

Newsletter – Friday 19th 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,

We have had another busy and exciting week at school, with lots of wonderful learning experiences, activities, and achievements to celebrate. It has been fantastic to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic in all that they do.

As we are expecting some very warm weather over the coming weeks, please can we ask that all children come to school with a named water bottle and sun hat each day. We would also appreciate sun cream being applied before school in the morning to help keep everyone safe and comfortable while enjoying outdoor activities.

A huge thank you to FOSMS for organising our Father's Day / Special Person Sale today. We hope everyone celebrating has a wonderful Father's Day and enjoys this special occasion with their loved ones.

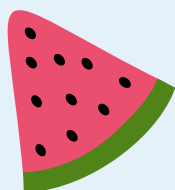
Thank you for your continued support. We hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting things that have been happening this week.

Mindful Moments



Dojo Messages

- Fidget toys are not to be brought to school
- Essex Fire Museum open day
- Trust Netball Competition
- St Mary's Amazing Netball Team!



A note from Mrs Kemp

It has been another busy and successful week at St Mary's, and I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate some of our recent achievements.

This week, 11 girls proudly represented St Mary's School at the Trust Netball Tournament. Their commitment and dedication during training certainly paid off, as they won their opening matches and demonstrated excellent teamwork throughout the competition.

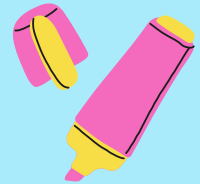
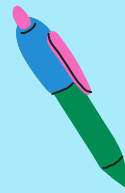
The girls should be extremely proud of their achievements. Not only did they perform brilliantly on the court, but they also represented our school and our school values wonderfully, showing determination, respect, encouragement, and sportsmanship at all times. Well done to all the girls for their fantastic effort and for being such excellent ambassadors for St Mary's School. We are very proud of you all! Also a huge thanks to Ms Francis for all of the hard work she has put in to training the team.

A special well done must go to Oak Class for another super swimming lesson. The children represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, confidence and excellent behaviour throughout the session. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing their progress over the coming weeks.

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 24th June, Morning session.
CHESTNUT - Wednesday 25th June, Afternoon session.
OAK - Wednesday 24th June, Afternoon session.





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

This week, Acorn Class have finished their end of year assessments and returned to more traditional maths and writing lessons. Reception have been working on the composition of numbers and patterns. Year 1 and 2 are beginning to finish their work on fractions, including recognising three quarters. Reception have been working hard to compose sentences, either a given sentence by Mrs Smith or a very short sentence more independently. Year 1 and 2 wrote a beautiful top-copy of their ocean poems and have learned more about conjunctions and sentence types.

We had a design and technology lesson this week instead of art, and the children began to learn about balanced diets in preparation for food D and T work. They cut lots of pictures of food out and placed them into the five food groups, recognising the amounts that are recommended. In computing, we used Scratch Jnr to create a program that changes the background when the sprite (character) is pressed. Our character moved through the seasons from Spring to Winter and around again when they were clicked on or touched.

We had a very important PSHE lesson about body parts, which for Year 1 and 2 included being able to use the scientific names for our private parts. We made sure that we understood what private meant, and when there were exceptions to this such as when we need help from our parents and carers, a doctor, nurse or ambulance staff. In science, we learned about the plant life cycle from seed to flowers producing more seeds. We learned the very important word 'germination' and made plant life cycle lift-the-flap books!

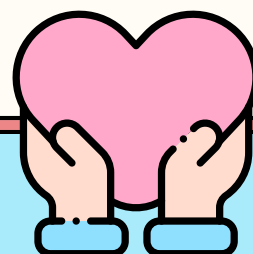
Love Your Learning

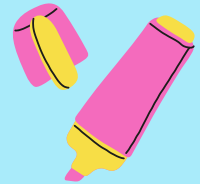
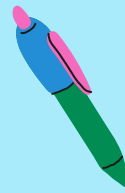
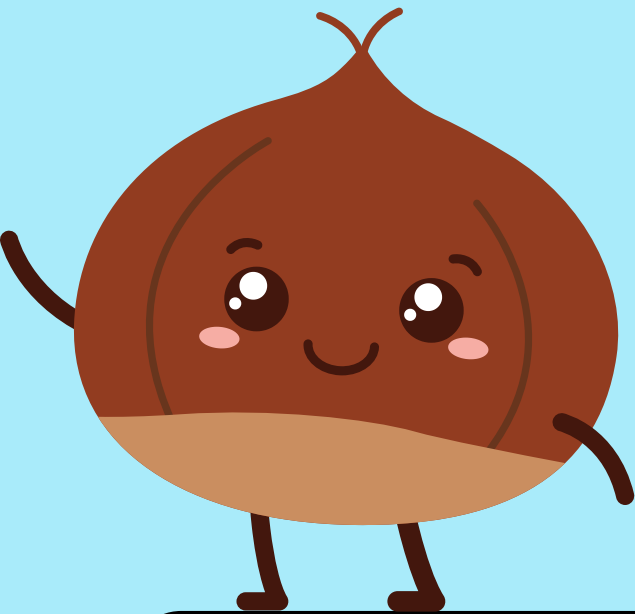
This week, Lilly-May has loved her learning. Lilly-May has really been thinking about and working on her writing. Yesterday I saw a fantastic example of a Year 1 child using resources to help them to write carefully and thoughtfully. She used the words and pictures I had provided to help her to spell and to construct the sentence. She used her finger to guide her when reading the sentence back, and then checked to make sure it made sense and ended with a full stop. She correctly used and spelled the conjunction 'because'!



Caught You Caring

This week Harrison was caught caring. Harrison was playing 'football cricket' against our whole Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 class. Despite his great enthusiasm and wanting to win, he regularly encouraged other players to "take it easy on them!" when a younger child's turn came. A great example of caring about the people more than the activity.





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

In English this week we have been writing descriptive paragraphs for scenes from a picture book. The children worked independently and it gave them a chance to show me what they can do. In our Vipers reading session they learned a little about the British Empire. In maths we have looked at shapes; triangles and quadrilaterals. When some of the class were at netball on Thursday we did some fun maths challenge activities that were very tricky.

In science we looked at animal's teeth and had to work out if the animal was a herbivore, carnivore or an omnivore just by the types of teeth. This was quite tricky so we did some research to help us. In PSHE we did Happy Minds and filled in a page of our journals. We were looking at what happens when we get anxious or worried. Some of the girls went to the Netball Berlesduna Trust Competition. We are very proud of the girls who went. Some had only been playing a little while and some just started playing this year. We are very proud of their achievements.

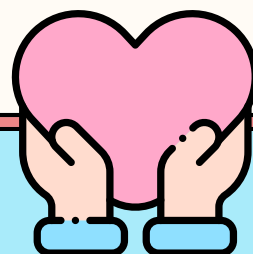
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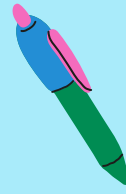
Loved your learning this week goes to Frankie. Frankie has completed some fantastic maths work this week. He really focused and presented his work beautifully too. Well done Frankie!



Caught You Caring

This week Oliver was caught caring. Oliver was being very kind and caring and comforting a child when he was hurt. Well done Oliver!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class, we have focused on summarising and sequencing information in our reading lessons and have planned and written a character and setting description of The Highwayman in our English lessons. In maths, we have continued working on position and direction and translated and reflected shapes as well as identifying lines of symmetry. In geography, we looked at the relationship between the UK and EL Salvador and in science, we have compared the growth rates of boys and girls in their first twelve months. In PSHE, we have continued our My Happy Mind program and have learnt about how to raise our dopamine levels as well as managing our cortisol levels in times of perceived danger.

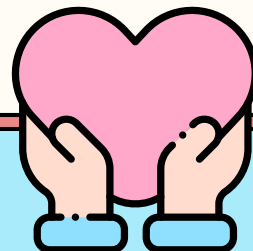
Love Your Learning

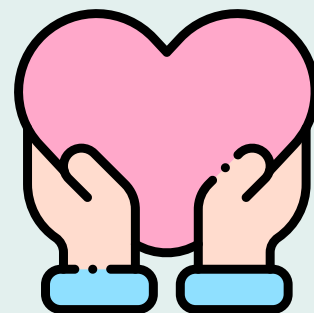
Oak's love your learning achiever this week is Sophie. Sophie has really excelled this week across the curriculum, her description of the setting and character of The Highwayman was wonderful. Her use of figurative language and linguistic devices really captured the idea of showing and not telling the reader. Well done, Sophie.



Caught You Caring

This week Francesca was caught caring kindly supporting the younger children at lunchtimes. Well done Francesca!





Oscar King

Caught caring finding a child a pencil and when he realised it needed sharpening he did that too!
Well done Oscar!

Frankie Carne

Caught caring giving a child his own packet of sweets to a child who had lost theirs. Well done Wilf!

Amelia Richardson

Caught caring noticing a child was upset during lunchbreak, she checked on him and took him to an adult.
Well done Amelia!

Reece Murphy

Caught caring supporting other children to get changed for PE once he was done. Well done Reece!

Olive Bond

Caught caring very kindly helping Mr Austin work the Class Dojo app on the iPad.
Well done Olive!

Harrison Denton-Silk

Caught caring when he checked on another child who had been very upset and stayed with him to play.
Well done Harrison!



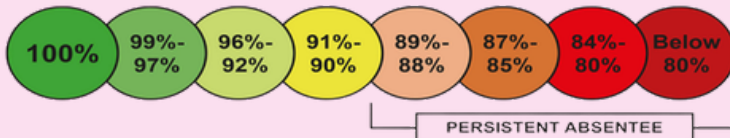


Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	93%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	84%
Year 6	75%

TARGETS

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **89%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **48**



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 good session this week and took part in several different activities. We asked the children to make a bark rubbing each, and to then look at the patterns and see what shapes or images they could see (a bit like how a cloud can often look like an animal etc.) The children did a fabulous job with their rubbings and we had some wonderful colourful art that they then glued into their forest school journals. The children then got into pairs and I gave each pair a little coloured fairy door. The children then had to find a nice spot to put their fairy door and decorate around it with leaves, sticks etc. We finished the session with a couple of games of Cuckoo on the field before heading back inside for lunch. Watching the children use their imaginations was so lovely to see, well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class and Oak class joined for their forest school session this week. Many of the girls were offsite at a netball tournament and there were a few children on secondary school visits and on holiday. It was extremely hot outside so we had a very chilled session and the children spent time playing in the mud kitchen, digging and using their imaginations. A few of the children set up little make shift stalls where they were offering items for sale and a group of children also helped Mrs Valentine water the allotment. A really lovely session Chestnut and Oak class, well done!

Freddie the Forest School Bear enjoyed his weekend with Lexie and is now excited to be going home with Albie from Oak class. Albie is always a pleasure to have at forest school. He has a wonderful imagination and plays superbly with all of his classmates. This week Albie was one of the first to volunteer when Mrs Valentine asked for help to water the allotment and he never complains about any of the maintenance jobs that need doing. Albie is a kind and considerate member of Oak class and he should be very proud of himself. Well done Albie, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



Collective Worship

THIS WEEK



Mr Gatenby opened this week's collective worship with a prayer for Mrs Walker before introducing the children to the our My Happy Mind programme.

My Happy Mind is embedded into everyday school life through regular lessons, class discussions and practical activities. Children are taught simple, age-appropriate strategies to help them understand their emotions, build resilience and develop positive relationships. The programme encourages pupils to reflect on their strengths, practise gratitude, manage challenges and develop a growth mindset. By using a consistent language of wellbeing across the school, My Happy Mind helps create a positive and supportive environment where children can flourish both academically and emotionally.

The programme is divided into five key modules:

Meet Your Brain

Children learn about the different parts of the brain and how these influence their thoughts, feelings and behaviours. They discover how to recognise and manage their emotions, helping them make positive choices.

Celebrate

This module encourages children to recognise their unique strengths and talents. By focusing on what they do well, children develop greater self-esteem, confidence and a positive sense of identity.

Appreciate

Children learn the importance of gratitude and mindfulness. Through simple daily practices, they are encouraged to notice and appreciate the positive things in their lives, helping to improve their overall happiness and wellbeing.

Relate

This unit focuses on building healthy relationships. Children learn about kindness, empathy, communication and how to develop positive connections with others both in and out of school.

Engage

Children explore the importance of setting goals, persevering through challenges and developing a growth mindset. They learn that mistakes are opportunities to learn and that effort and determination help them achieve success.

Through regular lessons and activities, My Happy Mind supports children in developing lifelong skills that will help them thrive academically, socially and emotionally. We look forward to continuing this important work throughout the year and sharing the children's learning with you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

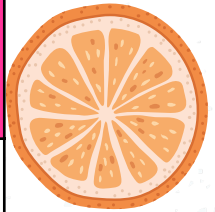
Date	Activity	Who
05.06.26	Swimming lessons - 6 weeks	Year 5 & 6
23.06.26	Food and Farming Trip	Chestnut Class
26.06.26	Inset Day	Whole School
06.07.26	Sports Day	Whole School
07.07.26	Dance for Rights Workshop	Whole School
08.07.26	Bikability at St Mary's	Year 6
13.07.26	Reserve Sports Day	Whole School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



Grants

This week we received notification that a grant application we made was successful and we are going to receive £5000.00 which we will be investing in some wonderful new resources in the September!

We will keep you updated on what we manage to get. Huge thanks to Rhian and Olivia for making this happen!

Coins in a Jar

The results are in and we can confirm for a second year running Acorn Class have taken the crown as winners.

Acorn raised an impressive £103.32 which was matched with £100.00 from FOSMS giving them an impressive £203.32 to spend on fun resources.

Shestnut Class raised £56.32 and Oak Class raised £49.70.

The bottles will be back in class soon for another year - can anyone knock Acorn Class off the top spot!

Thanks you all so much for supporting your children with this little challenge it has been lots of fun with some friendly competition between classes!

RAFFLE

We are looking for raffle prize donations for our upcoming summer raffle. You know we love a full to bursting raffle table and we would really appreciate any donations from our wonderful community. Please drop any donations into the office. We will be back selling tickets before you know it!



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 3rd September 2026. Interviews to be confirmed.

Fairhouse Primary School

Midday Assistant. Applications close 6th July 2026. Interviews 13th July 2026.

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

Midday Assistant. Applications close 1st July 2026. Interviews 17th July 2026.

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





Dance for Rights

Every Child Every Move

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

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

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

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



UNCRC-aligned inclusive choreography, for every child

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

