

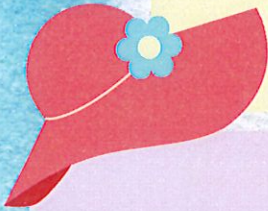
Newsletter – Friday 3rd July 2026

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.

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 8th July, Morning session.
CHESTNUT - Thursday 9th July, Morning session.
OAK - Thursday 9th July, Afternoon session.



Thank you for helping us to ensure the wellbeing of all our children. We look forward to another happy, active and enjoyable week of learning in the sunshine.

Mindful Moments



Dojo Messages

- Normal school routines apply
- Sports Day Postponed
- Scholastic Travelling Book Fair
- Free Family Events in Chelmsford
- Essex Families and Well being uniform request
- ECC Parent Comms
- Mrs Walker Update
- World Cup - England!
- Book Fair Opening times



A note from Mrs Kemp

It has been another busy and successful week at school, with lots to celebrate!

A huge congratulations to our six children from Oak Class who proudly represented our school at the Trust Swimming Gala this week. Eva, Ivy, Cass, Harry, Albie and Olive demonstrated fantastic determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition. They returned with a wonderful collection of medals, and we are incredibly proud to share that our team achieved an impressive 4th place overall across the relay and Year 5/6 events. What a fantastic achievement—well done to you all!

This week, we were also delighted to welcome some of our new EYFS children and their parents to a special Forest School 'Getting to Know Us' session. It was a lovely opportunity for families to explore our outdoor learning environment, meet staff and begin making new friendships. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves, and we look forward to welcoming the children back again soon.

We were pleased to welcome the Meadowcroft School in Bloom judges into school this week to see the incredible work undertaken by our children, alongside Ms Wilson and Mrs Valentine. The garden they have created is truly beautiful, bursting with colour and providing a wonderful addition to our school environment. The judges were very complimentary, and we were delighted to receive a lovely certificate recognising everyone's hard work. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and enthusiasm to making this project such a success.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome parents into school to watch our children who attend our weekly music lessons perform. The children played with confidence and enthusiasm, showcasing the skills they have developed throughout the year. They performed superbly and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved through their dedication and hard work.





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

This week in Acorns, we had a special live Teams meeting with some members of the NRLI lifeboats. They taught us some really important messages about being safe around the water this summer and in support of our All About Oceans topic. We were able to take a certificate home! In computing, we coded a quiz with two sprites and changing backgrounds. For example, we'd have a fish and a monkey in an ocean scene. If you tapped the monkey, it would say, "No, I don't live here," and nothing else would happen. If you touched the fish, it would say, "Yes, I live here," and then we would go to the next scene.

We have practiced for Sports Day during PE and have in history have focused on the evolution of lighthouses over time. The children then enjoyed designing their own lighthouse of the future! We had lighthouses that could move, or float above the sea, or were solar powered. Such great ideas!

In PSHE we recapped the nine lessons that we have spent on Safety and the Changing Body. We made collages that represented the many things we have learned from calling 999 in an emergency to understanding that pants are private and road safety.

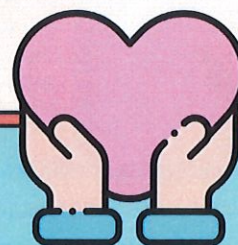
Love Your Learning

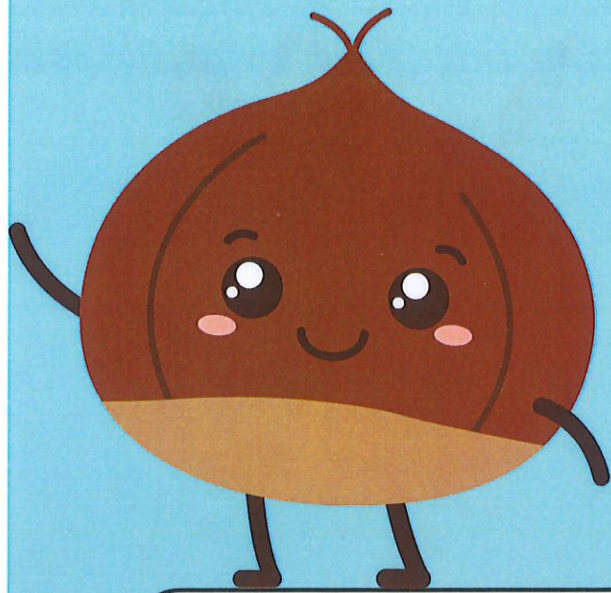
This week, Cruz has loved his learning. Cruz has been very confident in maths for some time, and this week he has been completing Year 1 maths with us! He has understood so much, and continues to be a superb mathematician. Well done Cruz!



Caught You Caring

This week Reece was caught caring. Reece was very supportive when a child in class was accidentally hurt this week, nurturing and supporting him to feel much better.





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

This week has been yet another busy one. In our Vipers Reading sessions we looked at the mythological story of Perseus. We have continued to read our Magic Faraway Tree after lunch and the children have made me really proud with their effort and confidence in reading aloud. In English we have been looking at recipes. We have looked at a variety of recipes, how they are a type of instructions and how they need to be specific. Everyone enjoyed watching Big Cook Little Cook and writing their own instructions. In maths we finished our work on shape and have started work on positions and directions.

In RE this week we looked at Christian Art in relation to the Holy Trinity and how it is represented. Once we had had a fantastic discussion, the children were then able to interpret it in their own style. In science we looked at food chains and producers and consumers. In history we researched Alfred the Great on the laptops. We also showed off our amazing skills on Scratch.

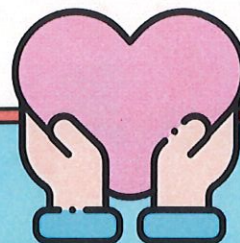
Love Your Learning

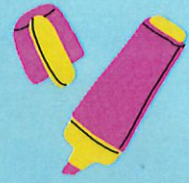
Loved your learning this week goes to John-Boy. John-Boy has worked brilliantly this week. He has put 100% effort into all of his work. His writing has greatly improved. He participates in all lessons and shares some amazing ideas!



Caught You Caring

This week River was caught caring. River was caught supporting another child when eating their lunch and then clearing their plate away after. Well done River!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class, we have focused on explaining information from texts in our reading lessons and have written our character and setting description of The Highwayman in our English lessons. In maths, we have revisited fractions and adding fractions with denominators that are multiples of each other. In PSHE, we have continued our My Happy Mind program and have learnt about our character strengths and virtues- identifying which of these are our strongest and how and when we use them. In RE we have compared and contrasted the prayer rituals of Muslims and Christians and we also had great success at the trust swimming gala where the children represented our school wonderfully.

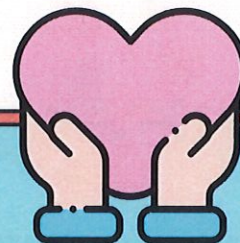
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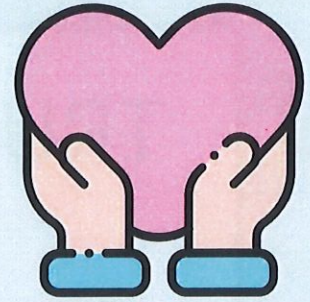
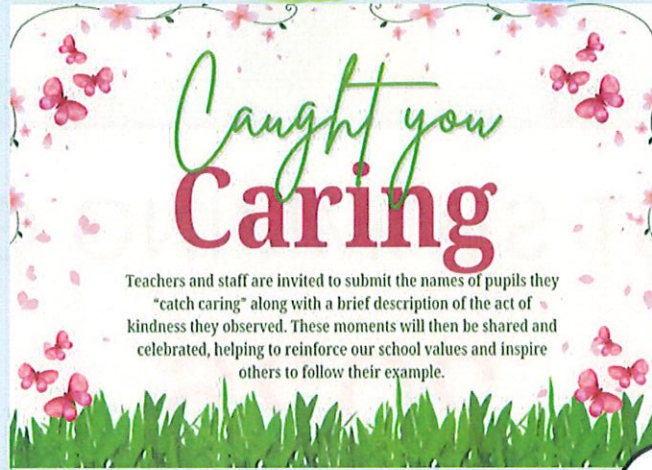
Oak's love your learning achiever this week is Olive. Olive has really excelled this week across the curriculum, her comparison of the prayer rituals of Muslims and Christians was exceptional and really showed her understanding. She identified where they were similar and where they differed accurately and what she produced was beautifully presented. Well done, Olive.



Caught You Caring

This week Olive was caught caring. Olive offered to help Mrs Matthews clear away the lunch tables and sweep. Thank you and well done Olive!





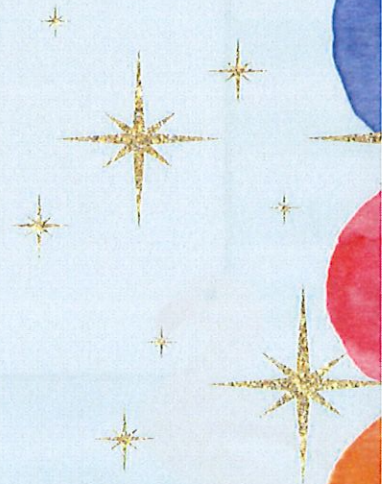
Cruz Mitchell
 Caught caring helping a
 classmate get ready for Forest School.
 Well done Cruz!

John-Boy Smith
 Caught caring helping a new child
 save their work into a folder on
 their laptop - Well done John-Boy!

Poppy Hagger
 Caught caring helping a younger
 child that felt a little lost and walked them
 back to class - Well done Poppy!

Harrison Denton-Silk
 Caught caring when he spontaneously
 stepped in to perform with George after
 the original music performance.
 Thank you and well done Harrison!

River Williams
 Caught caring helping a younger
 child that felt a little lost and walked
 them back to class - Well done River!



TRUST SWIMMING GALA

2026

A huge congratulations to Eva, Cass, Ivy, Albie, Olive and Harry for representing our school so brilliantly at this week's Trust Swimming Gala.

Our swimmers demonstrated fantastic determination, skill and teamwork throughout the competition, and we are incredibly proud of all they achieved.

A special congratulations goes to:

- Eva, who won a bronze medal in the butterfly event.
- Cass, who won a silver medal in backstroke and a bronze medal in butterfly.
- Ivy, who won a gold medal in the front crawl.

As a team, our talented swimmers finished 4th in the Year 5/6 relay and 4th overall in the Year 5 and 6 competition—a fantastic achievement against strong competition.

Well done to everyone who took part. You represented our school with enthusiasm, resilience and excellent sportsmanship. We are extremely proud of you all!





Attendance



TARGETS

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **90.5%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **43**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which **CIRCLE** are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	78%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	86%
Year 3	92%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	89%



LATENESS



Collective Worship will be held at 9.05am each morning and attended by all staff, including the office staff. It is important that your child arrives on time for school. If they arrive after 9.05am then you will need to wait with your child until Collective Worship has finished at 9.20am as there will not be any staff to let them in. Collective Worship is a legal entitlement in a Church of England school and a time of reflection and respect.

STUDYBUGS

If your child is absent from school please:

- Contact the school via Studybugs on the first day of absence before 9.00am . (This is our preferred method of communication for sickness absence)
- Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.00am;
- Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible.



If you haven't already, please download the free studybugs app, or register on the studybugs website and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

The tool helps us to know sooner if your child is unaccounted for. It is quick and easy to register and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. Please use the following link to register:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office



FOREST SCHOOL

THIS WEEK

Acorn class had a lovely forest school session this week and were excited to be back in our forest school site. We started our session sitting around the log circle and talked about the rules and safety aspects of having a campfire. The children are all getting quite knowledgeable about campfires and could quite easily tell us what they needed to do to be safe. The children then had some mindfulness time in their nature spots and some free play while I built and lit the fire. The children all had the opportunity to toast their own giant marshmallow and sandwich it between two biscuits to make s'mores. The children thoroughly enjoyed their s'mores and enjoyed exploring our natural environment. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class were also very excited to be going back to our normal forest school sessions and they were happy to be back in our little area of woodland. We started our session sitting around the log circle and reminded ourselves about the rules and safety of having a campfire. They learned how to stay safe around an open fire, listened carefully to instructions and demonstrated responsibility when toasting their own marshmallows. Once toasted the children sandwiched them together between two biscuits to make s'mores. The children also had some free play time which allowed the children to enjoy the outdoor environment and create lasting memories with their friends. Well done Chestnut class!

During this week's Forest School session, Oak class enjoyed a campfire where they practised safe fire procedures and toasted marshmallows and made s'mores. They also had plenty of free play time, choosing activities such as den building, climbing, exploring the woodland, and creating with natural materials. The session encouraged independence, teamwork, creativity, and resilience, while providing opportunities to build confidence and strengthen friendships in a relaxed outdoor environment. Well done Oak class!

This week Freddie the Forest School Bear is looking forward to going home with Norah from Chestnut class. Norah has fully embraced forest school since starting at St Mary's and has fast become a very creative and imaginative part of our forest school sessions. This week Norah made a little shop using planks of wood, a table top and other natural resources. She gathered pretty painted stones, logs, etc. to sell and encouraged her friends to play along with her. Norah is also a very cheerful young girl, kind and patient with her peers and she always helps to pack away equipment each week without having to be reminded. Well done Norah, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



Collective Worship

THIS WEEK

This week's collective worship was led by Mrs Carlier, who encouraged the children to think about the importance of having a "tech time out."

Mrs Carlier shared that the upcoming Toy Story 5 film from Pixar explores how children's play is changing, with tablets, video games, and other digital devices becoming increasingly popular. In the story, the toys begin to worry that screens are replacing traditional toys, prompting thoughtful conversations about the balance between technology and imaginative play.

The children enjoyed discussing how digital technology is part of their everyday lives and reflected on the benefits it can bring, as well as the importance of taking regular breaks from screens. Together, they considered the following questions:

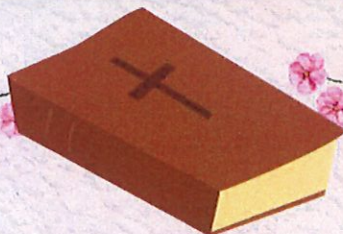
- What kinds of digital technology do you use at home and at school? What do you use it for?
- How can digital technology help you to relax, have fun, or learn something new?
- What do you think life would be like without any digital technology? Why?
- Can you think of a time when digital technology helped you? How?

As a school, we reflected on how the Bible teaches us to look after our hearts and minds so that we can live life to the full. Digital technology is a wonderful tool that can help us learn, create, communicate and have fun, but it is important to use it wisely and in balance. When we choose to put our devices down, we make space for the things that help us to flourish—playing outdoors, being creative, reading, spending time with family and friends, and enjoying God's world around us.

Our worship ended with these words from Proverbs, reminding us to be thoughtful about what we allow to shape our hearts and minds:

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Proverbs 4:23

The worship prompted some excellent discussions and encouraged the children to think carefully about making healthy, balanced choices when using technology.



UPCOMING EVENTS

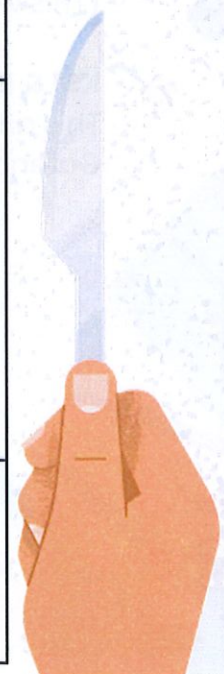
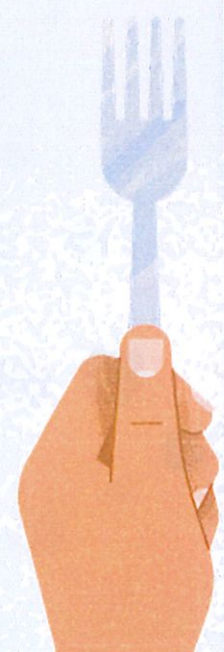
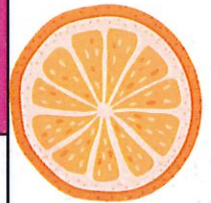
Date	Activity	Who
05.06.26	Swimming lessons - 6 weeks	Year 5 & 6
07.07.26	Dance for Rights Workshop	Whole School
08.07.26	Bikability at St Mary's	Year 6
13.07.26	Sports Day	Whole School
14.07.26	Bikeability at SWF Leisure Centre	Year 6
20.07.26	Leavers Service at St Mary's Church Woodham Ferrers 9am - 10am	Whole School
21.07.26 - 02.09.26	Summer Break	Whole School
03.09.26	Return to School!	Whole School

NEW TERMLY MENU

This is our new Autumn Term menu which begins on 3rd September and runs through to taking us right up to October half term. 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	Pitta bread pizza with cheese V or ham with potato wedges and side salad or Cheese / ham baguette	Roast chicken or Quorn fillet V with roast potatoes, veg and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Cheesy ham and broccoli pasta or Cheesy broccoli pasta V Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Sausage Chips and Beans, or Quorn Sausages Chips and Beans V 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	Fish Fingers, Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn or Veggie Fingers 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

Autumn Term After School
Clubs Sept - Dec 2026

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

Clubs will resume W/C Mon 7th September and will run up to W/C Monday 12th October.

Please note - No Clubs W/C Monday 19th October due to parent / teacher conferences.

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 Carlier

KS1 & KS2 Lego Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

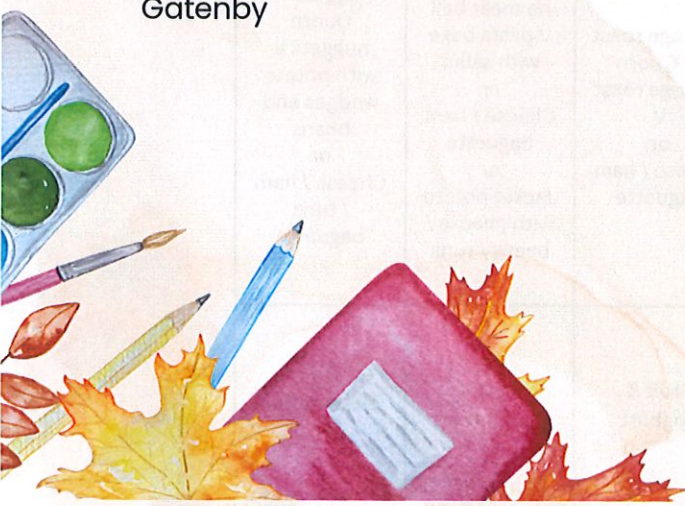
This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Richardson

Year 6 Tutoring Club – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for Year 6 and will be run by Mr Austin
(This will be managed in groups throughout the year)

KS1 & KS2 Coding Club – Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mr Gatenby





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!

Playground

We received notification that the developers from Bocking Homes are going to resurface our playground for us over the coming months. Rhian and I have been working hard behind the scenes to make this happen and after meetings, measurement, emails and a lot of sweet talking on our part we managed to charm them into helping us! We will keep you posted on the progress.

Sports Day

Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered to run a little stall for us and also to EllieMay and Georgia who have kindly agreed to bake up a storm so we will have plenty of delicious cake and cookies available for you to purchase. What a day we have planned BBQ and Cake!!

We will be taking cash and card payments on the day - looking forward to sharing the fun with you on Monday 13th July.

Gates open at 11:45am



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
ACADEMY TRUST

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.

Fairhouse Primary School

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

Felmore Primary School

Breakfast Club Assistant (Fixed term contract). Applications close: 3rd July 2026. Interviews 14th July 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.



