



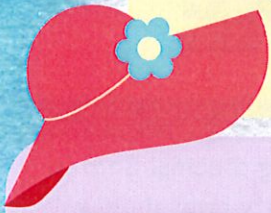
Newsletter – Friday 22nd May 2026

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 come to the end of another wonderful term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for their continued support throughout the past few months.

It has been a busy and successful term, filled with learning, achievements, and many special moments across the school.

We would also like to share that Mrs Walker is recovering well. We are sending her all our love and very best wishes for a continued smooth recovery, and we look forward to welcoming her back when she is ready.

A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Kemp, Mr Freese and Mrs Bailey for all of their support and hard work in helping to cover for Mrs Walker during this time. Their care, commitment, and teamwork have been greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils alike.

Wishing you all a wonderful week and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 1st June.

Mindful Moments

*May this summer
bring you...*

Sunshine that make you glow

Smiles that never get old

Breezes that kiss your face

Waves that wash your worries away

Memories that never fade



OurMindfullife.com



Dojo Messages

- No Clubs this week.
- School menu update for Sports Day.
- Sun cream, sun hat and drink reminder.
- No football and no balls to be brought into school from home.



A note from Mrs Kemp

As the weather is finally warming up please remember to provide your child/children with a sun hat and plenty of water. We also request that you apply sun cream prior to arriving at school to ensure they are protected throughout the day.

This week, we were delighted to welcome Susan into school, who delivered a wonderful assembly about young carers. The children listened thoughtfully as Susan spoke about the important role young carers play and the challenges they can sometimes face. It was an engaging and informative assembly that helped raise awareness, encourage empathy, and remind us all of the importance of kindness and support within our community.

From June we will be celebrating 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.

We are excited to be welcoming Alice Sharpe from Great Athletes to our school on 3rd June. The children are looking forward to taking part in an inspirational assembly and hearing all about Alice's sporting journey, achievements, and the importance of determination, resilience, and leading a healthy lifestyle.

If your child would like to take part in the sponsored event, they are welcome to find sponsors over the half term break. All of the information and sponsorship details can be found below. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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 3rd June, Morning session.
CHESTNUT - Thursday 4th June, Afternoon session.
OAK - Thursday 4th June, Morning session.



GREAT ATHLETES VISIT

WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE



Alice Sharpe's journey started with early mornings and big dreams! Born in Germany and raised in Cambridge, Alice grew up in a sporty household with an Irish dad and an English mum who taught her the importance of commitment. From swim club to cross-country races, she gave everything a go—and when she discovered triathlon at 11, she never looked back! Alice became a national champion before switching to cycling full-time, racing her way to the top. Now, she's an Olympic cyclist, a European and World Cup medalist, and a Commonwealth Games competitor! She's proof that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. Get ready to be inspired as Alice shares her story of resilience, motivation, and chasing dreams on two wheels!

We're very excited to be welcoming Olympic cyclist Alice Sharpe to our school on Wednesday 3rd June.

Alice will be leading a sponsored fitness circuit with all pupils, followed by a motivational assembly, and Q&A session. The aim of the event is to inspire the pupils to be more physically active, but just as importantly, encourage them to discover and pursue their passion in life. The event will both connect the pupils to an extraordinary athlete role model and raise money for new sports equipment in the school, as well as supporting both athletes and para-athletes, so that they can continue to inspire the next generation.

Below is a QR code to use for setting up a sponsorship page for your child to use to help raise money for the event. You can also sponsor your child by visiting: www.greatathletes.org and clicking on the button "Set up a Fundraiser Page". Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to go directly to the online sponsorship page.

As a thank you, pupils will receive the following thank-you gifts for meeting these milestones:

- Raise any money: an A5 sheet of motivational stickers
- Raise £10 or more: a blue Great Athletes wristband
- Raise £25 or more: a blue wristband, and a red wristband with Alice Sharpe's signature
- Raise £50 or more: all of the above, plus a signed Alice Sharpe poster

Please also make sure that your children come to school on the event day with their PE Kits!

Thank you in anticipation of creating a terrific and memorable event.

Have you heard?

Olympic Cyclist ALICE SHARPE

is coming to our school

Scan to sponsor
Search our school



Get the children moving in a fun fitness circuit

Witness the strength, talent & resilience of a top athlete

Raise money for new sports equipment





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

In Acorns this week, we finished our writing about Call of the Wild and then we worked hard on writing skills, for example making sure that we know exactly where to put a full stop or how to use a question mark. The children really enjoyed these reminders and worked hard to show what they knew. In maths, we have really worked hard to make sure that when we find a fraction we share out the numbers, whether that be sharing between two to find a half, four to find a quarter or even three to find a third.

On our last lesson in PSHE about Safety and the Changing Body, we learned how to make an emergency 999 phone call. We took home a reminder and a prompt to discuss this with our parents about exactly how this can work in our family. Maybe we will be life savers one day! In science, we found out what a botanist was and helped a botanist called Blossom to identify flowers. There was one left at the end - this was her new mystery species!

In RE, we spent one final lesson on the Easter message, combining how Spring time and Easter messages and symbols combine together, and how both represent hope for Christians. We had some really thoughtful discussions about how these symbols of hope can help someone who is feeling down or struggling with hardship. We had one last lesson on tennis, where we played against one another using the lines on the playground as a junior version of having a bit net in front of us.

Achiever

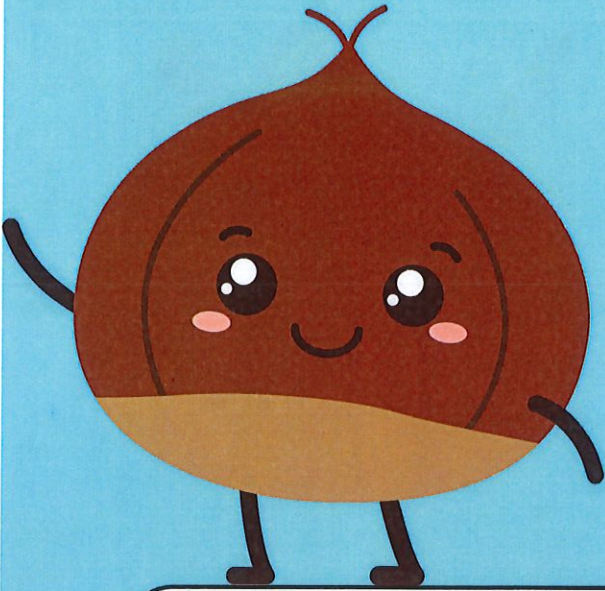
This week our achiever goes to Luna. Luna has been working really hard this week to show us what she can do. She completed some beautiful RE work showing symbols of both Spring time and hope for Christians and has focused especially on the accuracy of her writing, both letter formation and spelling.



Value Achiever

This week our value achiever goes to Lily-Belle. Lily-Belle has been working hard to demonstrate the value of courage this week. When she has become upset, we have given her some space and some time, and she has calmed herself more quickly and more completely than she might have done before this week. Well done!





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

In Chestnut Class this week we have been working very hard. In English we have finished our explanation writing. In maths we have moved on from decimals and looked at money and it followed on quite nicely. In our Vipers reading sessions the children read and answered questions all about Fast Fashion. We are all working very hard on our handwriting still and I am having to find lots of challenging handwriting activities.

In science we tested our "helicopters". It was lots of fun and we were able to talk about our prediction and whether it was right or wrong. In Geography we did a lovely poster all about climate change to finish off the topic. In RE we learned to draw mosques. On Friday we finished off with our lovely art project- Festival Feasts.

Achiever

This week's value achiever has to be Jesse. Jesse has been a wonderful member of Chestnut Class. He has been kind, caring, gentle and friendly. Jesse epitomises all of our values and he will be greatly missed.



Value Achiever

Eve is our work achiever. I have been very impressed with the progress that she has made with her handwriting over the year. All of her work is beautifully presented and she should be very proud of herself. Well done Eve!





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 homophones and homonyms in our grammar lessons. In maths, we have been working with statistics, reading and interpreting pie charts as well as calculating the mean of a data set. In history, we have compared the similarities and differences between the ancient Olympics and the modern games and, in science, we have completed our investigation into the effects of exercise on our pulse rate and drawn conclusions from our results. In RE, we have learnt about sacred geometry in churches and created our own symbols to represent ourselves.

Achiever

Oak's achiever this week is Aimee. Aimee shows a fantastic determination and resilience every single day. Even when she finds things challenging, she comes into school with a positive attitude and always tries her very best. We are so proud of her perseverance, effort, and the courage she shows in all that she does. Well done, Aimee.



Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever this week is Phoebe. Phoebe has shown our school values this week through her positive attitude and the kindness she shows to those around her. She has been a thoughtful member of Oak Class and has worked well with others during lessons and activities. We are proud of the mature and respectful way she approaches school each day.





Attendance



TARGETS

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **87.74%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **42**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	67%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	92%
Year 4	87%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	82%



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 were very excited to be having a campfire this week. After nature spots we sat around the fire circle and reminded ourselves about the rules of safety when having a fire. The children impressed me with how much they remembered from previous fire sessions. We then set about building the fire and because the ground was still a little damp from all the rain recently, we built our fire on top of a base of bricks. Once the fire was built and lit, the children were able to toast their own marshmallow and make s'mores by sandwiching the marshmallow between two chocolate biscuits. The children really enjoyed their s'mores and said they were delicious. As well as having a camp fire the children took part in making nature bracelets, mud kitchen potions and building mini-dens for our forest school teddies. A lovely session to end this half term on Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class were also excited to be having a campfire this week and similarly, after nature spots, we sat around the fire circle and reminded ourselves of the rules of fire safety. Chestnut class also had the opportunity to toast their own marshmallows and make s'mores, which they also said were delicious. The children also took part in other activities; these were, braiding with wool and ribbons, den building and creating recipes in the mud kitchen. Well done Chestnut class, another fabulous session!

This week, we had Oak class back in their entirety and they also had a campfire. We picked names out of a hat to decide which children would light the fire and once lit, the children all toasted their own marshmallows and sandwiched them between two biscuits to make s'mores. The children enjoyed some free play time where a few of the girls made up a show to perform whilst others enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen, chilling in the hammocks and building dens. To end the session we played a new game called Camouflage. The class was split into two groups, one group went out onto the field and faced in the opposite direction while the remaining children camouflaged themselves and hid in the bush border. The group on the field then had to try and spot the hidden children using binoculars. The last person to be found was the winner. The children thoroughly enjoyed this game and I am sure we will play it again at some point. A great last session Oak class, well done!

Freddie the Forest School bear is looking forward to a week off and having a good rest, then he will be ready to accompany someone for his next adventures after half term!

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



Collective Worship

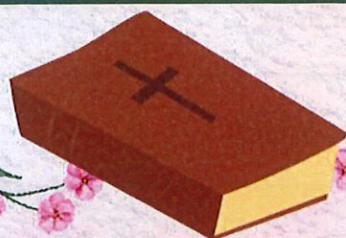
THIS WEEK

This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev. Jacqui to school. She spoke with the children about Pentecost, the special day when Christians believe God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples, as described in Acts 2:1-4. The children heard how the disciples were gathered together when they heard a sound like a rushing wind and saw what looked like flames of fire resting on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages, enabling people from many nations to hear the message of Jesus.

To help bring the story to life, Rev. Jacqui used a fan and held up colourful ribbons which the children could see blowing in the air. This helped the children to imagine the powerful wind described in the Pentecost story and to think about the arrival of the Holy Spirit in a visual and memorable way.

Rev. Jacqui explained that Christians use many different words and symbols for the Holy Spirit because Christians believe the Holy Spirit has many different roles. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is described as a comforter and helper (John 14:26), a guide (John 16:13), and a source of strength and courage (Acts 1:8). She reminded the children that, at different times in life, we all need a friend, help, comfort, guidance, or courage. The Holy Spirit is believed by Christians to bring these things to people when they are needed most. The Holy Spirit is also symbolised by a dove (Matthew 3:16), wind and fire (Acts 2:2-3), showing God's presence and power in different ways.

The children also enjoyed singing the song "Come Holy Spirit", which helped them reflect on the message of Pentecost and the meaning of the Holy Spirit in Christian belief. The visit encouraged thoughtful discussion and gave the children a memorable way to explore this important Christian celebration.

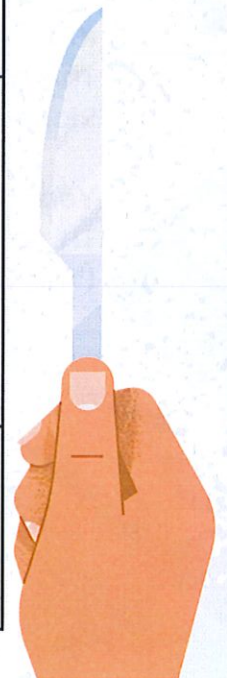
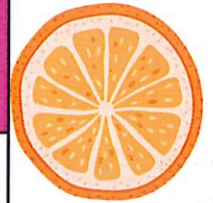


UPCOMING EVENTS

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 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

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.

Clubs will resume W/C Mon 1st June and will run up to W/C Monday 6th July.

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.



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!



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

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 for Complex Needs and SEND. Applications close 11th June 2026. Interviews 25th June 2026. Governor / Trustee. Applications close 22nd May 2026. Interviews to be confirmed.

Cherry Tree Primary School and Nursery

Class Teacher. Applications close 27th May 2026. Interviews: To be confirmed.

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery

Cleaner. Applications close 15th June 2026. Interviews 22nd June 2026.

Nursery Learning Support Assistant. Applications close 15th June 2026. Interviews 22nd June 2026.

St Nicholas CofE Primary School


Senior Midday Assistant. Applications close 4th June 2026. Interviews 11th June 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.

Willows Primary School and Nursery

Midday Assistant. Applications close 5th June 2026. Interviews 12th 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.