Newsletter – Friday 10th July 2026
St Mary's Primary School

Our Vision: We believe, we achieve, we suceed 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 week, 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.

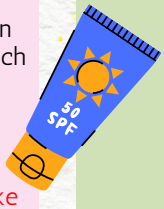
ACORN - Wednesday 15th July, Morning session.
CHESTNUT - Thursday 16th July, Morning session.
OAK - Wednesday 15th July, Afternoon session.



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

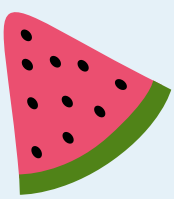






Dojo Messages

- School Phone Lines
- Book Fair Opening times
- School Holiday FSM advice.
- Changes to school lunches
- Summer Issue of KidAround magazine
- **No Clubs next week with the exception of Multi Skills**



A note from Mrs Kemp

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

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.

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who supported our Travelling Book Fair this week. We have been delighted by the fantastic response and it has been wonderful to see so many children excited about books and eager to share their love of reading. Your support makes a real difference to our school. We are currently calculating the total amount raised, which will be used to purchase new books for our school library. We look forward to sharing the final total with you soon. Thank you once again for helping us to inspire a lifelong love of reading in our children!

This week, some of our Year 6 pupils took part in their first Bikeability session. They developed their cycling skills both on the school playground and out on the local roads, learning how to ride safely and confidently in different environments.

We are delighted to share that every child successfully passed this first session and is now ready to progress to the second Bikeability session next week. A huge well done to all of the pupils for their excellent effort, positive attitude, and safe cycling throughout the day. We wish them the very best as they continue developing their skills next week!

Congratulations to some of our Year 5 pupils who attended a taster session at William de Ferrers School this week. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience life at secondary school, take part in a range of exciting activities, and begin building their confidence for the future.

We hope they all had a wonderful time and enjoyed this exciting experience. We are very proud of how they represented our school and look forward to hearing all about their visit!

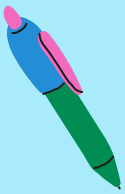
Please note there are no after school clubs next week with the exception of Multi Skills on Monday!



THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS









Acorn Class

This Week In Class

This week we have again had a lot of heat to contend with, so for many of our afternoons we have enjoyed lots of stories, lots of outdoor play (this time around it seems to be cooler in the shade than in the classroom) some water play and some ice poles. On Thursday, while Reception continued to work on independent sentences, Year 1 and 2 learned who our MP is and wrote to him asking if the government can get more air conditioning in more schools! The children were very interested and very persuasive - we want to be comfortable and able to concentrate they said.

Reception have continued to focus on making number bonds to 5 and 10 using a range of resources and activities. Year 1 and 2 have been learning more and more details of telling the time, including 'quarter to' and how many minutes to the next hour. In PE, we have been working towards Sports Day and we are looking forward to a sunny but cool event on Monday!

We have been examining the sweet pea seeds we planted recently, comparing the best-growing examples (one was 13cm tall and had seven leaves) to those that we kept in the staffroom fridge, in the cupboard without light and the one we didn't water. It has been almost one month since we planted them and it was fascinating to compare.

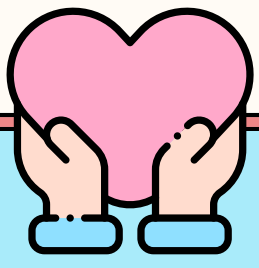
Love Your Learning

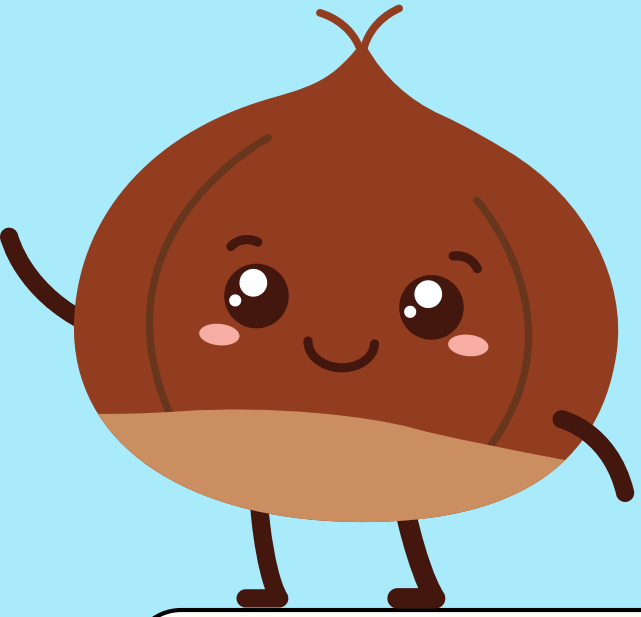
Bobbi-Rae has been working hard on her writing. This week, Year 1 and 2 had the opportunity to complete a Free Write based on a picture related to our topic on oceans. Bobbi-Rae used the picture, the given vocabulary and Mr Gatenby's example to create a fantastic description of a secret underwater city. She was imaginative and wrote very accurately.



Caught You Caring

This week Wilf was Caught Caring, In a lesson we had based on character strengths, Wilfred was mentioned not once, not twice but three different times by three different people as a kind and caring person. Thank you for living out our core value of Compassion every day Wilfred!











Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

In English we have continued with our recipe writing and made good progress with using the key features. For our Vipers reading session we decided to find out all about Marcus Rashford which worked well with England's win! In maths we have been looking at position and direction and then statistics. We have looked at pictograms and bar charts and learned to write our own bar charts too.

In science we really didn't enjoy looking at photographs of poo and use them to help us identify what the animals had eaten and if they were carnivores or herbivores. In RE we have looked at the fact that Christians believe in only one God. In computing we have finished learning about how to use Scratch which we really enjoyed. In PSHE we have been thinking about and writing about the progress we have made this year.

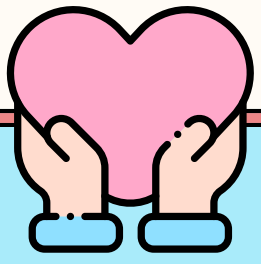
Love Your Learning

Loved your learning this week goes to Sophia. Sophia has been wonderful in maths this week. She has had an excellent attitude to her learning and made great progress with co-ordinates. I'm very proud of the effort she has put in. Well done Sophia!



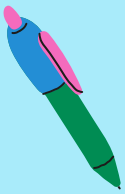
Caught You Caring

This week Amelia was caught caring. Amelia spent her lunchtime playing catch with a Reception child. Well done Amelia!











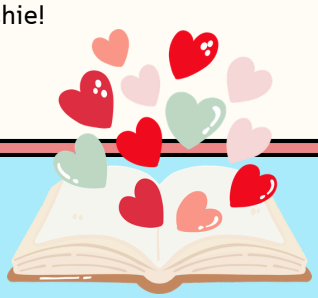
Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class, we have focused on inferring answers from texts in our reading lessons and have finished writing our opening paragraphs of The Highwayman in our English lessons. In maths, we have revisited fractions and adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. In PSHE, we have continued our My Happy Mind program and have learnt about our character strengths and virtues- identifying which of these we have used recently and how we felt when we did. In our geography we have looked at how the UK's trading relationships and methods have changed over time and in art, we have made natural collages taking advantage of the glorious weather.

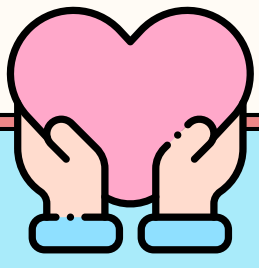
Love Your Learning

Oak's love your learning achiever this week is Archie. Archie has really excelled this week in maths, particularly when adding and subtracting fractions. He has shown excellent understanding and confidence, applying his knowledge accurately to solve a range of challenging problems. His perseverance and attention to detail have really stood out, and he has presented his work neatly and clearly throughout. Well done, Archie!



Caught You Caring

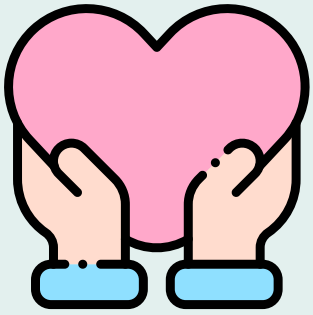
This week Tommy-George was caught caring. Tommy-George noticed that another child had left their journal outside after an outdoor art lesson and kindly brought it inside for them. Well done Tommy-George





Caught you Caring

Teachers and staff are invited to submit the names of pupils they "catch caring" along with a brief description of the act of kindness they observed. These moments will then be shared and celebrated, helping to reinforce our school values and inspire others to follow their example.



George Woods
Caught caring helping a friend who was upset and took him to the calm areaand stayed with him until he was ok
Well done George!

Lexie Mead
Caught caring when she cut her very long hair and donated it to Great Ormond Street to make wigs for children. She has also raised almost £500!
Well done Lexie!

Reece Murphy
Caught caring when he stepped up to talk to visitors when the ambassador got a little scared.
Well done Reece!

George Woods
Caught caring when he supported another child when visitors visited their class for a tour. Well done George!

Luna Hearn
This week Luna was caught caring Luna cleared all of the rubbish she found on her way into school and was doing a very good job of looking after her environment.
Well done Luna!

Stanley Higham
Caught caring helping a child to clear up water when a child spilled their bottle.
Well done Stanley!

Sophie Young
Caught caring helping a friend that found a lesson challenging.
Well done Sophie!

Tommy-George Smith
Caught caring very kindly bringing in another child's journal from our outdoor art lesson.
Well done Tommy-George!





Attendance



TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is: 92%

National Attendance Target is: 93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week is: 86.94%

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: 41

THIS WEEK

Reception	81%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	84%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	89%
Year 6	73%

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/parentsIf 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 the children enjoyed a variety of hands-on, child-led activities that encouraged creativity and exploration. Free play allowed them to investigate the natural environment at their own pace, developing confidence, imagination, and social skills. They took part in a pretend archaeologist dig, carefully excavating hidden treasures and discussing their discoveries. The children also used chalk to create colourful drawings and patterns on tree trunks, expressing their creativity while engaging with the woodland environment. A great session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class enjoyed their session this week where the children enjoyed a mixture of free play and practical outdoor learning. During child-led play, they explored the mud kitchen, created colourful chalk patterns, and went bug hunting, showing curiosity and respect for the woodland wildlife. The children also enjoyed a creative outdoor art activity by transforming wooden log seats into colourful toadstools using paint. They explored different colours and patterns, carefully adding spots and details while developing their fine motor skills and creativity. The children also used chalk to decorate tree trunks with imaginative drawings, creating temporary woodland artwork inspired by nature. This activity encouraged self-expression, teamwork, and an appreciation of the natural environment while allowing the children to confidently share their ideas and enjoy learning outdoors. A great creative session Chestnut class, well done!

During Oak's Forest School session this week, the children enjoyed a balance of free play and creative, hands-on learning in the woodland environment. They explored independently, using their imagination and developing confidence through child-led play. The children also worked collaboratively to transform wooden logs into colourful woodland characters, painting them as toadstools, a bumblebee, a ladybird, and a caterpillar. They showed great creativity, carefully choosing colours and adding detailed features while developing their fine motor skills. The children also took part in clearing an overgrown area of the woodland, working together to create a peaceful quiet zone where they can relax and enjoy reading books about nature. This hands-on experience encouraged teamwork, resilience, responsibility for their environment, and fostered a deeper appreciation of the natural world.

Freddie Forest School Bear enjoyed his weekend with Norah and is now excited to be going home with Amelia Richardson from Chestnut class. Amelia has a fantastic attitude and shows great enthusiasm during every Forest School session. Amelia always tries her best, approaches every activity with determination, and never gives up when faced with a challenge. She is consistently kind and caring towards her friends, is always willing to help adults and others when needed by tidying up equipment even when she has not herself been using it. Amelia sets a wonderful example through her positive behaviour. Amelia also has a fantastic imagination, bringing creativity and excitement to her forest school projects. Well done, Amelia – you should be very proud of yourself!!

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead

Collective Worship

THIS WEEK

This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev. Jacqui, who led our Collective Worship on the theme of being part of a team.

Rev. Jacqui began by asking the children what qualities make a good team captain. They suggested that a captain might be the fastest, strongest or loudest player. Together, they explored how, in football, a captain's role is much more than being the best player. A good captain encourages, supports and helps everyone in the team to play their very best.

Rev. Jacqui then shared the story from Mark 1:16–20, where Jesus calls His first disciples to follow Him. She reminded the children that Jesus chose a wide variety of ordinary people to be on His team, including Peter (Simon) and Andrew, James and John, Matthew the tax collector, Thomas the doubter, Judas, Philip, Bartholomew, James and Thaddaeus. They came from different backgrounds and had different personalities, yet each had an important place in Jesus' team.

Together, the children reflected on the message that Jesus didn't choose only the 'best' people—He helps people to become their best. Just as every disciple had a role to play, everyone has a place in God's family.

Rev. Jacqui asked the children to imagine that Jesus was choosing His team today. If He chose them, what kind of teammate would they be? The children shared thoughtful ideas about being kind, helpful, encouraging and including others.
The worship concluded with the words from Mark 1:17:

"'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.'"
Rev. Jacqui finished with a prayer, asking God to help and encourage us all to be supportive, caring and faithful teammates in our school community and beyond.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
05.06.26	Swimming lessons - 6 weeks	Year 5 & 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 baguett
	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 are still hot on the heels of grants and freebies for our children even as the term is coming to an end. We have been sucessful in secuting some outdoor storage this week and we are hopeful that the local rotary club can help us to purchase some more outdoor play equipment - watch this space!

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 delicuious 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

Thanks so much to everyone for their kind and generous donations to the Summer Raffle. We will be selling tickets on the day, dont forget to grab yours. You've got to be in it to win 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.

Berlesduna Academy Trust
Trust Attendance Lead. Applications Close 12th July 2026. Interviews 20th July 2026.