabulary. In maths we have been developing our understanding of comparing and ordering decimals.

In geography we have learned how animals, such as tree frogs and sloths, adapt to their environment. In science we planned an investigation about seed dispersal. In Vipers our reading was about creatures in the deep sea and it was very interesting. As it has been mental health week we have completed a variety of activities to help our mental health and the health of others.

Achiever

This week our achiever is Oliver. Oliver has worked really well in English this week. He has put a lot of effort into his planning of his writing and has written some lovely paragraphs which were also well presented with lovely handwriting. Well done Oliver!



Value Achiever

Value achiever this week is Frankie. Frankie has made a good start to St. Mary's and is already making friends and becoming a valued member of our school community. Well done Frankie!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

It has been a different week for the children in Oak class, Year 5 have continued to follow their curriculum whilst Year 6 have completed their SATs. In maths, Year 5 have been learning about negative numbers and in reading have been retrieving information from texts. In their grammar lessons they have been learning about regular and irregular verbs as well expanding their vocabularies by finding synonyms for adjectives. In RE, they have been learning about Islamic art. The Year 6 children in Oak class have shown determination, resilience, and a fantastic attitude throughout the SATs process, approaching each day with maturity and confidence. Their hard work and effort over the year has truly shone through, and they should all feel as proud of themselves as we do.

Achiever

Our class achievers are Year 6. We are extremely proud of the determination and positive attitude they have shown throughout the week. They approached every challenge with maturity and confidence. Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils – you should be very proud of yourselves!



Value Achiever

Our value achievers are our Year 5 pupils have been our class achievers for the fantastic way they have demonstrated our school values whilst our routines and days have been a little different due to the KS2 SATs tests. They have shown both courage and community throughout the week, adapting brilliantly and supporting one another with positive attitudes. Well done Year 5.



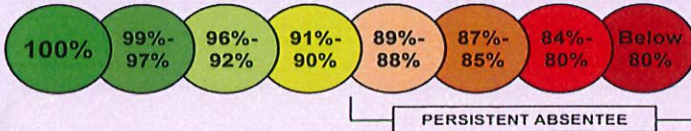


Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Reception | 67% |
| Year 1 | 92% |
| Year 2 | 98% |
| Year 3 | 96% |
| Year 4 | 100% |
| Year 5 | 100% |
| Year 6 | 95% |



TARGETS

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **93.55%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **53**

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 lovely session this week and we began with a whole class bug hunt around the school outside areas. We split into three groups and each group had to try to find as many different species of bug that they could. We all then sat around the fire circle and talked about why all the different species of bugs we had found. The children then all had a squirrel drawing to colour in and once they were coloured, they had to find leaves, flowers, etc. to glue onto the tail of the drawing to give them the famous squirrel bushy tail. The children had some free play-time in the mud kitchen, the hammocks and exploring before we finished with a quick dash indoors to avoid the downpour of rain. Another fabulous session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class began their session with their nature spots and we discussed the different sights, sounds and noises that the children could hear. The first activity for the children was shelter building. We were expecting rain so we gave each group of children a large tarp and some ropes and tasked them with building shelters that they could do their other activities under. The children did amazing and created three very good shelters. Watching them work as teams, problem solving etc was fabulous to see. The children then made "nature crowns". We did this by cutting card to fit around their heads and then using double-sided sellotape, the children stuck various leaves, flowers etc. to them to make them decorative. The children also painted their clay bee and butterfly dishes from last week, before we finished the session and headed back indoors. Well done Chestnut class, another lovely session.

Oak class also painted their clay bee and butterfly dishes from last week and we will put these in our schools in bloom garden ready for the competition. We only had year 5 and three year 6's joining us today as after working so hard on their SATS this week, year 6 had the choice to stay indoors and do other activities if they wished. That didn't stop us having a lot of fun though and the group that did come out enjoyed various activities. A fantastic fun session this week Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Benji from Acorn class last week and is now looking forward to going home with Reece, also from Acorn class. Reece put so much effort into Forest School this week and showed real progress and commitment to doing his best at all times. He took time and care in his activities and played beautifully with his friends during free play time. Well done Reece, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



Collective Worship

THIS WEEK

In Collective Worship this week, Mrs Carlier led a thoughtful and inspiring worship based on the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough. The children learned about his incredible contribution to conservation, animal welfare, and educating people around the world about the importance of protecting our planet.

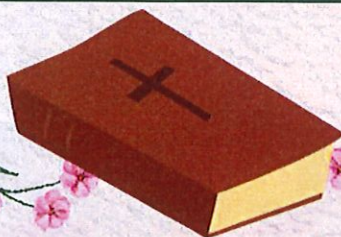
For over 70 years, Sir David Attenborough has helped millions of people understand the beauty of nature through his documentaries. Mrs Carlier discussed how his earlier programmes focused on the wonder and beauty of the natural world, while his more recent work highlights the damage being caused to the environment and the urgent need for people to care for the Earth.

The children shared some very thoughtful responses to important questions, including:

- Is a nature documentary just a TV programme, or is it also a lesson? Why?
- Why has Sir David Attenborough's message changed over time?
- Who is responsible for looking after our planet?
- What is the best way to show kindness to nature?
-

Mrs Carlier linked these discussions to the Christian belief that we all have a responsibility to care for God's creation. The children reflected on the Bible verse: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Genesis 2:15

The worship reminded us all that even the smallest acts of kindness towards our environment can make a big difference and that we each have a role to play in protecting the world around us for future generations.

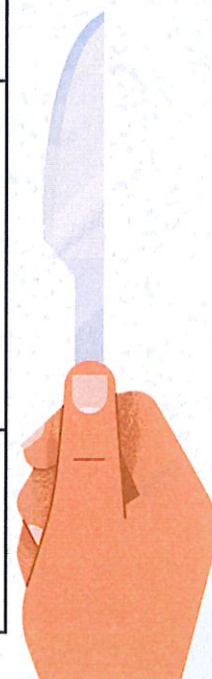
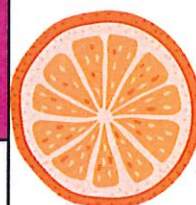


UPCOMING EVENTS

| Date | Activity | Who |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 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 |
| 20.07.26 | Leavers Service at St Mary's Church Woodham Ferrers 9am - 10am | Whole School |
| 21.07.26 - 02.09.26 | Summer Break | Whole School |
| 03.09.26 | Return to School! | Whole School |

TERMLY MENU

This is our new menu which begins on 23rd February and runs through to taking us right up to 20th July. 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 bolognaise or Quorn bolognaise 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

Summer Term After School Clubs April - May 2026

We are delighted to confirm that we will be providing the Clubs below from January 2026.

All after school clubs will be starting w/c 5th January 2026 through to w/c 11th May.

**No Clubs W/C Mon 18th May with the exception
of Multi Skills on Monday 18th 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 5 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 to the Summer Term

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.



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!

Amazon Wishlist!

Thank you so much to those families who have bought items from the class wishlists.

We have had a little stream of gifts over the past two weeks. Unfortunately we have no way of knowing who sent them as Amazon don't add that detail. So, if that was you please know that each class was delighted and very grateful and the resources will be put to excellent use.

We will be updating the lists over the coming weeks - what an amazing community we have!



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.

Felmore Primary School

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

Crays Hill Primary School

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

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

Learning Support Assistant (Upper KS2) / Midday Assistant. Applications close 31st May 2026. Interviews 8th June 2026.

Learning Support Assistant / Midday Assistant. Applications close 31st May 2026. Interviews 8th June 2026.





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.

