

Newsletter – Friday 5th June 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 – Courage



Welcome

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

A very warm welcome back to everyone as we begin the final half term of this academic year. We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for what promises to be an exciting and memorable few weeks ahead.

We have a busy half term planned, packed with opportunities for learning, achievement and celebration. From Sports Day and exciting enrichment activities to recognising musical accomplishments and celebrating the many successes of our pupils, there is much to look forward to as we approach the end of another fantastic school year.

Many of you will be wondering how Mrs Walker is doing following her surgery. We are pleased to share that she continues to rest and recuperate well and is focusing on her recovery. Mrs Walker is very much looking forward to returning to school once she is fully recovered and sends her warmest wishes to all our pupils, families and staff.

We look forward to sharing many special moments with you throughout this final half term and celebrating all that our pupils achieve.

Mindful Moments

JUNE REMINDERS

Make time for fun, rest, and love

Authenticity makes you shine

You are worthy of love and attention

Always be kinder than you need to

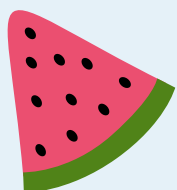
You always have a choice

Growth is not always visible



Dojo Messages

- Oven Problems
- Caught you Caring
- Great Athletes
- Trust Netball Tournament



A note from Mrs Kemp

This week, we were delighted to welcome Alice Sharpe from Great Athletes into school. Alice delivered a fantastic assembly that captured the attention and imagination of all our children. Through interactive activities, stories and plenty of enthusiasm, she encouraged everyone to get involved and have fun. Following the assembly, Alice shared her personal journey as an Olympic cyclist, talking about the dedication, resilience and determination required to achieve her goals. It was an incredibly inspiring experience for our pupils, who listened with great interest and asked some thoughtful questions. We are very grateful to Alice for spending time with us and for providing such a positive role model for our children.

There is still time to support this event through sponsorship if you would like to do so. Please use the QR code below to make a contribution. Every donation helps to support future opportunities for our pupils.

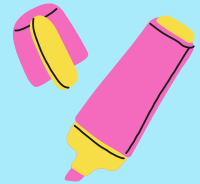
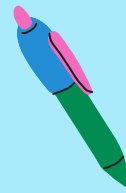
As we have finally begun to enjoy some warmer weather, we would like to remind parents and carers to ensure that children come to school prepared for sunny days. Please make sure your child brings a named water bottle, a sun hat and has sun cream applied before arriving at school each morning.

Our "Caught You Caring" basket has also been busy this week. Staff have thoroughly enjoyed recognising those often unseen moments when our children demonstrate kindness, compassion and thoughtfulness towards others. These special acts are a wonderful reminder of the values that make our school community so special. Please do take a look at our "Caught You Caring" page, where you can read some of these uplifting stories and celebrate the wonderful young people we are privileged to work with 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 10th June, Morning session.
CHESTNUT - Thursday 11th June, Morning session.
OAK - Thursday 11th June, Afternoon session.





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

This week in Acorn Class we started our work on The Oceans Around Us. In writing, we have been working on poems once again. This time, we are working on adding detail to poems and we have also been learning what adverbs are. We learned to perform a poem about a sea shell and planned and wrote a poem about the ocean. In EYFS, we have been working to write short sentences using the words that we can sound out, for example 'The bus is red.'

In maths, Year 1 and 2 have continued their work on fractions and learned the importance difference between unit fractions (one half, one quarter, one third) and non-unit fractions (two halves, two third, three thirds, two quarters, etc). In EYFS, the children have been learning about odd and even numbers, especially that if a number is even it can be shared equally between two.

Our first geography lesson about The Oceans Around Us recapped the name of each ocean and then focused on why they are important to the world. We created some fantastic pages of work showing that animals live there, that humans work on the oceans, that food for us comes from there, and that humans can be tourists around the oceans. We also remembered that the sea often helps us to feel happiness and calm.

We had a very important lesson in PSHE where the children learned about the difference between positive surprises and the often negative aspects of keeping secrets. In science, we started our work on plant growth. We each planted a sweet pea seed and we will be giving them soil, water, warmth and light. However, three extra seeds were planted. One will get no water, one will get no light and one will get no warmth (it's in the fridge!)

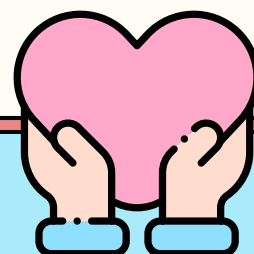
Love Your Learning

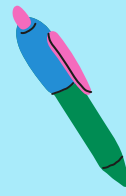
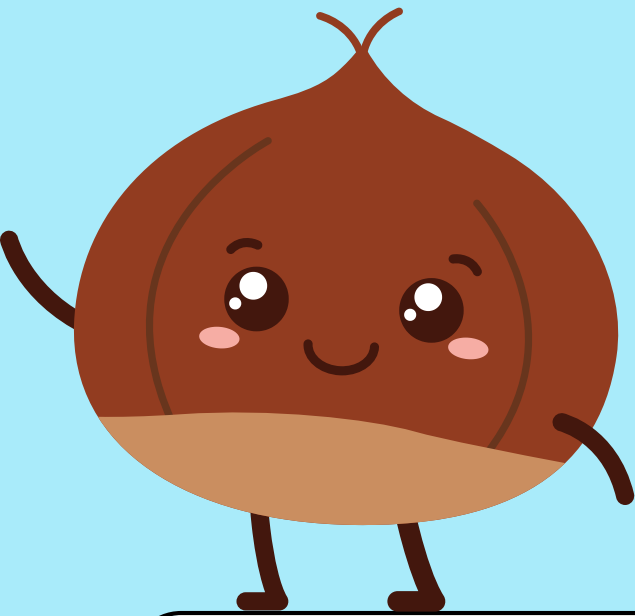
Freddie is in Year 1 and often completes work pitched at Year 2 level. On Thursday this week, Freddie tried all three maths sheets aimed at Year 2 on non-unit fractions. He got every question correct and achieved a Golden Sticker from Mrs Kemp.



Caught You Caring

Reece was caught caring this week when two younger children had an issue and one began to cry. Even though Reece was busy and I expected the rest of the class to carry on with what they were doing, Reece asked if the crying child was OK and tried to support him. Well done Reece!





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

We have worked brilliantly this week. In English we have been looking at metaphor poetry and I have been astounded by some of the metaphors that the children have used. The focus in Vipers reading was all about Enid Blyton and the children learned lots of new vocabulary. In maths, we have begun to look at turns and angles. On Thursday the year four children all completed their Multiplication Check and I was delighted with their efforts- well done!

We really enjoyed the visit from the athlete Alice Sharpe this week and saw and experienced how much fun exercise can be. We've been working really hard on our spelling this week but instead of using our sheets, we have had to correct some incorrect spellings which has made everyone really think. In PSHE we looked at Road Safety and how to cross the road. We pretended we were crossing the road on the playground but lots of children found this quite difficult and needed lots of reminders of what to do.

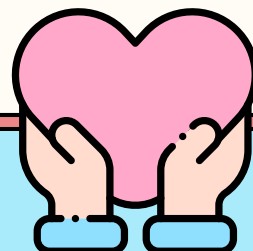
Love Your Learning

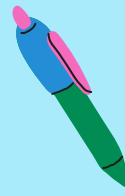
Norah is this week's ... achiever. She only started on Monday but she has already shown how hard she works. She has really applied herself and wants to do her best. What a brilliant start Norah!



Caught You Caring

This week Poppy was caught caring. Poppy was caught being kind and compassionate to another child and encouraging them. She really helped another child to have confidence in their abilities - Well done Poppy!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class, we have focused on summarising information in our reading lessons and have learnt how to correctly use exclamations in our grammar lessons. In maths, we have been converting between units of measurement. In geography, we have investigated the UK's trade imports and exports and looked at the costs of both and, in science, we have compared the gestation periods of different mammals and look for links with their size and their habitats. In PSHE, we have started our My Happy Mind program and have learnt about 'Team HAP' and how they work together in our brains.

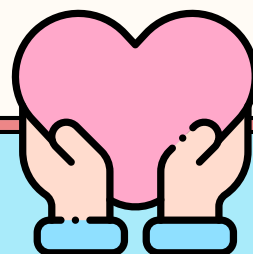
Love Your Learning

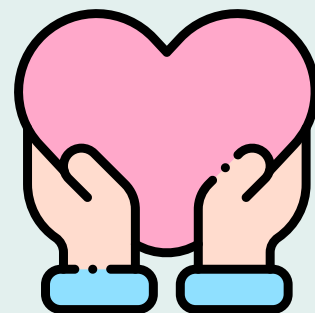
Oak's achiever this week is Harry. Harry gives 100% in everything, everyday. His work is always neat, accurate and completed to the very best of his ability. He never rushes to complete a task and will always act upon feedback given. Well done, Harry.



Caught You Caring

This week Henry was caught caring, he was caught supporting his peer's understanding of maths in class - Well done Henry!





Cruise Mitchell

Caught caring allowing another child to use the glitter he was still using, he said he could wait.

Stanley Higham

Showed care and understanding to a class mate who was finding coming to school difficult. Stanley stayed with him and helped him into class.

George Woods

Recognised that a child felt sad and supported him kindly.

Albie South

Helped a child who was feeling sad and lonely feel a lot happier.

Norah-Rose Clark

Helped to tidy up and volunteered to do even more! Well done.

Oscar King

Oscar apologised independently!



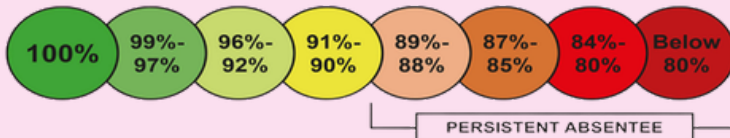


Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	83%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	80%

TARGETS

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **92.58%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **51**



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

This week, Acorn class had a split session because we had the pleasure of an Athlete visiting the school. During the first half of the session, we discussed the coming weeks and talked about different activities we would like to try. We then proceeded to do a litter pick around the whole school to tidy up our outdoor areas. During the second part of our session the children had to use their imaginations to create their own creature. They had to draw and colour the creature, give it a name and then write down where it would live, what it could do and why they had chosen it. The children had great fun doing this and they came up with some superb creatures. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a great first session back we too discussed different activities that they would like to try this half term. We had a couple of nice activities available for the children and they enjoyed beading and needle felting. The children also spent some time weeding the allotment and making art with the large chalks. We finished the session with a game of Cuckoo before heading back indoors to get changed for lunch. A lovely session Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class also had a great first session back and we talked about some projects that the children can get involved in during the last half term. The children spent time weeding the allotment, needle felting and some of the children had a go at making some Mandala art. The children finished the session by sliding down the hill in the wet grass on their knees, on the field. Well done Oak class!

Freddie the Forest School Bear is excited to be going home with Wilfred from Acorn class this week. Despite not having a full forest school session this week, Wilfred got stuck in to the activities that we had planned. He collected a huge amount of litter from around the school's outdoor areas and he created a magnificent creature using his imagination. Well done Wilfred, enjoy your weekend with Freddie.

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead

Collective Worship

THIS WEEK

This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev Jacqui into school to lead our Collective Worship. The children enjoyed exploring the theme of "Who Am I?"

Rev Jacqui began by talking about the many different roles we have in our lives. She explained that although she is known as Rev Jacqui, she is also a mum, a sister and a daughter. She then invited the children to think about the different names or roles they are known by. The children had great fun sharing their ideas and reflecting on the many ways people know them.

Rev Jacqui then encouraged the children to think about a much bigger question: Who is God? She explained that Christians speak of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This led to a discussion about the Trinity, which she described as a wonderful three-in-one mystery.

To help the children understand this concept, Rev Jacqui showed them a visual example of water, ice and steam. Although they appear in three different forms, they are all still water. In a similar way, Christians believe that God is one God revealed in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The children learned that:

- God the Father created us and loves us.
- God the Son (Jesus) shows us what God is like.
- God the Holy Spirit helps and guides us every day.
-

Rev Jacqui also shared a Bible verse from **Matthew 28:19**. She explained that after Jesus rose from the dead, he met with his disciples and gave them an important message:

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The worship provided a thoughtful opportunity for the children to reflect on their own identity and to deepen their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinity. Rev Jacqui concluded the worship by leading the children in The Lord's Prayer. The session ended joyfully with everyone singing "Our God Is a Great Big God", which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



UPCOMING EVENTS

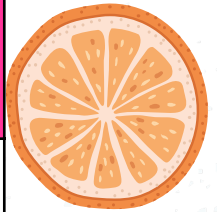
Date	Activity	Who
05.06.26	Swimming lessons - 6 weeks	Year 5 & 6
23.06.26	Food and Farming Trip	Chestnut Class
26.06.26	Inset Day	Whole School
06.07.26	Sports Day	Whole School
07.07.26	Dance for Rights Workshop	Whole School
08.07.26	Bikability at St Mary's	Year 6
13.07.26	Reserve Sports Day	Whole School
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.

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.

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.

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

EYFS Teacher (part-time). Applications close 19th June 2026. Interviews 24th June 2026. EYFS Teacher. Applications close 19th June 2026. Interviews 24th 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.

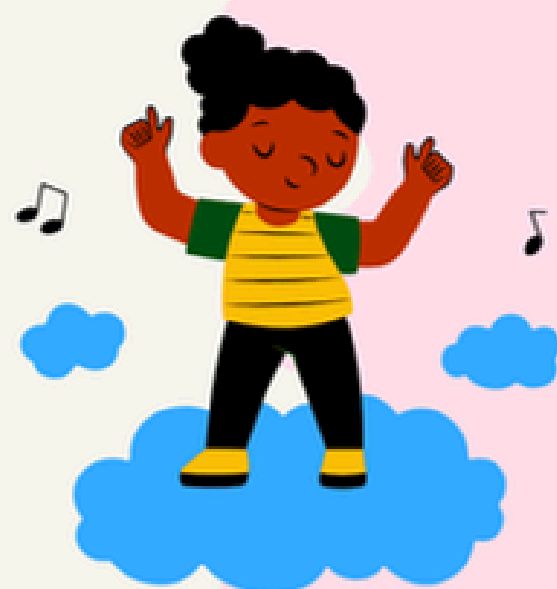
For our KS2 pupils this will build confidence and spark creativity. Research shows that quieter pupils often engage most during dance, and 82% say they enjoy learning more when they have creative ownership.

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.