



Newsletter - Friday 6th February 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 - Thankfulness



Welcome

Welcome to this week's edition of our School Newsletter!

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement -it truly makes a difference. If you have any questions or need any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

We were delighted to welcome Keith Pullen the School Improvement Partner and Courtney Freese our Director of Education to St Mary's this week. We are incredibly proud of our pupils, who spoke to our visitors with confidence, maturity and enthusiasm. They asked thoughtful questions, shared their ideas clearly, and represented the school brilliantly. Also a huge thanks also to those parents that attended to speak with our visitors.

Warmest wishes, Mrs. Walker



Dojo Messages

- NSPCC Number Day
- SWF Village Hall Family Night
- No after school clubs next week
- Lunch booking reminder for first week back after half term



Mindful Moments



A note from Mrs Walker

This week, we welcomed a new pupil into Chestnut Class. She has received a big St Mary's welcome and has settled in beautifully.

Over the past week, we have carried out several tours of the school. Our Class Ambassadors have done a wonderful job speaking with parents and children, sharing their experiences and what it's like to be part of St Mary's.

We also welcomed a small number of parents into school for a briefing on the upcoming Year 1 phonics screening.

A huge well done to Chestnut Class, who represented our school value of Courage this week by putting on a wonderful class assembly for parents and carers. Well done!

Please be reminded to book your Parent/Child consultations with your child's class teacher as these take place next week.

Please note there will be no after school clubs running w/c 9th February due to Parent/Child consultations.



Acorn Class

This Week In Class

Acorns have enjoyed watching video clips of rockets taking off and the first moon landing, this has really helped with our writing this week. We have even had a story told to us by an astronaut in space!

In maths reception are looking at early measuring and length whilst Year 1 and 2 are doing multiplication. Year 2 have started TT Rockstars and are really excited about this. In Science we are still looking at habitats, and this week we looked at 4 different kinds, woodland, ocean, costal and rainforest. In PSHE we looked at our school environment and how we can make a difference. We made posters about keeping our school tidy.

Achiever

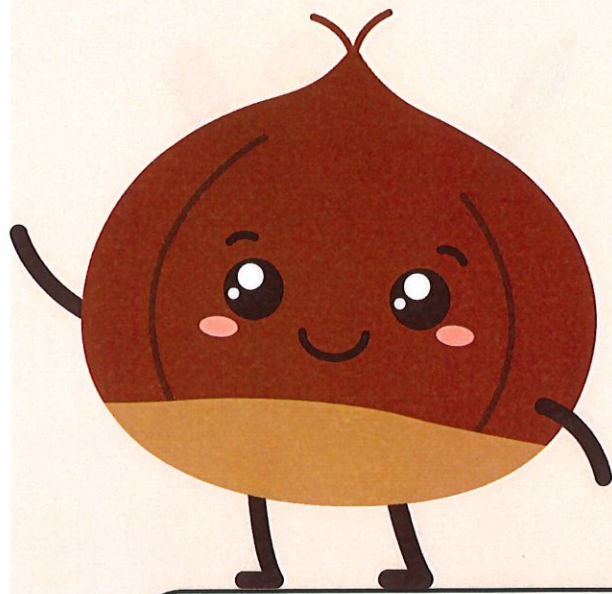
Bobbi-Rae has completed a lovely space story this week. We were impressed with how she got on independently and wrote a beautiful story that flows. It was very enjoyable to read. Well done Bobbi we are looking forward to lots more of your writing.



Value Achiever

Jesse has shown courage this week as he becomes more independent. He is now more willing to give things a go before asking for help. We were impressed with how he changed clothes after forest schools on Tuesday. Well done Jesse





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

This week has been another busy one. In maths we have completed some assessments. In English we have started to look at the key features of newspaper reports and will be writing one about Macbeth. In PSHE we looked at looking after our environment and the importance of recycling. We are still on our pathway in art and making good progress and we are really enjoying our learning.

Achiever

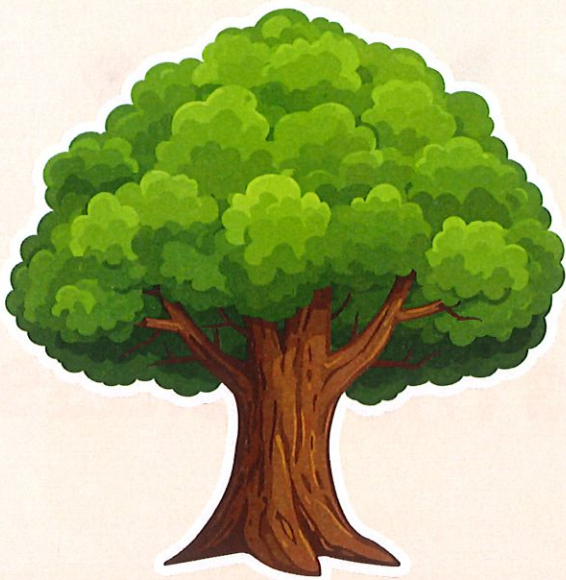
This week's hard worker is Harmony. She has put a huge amount of effort into all of her subjects. I am really impressed with her- well done!



Value Achiever

The whole class for their amazing work on the class assembly. They followed many of our school values and really supported and helped each other. They all showed courage too and worked to the best of their abilities. I was very proud of them.





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak Class we have focussed on finding information in texts in our reading lessons and completed and improved of our finding stories in our writing sessions. In maths we have been calculating area of rectangles, triangles and parallelograms and in geography we have looked at deforestation of the amazon, the reasons for this and the effect this has. In RE, we have focussed on the Abrahamic Religions' views on the afterlife and found the similarities and differences between them. In art we have continued our architecture pathway and in Spanish, we have learnt how to calculate prices in a café.

Achiever

The achiever in Oak Class this week is Archie. Archie can always be relied upon to listen to instructions and put maximum effort into everything. His completed story was excellent and he has used his superb understanding of times tables to help him calculate area of triangles efficiently and effectively. Well done, Archie.



Value Achiever

Oak's value achiever is Aimee. Aimee has returned to school this week after illness and has shown real courage as she had missed a lot of this introductions to the work we were doing. We were all very impressed with how well she has settled back in. Well done, Aimee.



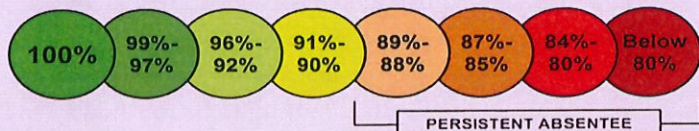


Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	76%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	88%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	91%

TARGETS

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

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **93.84%**

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



LATENESS



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

STUDYBUGS

If your child is absent from school please:

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



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

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

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

FOREST SCHOOL



This Week



Acorn class really have been quite unlucky with the weather for their Forest School sessions so far, so this week, as we had a dry morning, we decided to have a campfire! The children were all very excited about this and we sat in our log circle and discussed the safety rules surrounding fires. The children all knew how to behave when we have a fire and had remembered all the important rules without having to be reminded. Well done Acorn class! After we built and lit the fire, we toasted marshmallows and sandwiched them between two chocolate biscuits to make s'mores. Not wanting to leave Mrs Fallon out, one of the boys took a s'more up to the classroom for her. After the fire, the children made little stick dens for our Forest School Teddies and we finished the session with a quick game of cuckoo on the field. A really lovely session Acorn class, well done!

Chestnut class unfortunately had rain for their session so we decided against a campfire and weather permitting; we are planning to have one next week instead. The rain did not deter the children and they got stuck in to building shelters and dens. Some of the children used tarps, ropes and tent pegs but a few of the girls decided to use planks of wood. They leaned the first two planks against a tree to give it some initial support and then made a tent shape using the rest of the wood. It was a fabulous shelter and the girls were able to sit inside and get out of the rain, well done girls! The children also had great fun in the mud kitchen and set up two other little "cafes" in other areas of the forest school site. Another great session Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class had fantastic weather for their session this week so we had a campfire and toasted marshmallows to make s'mores. The children spent the majority of their session den building and it was great to see them working together, moving pallets and helping one another. A few of the children made dragonflies using pipe cleaners and beads and hung them by the entrance to their den. A great session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely time with Louisa last week and is now looking forward to going home with Minnie-Mai from Chestnut class. Minnie-Mai always gets on well at Forest School and takes part in various activities each week. This week however, Minnie-Mai was an integral part of the girls' den building, she asked if she could use the wood and already had an obvious plan in mind. She considered how and where it would be best to build it and took charge to make sure it was stable. Even after the den was built, she then used thick chalks to make it look more colourful and bright. It was so lovely to watch Minnie-Mai and to see her confidence grow. Well done Minnie-Mai, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!



Collective Worship

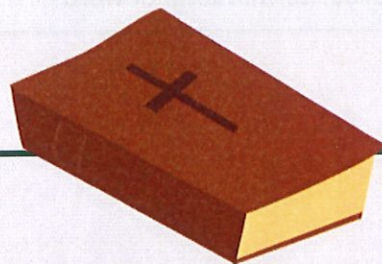
This week...

Mrs Fallon led collective worship this week, inviting the children to reflect on something that can make our hearts feel lighter, our smiles brighter and our friendships stronger – gratitude.

She encouraged the children to take time to think about, and share, the things that brought them happiness.

In her Thought for the Children, Mrs Fallon reminded everyone that sometimes, like Liam or the nine lepers, we forget to say thank you. Yet when we do remember, our hearts feel fuller and we begin to recognise just how much we have already been given. She explained that it is easy to become so focused on wanting more that we overlook the many good things already around us.

The children were asked to think of one thing they were thankful for that day and to reflect on how it feels when someone says “thank you” to them. They shared many thoughtful and heartfelt responses, creating a truly uplifting and meaningful collective worship for all.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
9th, 10th 11th Feb	Parent & Child consultations (no clubs this week)	Whole School
11th Feb	Trust spelling bee competition - Fairhouse primary	Selected Pupils
11th Feb	EYFS working in Partnership 9am - 10am	EYFS Parents
12th Feb	Essex Police to visit each class.	Whole School
16th - 20th Feb	HALF TERM	
23rd Feb	Chinese New Year Celebrations	Whole School
5th Mar	World Book Day - Dress as your favourite character or word	Whole school

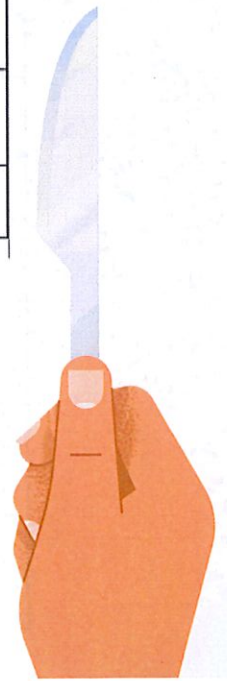
WEEKLY MENU

This is our menu taking us right up to February half term. We work a week in advance for bookings. The deadline for bookings is 9am Monday for the following week.



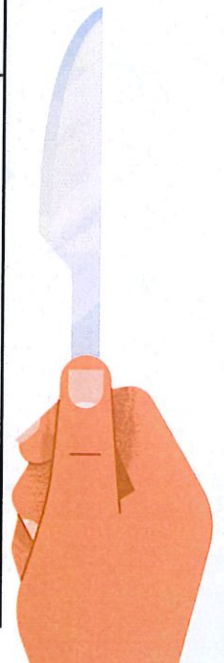
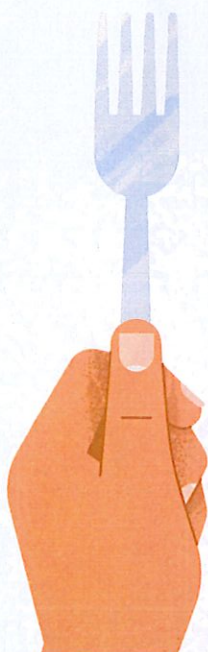
Week 1				
Monday Meat Free day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tomato and basil pasta (V) with garlic bread and salad	Pitta bread pizza with cheese, potato wedges and salad	Chicken roast	Cheesy ham and broccoli pasta	Sausage chips and beans
Baguettes: Cheese or tuna	Pitta bread pizza with ham, potato wedges and salad	Quorn fillet (V)	Cheesy broccoli pasta (V)	Quorn sausage (V) chips and beans
	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Jackets: Cheese, beans or tuna	Baguettes: Cheese, ham or tuna
			Baguettes: Cheese or ham	
Week 2				
Monday Meat Free day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese and Tomato pasta (V) garlic bread and salad	Fish fingers, chips, peas and sweetcorn	Sausage roast	Bolognese pasta bake	Chicken Nuggets potato wedges and baked beans
Baguettes: Cheese or tuna	Veggie fingers (V) chips, peas and sweetcorn	Quorn sausage roast (V)	Quorn Bolognese pasta bake	Quorn Nuggets (V) potato wedges and baked beans
	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Jackets: Cheese, beans or tuna	Baguettes: Cheese, ham or tuna
			Baguettes: Cheese or ham	

Bread, water, milk available everyday
Fruit and yoghurt Monday - Thursday
Baked treat - Friday



NEW TERM MENU

This is our new menu which begins on 23rd February and runs through to taking us right up to 27th March. 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 bolognese or Quorn bolognese 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

Spring Term After School Clubs January - February 2026

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

All after school clubs will be starting w/c 5th January 2026 through to w/c 23rd March 2026.

There will be no clubs running w/c 9th February due to Parent/Child consultations.

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

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


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

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

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

Year 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)





FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL

FOSMS

EVENTS

- We still have our coins in a bottle challenge running in the classrooms, this little challenge is live until the end of March. Every penny raised will be given back to the class to purchase fun resources for the last term. The winning class will have their amount matched (up to £100) by FOSMS, so all is to play for. Please do send in a few pennies for your class Jar. Last year Acorn were the winners - can they do it again?
- World Book Day - Thursday 5th March. We will have a whole selection of **brand new** costumes for sale in a variety of sizes for £5.00 each. Costumes will be on sale from Monday 23rd February after school - cash and card available. We will try to send out photos of a selection of costumes available beforehand.
- Mother's Day / Significant Female sale Friday 13th March - more details to follow soon, payments to be made via www.fosms.co.uk/upcoming-events
- Preloved Uniform - We have a many beautiful items of uniform available in our pre-loved shop, please do drop us a message if you need a few spares and save yourself some pennies!




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

JANUARY 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.

St Nicholas CofE Primary School

SEND Midday Assistant. Applications close: 9th February 2026.

Interviews 12th February 2026.

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

Learning Support Assistant. Applications close: 12th February 2026.

Interviews 25th/26th February 2026. Midday Assistant. Applications close: 12th February 2026: Interviews : To be confirmed.

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

Midday Assistant. Applications close: 12th February 2026.

Interviews TBC

