Newsletter – Friday 11th September 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 - Compassion

Welcome

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

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back for another week at school. As we move further into the autumn term, we are looking forward to another busy and enjoyable week of learning, exploring and making memories together.

As the weather becomes cooler and wetter, I would like to remind families to send children into school with plenty of warm layers for Forest School. Please also ensure they have wellies and waterproof clothing so they are prepared for outdoor learning.

At Forest School, we believe there is no such thing as bad weather – just the wrong clothing! We do go outside in all weathers, and having several warm, comfortable layers can make a big difference to children's enjoyment and ability to take part fully.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us make sure our children are happy, comfortable and ready to learn.

Mrs Walker

Mindful Moments





Dojo Messages

- Childhood Illness reminder
- Music Club
- Allergy Safety Policy
- After School Club Snacks and Food
- School Lunch Booking Reminder
- Mrs Smith Veggie Garden



A Note from Mrs Walker

What a wonderfully productive and successful week we have had in school! It has been fantastic to see how much our children have progressed with their learning and how confidently they are embracing all the opportunities and experiences taking place across school.

We are particularly delighted with how wonderfully our new EYFS children have settled into school. They have made such a positive start, becoming familiar with their new routines, making friends and growing in confidence each day. We are incredibly proud of them!

It has also been heartwarming to see how kind, caring and supportive our other children have been towards our new little learners. They have shown such patience, kindness and thoughtfulness, helping our youngest children to feel welcomed, safe and part of our school family. It has been a wonderful example of our school community at its very best.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all of our families for your continued support and cooperation with the introduction of our new Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy, following the introduction of Benedict's Law. We are very grateful for everyone's understanding and for working alongside us to help ensure that our school remains as safe and inclusive as possible for all of our children.

It has truly been a lovely week, filled with learning, kindness, growing confidence and lots of proud moments. We are so pleased with the progress the children are making and look forward to another exciting week ahead!









Acorn Class

This Week In Class

This week in Acorn, EYFS have settled in beautifully and have made us all extremely proud. They have already started their Read Write Inc phonics sessions and learned some songs, for example My Lighthouse which was first introduced to them in collective worship and the days of the week song. They have played some team games such as Duck Duck Goose and Simon Says. They have had lots of continuous provision and have played really nicely on their own and in new friendship groups. They are learning to listen really well, have been to every collective worship that we've had so far and have now had their first forest school session!

Year 1 and 2 have been focusing on the numbers between 10 and 20, really looking at what makes these numbers, especially their tens and ones. They have started writing four-part stories and have also begun Read Write Inc phonics at a more advanced level. In science we have begun to learn about animal and human bodies. We had fun comparing dogs to children - most of the body parts are the same but some are different. We have been playing games to remember names such as ankles, elbows, thighs and eyelashes.

In computing, we learned about technology and how this is anything made by humans to help us - even glue sticks and pencil sharpeners. It does not have to be complicated or electronic!

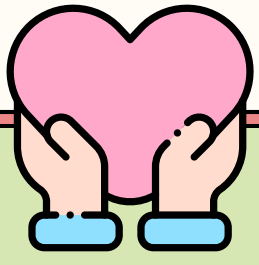
Love Your Learning

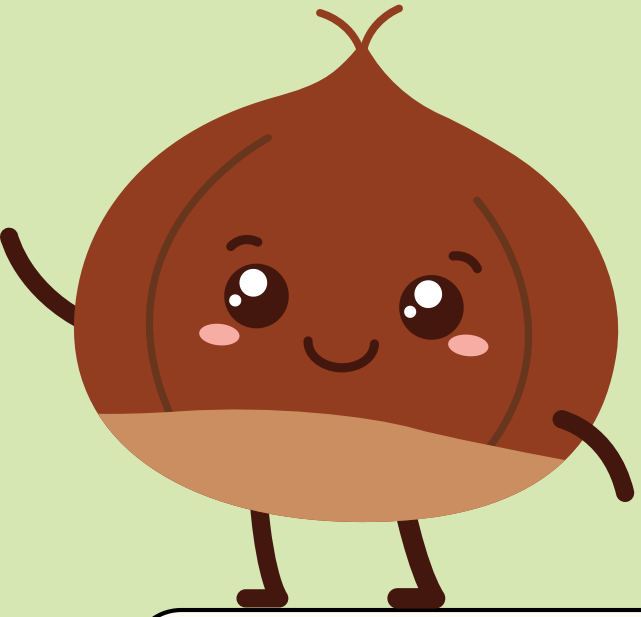
Loved your learning this week goes to Jesse. Jesse has been working so hard on his handwriting. You can clearly see what he is writing and it is neat and easy to read. He has worked very hard indeed! Well done Jesse.



Caught You Caring

This week George Claydon was Caught Caring. George was so calm and friendly and patient this first week back to school Well done George!











Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

We have had an excellent start to this school year. We have really settled and getting into the routines. We have already started handwriting lessons and I have been very pleased with year four still writing beautifully after six weeks off and the fantastic progress that year three are already making. In maths we have been looking at place value and numbers to 1000, particularly partitioning numbers. We really enjoyed making observations of the rocks. We also used torches to see if any had shiny particles. In RE we looked at what it means to belong. I'm delighted with the effort put into everyone's work and the presentation of our books so far.

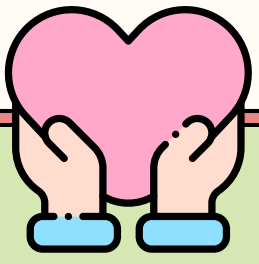
Love Your Learning

Loved your learning this week goes to Axel. I was very impressed with the way that he voiced his opinions about the poetry and emotions that we looked at in English. He was able to identify the emotions and tell me how they made him feel and why. What a great start to year four Axel!



Caught You Caring

This week Eve was caught caring. Eve produced her own amazing work whilst being a computing guru and helping lots of children. Well done Eve!











Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class, we have focused on summarising information in texts in our reading lessons and learnt about the correct use of did and done and was and were in our writing lessons. In maths, we have been learning about place value, reading and writing numbers up to 10,000,000 as well as looking at how to read and write numbers using Roman Numerals. In science we have learnt to use the correct symbols when drawing electrical circuits and in Spanish we have learnt how to say the days of the week. Our history has focussed on the experiences of the rich and poor in the Victorian era and in PSHE we have started our new unit, 'Why are healthy relationships important?' Our RE this half term is around the question, 'Is believing in God reasonable?' and our first lesson was looking at how people can interpret the same information in different, but equally correct, ways.

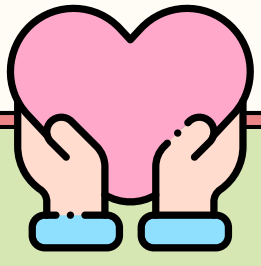
Love Your Learning

Oak's love your learning achiever this week is John-Boy. John-Boy has settled in straight away and has been an active participant in all lessons. He always contributes to class discussions and has shown that he is able to recall and apply prior learning effectively. John-Boy has also been a keen contributor to our class text, 'Eighty Days around the World,' and hasn't been phased by some of the more archaic language. Well done, John-Boy.



Caught You Caring

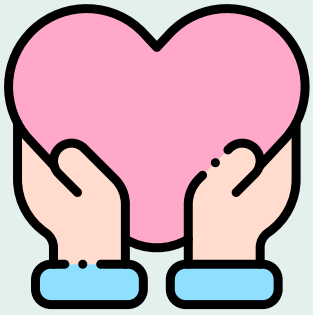
This week Oliver was caught caring. Oliver was being thoughtful about our school environment in Forest School and made lots of plans to help. Well done Oliver!





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.



Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 were caughtht caring bring amazing to the new Reception children. Well done everyone!

Sophia Williams

Sophia was caught caring multi-tasking as she not only did her own wonderful work but helped a child with their laptop too.

Well done Sophia!

Aimee Stacey

Aimee was caught caring supporting a friend around the active mile when their friend had a bad knee.

Well done Aimee!

Joe Naulder

Joe was caught caring helping the year three and new children to log on to their laptops without being asked to.

Well done Joe!

Finlay Campbell

Finlay was caught caring helping to put away the play equipment.

Well done Finlay!





Attendance



TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is: 92%

National Attendance Target is: 93.5%

Whole School Attendance this week is: 82.5%

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: 40

THIS WEEK

Reception	43%
Year 1	90%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	86%
Year 4	88%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	94%

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's first Forest School session of the term was a fantastic start, with the children enjoying lots of free play, exploring the woodland, getting creative in the mud kitchen, looking after their woodland teddies and building dens. It was wonderful to see the children working together, sharing ideas and using the natural environment to inspire their play. I was particularly impressed by the Early Years children; they took to forest school like ducks to water and it was lovely to see them being confident in exploring the area and making the most of their time outdoors. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class had a wonderful first Forest School session, enjoying a range of activities including imaginative play in the mud kitchen, spending some peaceful time in the quiet area reading books, painting and making a start on their Forest School journals. They also enjoyed climbing the trees and exploring the woodland. A small group of boys particularly impressed me with their creativity and imagination as they worked together to create a "racing car simulator" using logs, tyres and other natural resources. It was fantastic to see them using the resources around them to bring their ideas to life, working cooperatively and developing their own imaginative play. A fantastic session Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class also had a lovely creative Forest School session, making beautiful nature frames using foraged sticks tied together at the corners, before weaving wool across and up and down the frames. They then explored the woodland to find natural treasures such as leaves, flowers and feathers to decorate their creations. The children also worked together to make colourful bunting to brighten up our Forest School area and keep it looking cheerful throughout the winter months. Alongside these activities, there was plenty of free play, with children enjoying paints, chalks, the mud kitchen and climbing trees, as well as making a start on their Forest School journals. It was wonderful to see their creativity, imagination and enthusiasm as they made use of both natural and creative resources. A great start to the term Oak class, well done!

This week Freddie the Forest School Bear is looking forward to going home with Oliver from Oak class. Oliver showed real creativity and enthusiasm in his approach to this session. He decorated his Forest School journal with some amazing drawings, created a fantastic nature frame and showed real care and thoughtfulness when we talked about how we should treat nature, insects and the woodland environment. He approached the activities with such enthusiasm and imagination, and it was lovely to see him making thoughtful choices and showing respect for the natural world. Well done Oliver, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
08.10.26	Trust Poetry Slam Celebration	Selected pupils
19-23.10.26	No after school clubs this week	Multiskills to run as usual
19.10.26	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm–6.00pm	No clubs
20.10.26	Open Day–09:30–11:00	Non SEND Prospective Parent Tour
20.10.26	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm–5.00pm	No clubs
21.10.26	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm–5.00pm	No clubs
23.10.26	Harvest Festival Yr 6 pupils to present care home with food hamper	All welcome 2pm -3pm
26-30.10.26	Half Term	Whole Shool
02.11.26	Trust Inset Day	Whole Shool
09.11.26	School Photos	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 12pm Friday 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 run up to W/C Monday 12th October.

Please note - No Clubs W/C Monday 19th October due to parent / teacher conferences with the exception of Multi Skills Club!

KS1 & KS2 Multi Skills Club – Monday 3.15pm – 4.00pm
This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mr Thomas. Please book direct with Mr Thomas as per the flyer.

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. Currently full, with a waiting list.

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. Currently full, with a waiting list.

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 – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm
This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mr Gatenby. We have spaces available on this club.

Friends of St Mary's School - FOSMS

Welcome to the Autumn Term!

Let's embrace the sunshine and fresh beginnings
the world feels lighter when Summer arrives!

Welcome Friends!

A very warm welcome to everyone as we start a brand-new term!

For those who may not know us, we are FOSMS (Friends of St Mary's School) a group of parents, carers and members of our school community who volunteer our time to help support the school and, most importantly, the children.

Throughout the year, we organise events, raffles, stalls and fundraising activities, with all money raised going directly towards providing those extra special things and experiences for our children.
We would love your help and support this year! Whether you can volunteer your time, donate items, help at an event, or simply come along and support one of our fundraisers, every little bit makes a difference.

And yes... we're already starting to think about Christmas! 🎄

It may seem a little early, but the festive season will be here before we know it! If you have any new, unwanted or unused gifts and items at home that you no longer need, please consider donating them to the PTS. We can make great use of them as raffle prizes, hamper items or gifts for our Christmas fundraising activities.

Perhaps you have received something that isn't quite right for you, have a gift tucked away that you know you'll never use, or simply have a few lovely items that could find a new home. Your unwanted gifts could help us raise valuable funds for the school!

Every donation, no matter how small, is hugely appreciated and helps us to continue making a difference. Thank you for supporting FOSMS and for helping us make this a fantastic year for our school community. We look forward to seeing lots of you at our events throughout the year!

Coins in a Jar

Next week is the week we bring back Coins in a Jar! Will Acorn Class be the victors for a third year running??

Any spare change you have please do give it to your child to bring in and pop in their class bottle. As always the winning class have their funds matched up to £100!

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.

Felmore Primary School
Midday Assistant. Applications close 16th September 2026.
Interviews 25th September 2026.

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery
Midday Assistant. Applications close 28th September 2026.
Interviews 5th October 2026.

Class Teacher (part-time). Applications close 5th October 2026.
Interviews week commencing 11th October 2026.