

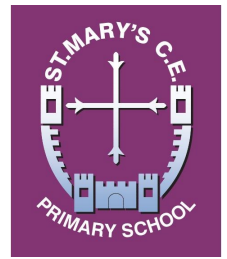
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 18th July 2025

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance Weekly 96.5%
Attendance Year 95 %

Our motto: Let Your Light Shine... as You Grow inspired by Matthew 5: 15-16

Compassion	Friendship	Perseverance
Respect	Trust	Truthfulness

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Good afternoon and welcome to our last Friday Newsletter and Class Update of the Summer Term. It has been a fantastic week with lots taking place, but it has also been a wonderful school year with loads of fun and memorable learning opportunities and lots and lots of progress made by our amazing pupils.

As we head off for a well-earned Summer break on Tuesday next week, I wish you all a safe and relaxing Summer and I look forwards to seeing most of you back at St Mary's **on Wednesday 3rd September at 8.30am**. The very best of luck to all of the Year 6 pupils who will soon be starting their new journeys in their secondary schools, as well as a few other pupils in different year groups who will be relocating from the Saffron Walden area to different primary schools.

As ever, thank you for your continued and outstanding support of the school. Have a great weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher of St Mary's Church of England Primary school, Saffron Walden

Stars of the week

- Lily-May**—for a wonderful production performance
- Aalyian**—for his amazing times tables
- Casey**—for his perseverance during sports day
- Alfie** - for beautiful communication and making his preferences clear
- Year 3**—for their engagement and enthusiasm on the school trip
- Year 2**—for their effort and enthusiasm during sports day
- Lavinia**—for persevering when she finds a task tricky
- Barney**—for always being respectful and following school rules
- Calum**—for excellent effort in reading and phonics
- Aoife**—for choosing a selection of ambitious vocabulary in her writing
- Year 5**—for all their hard work and enthusiasm during the production
- Megan**—for always showing 100% effort and respect in all that you do
- Rosie**—for being a kind friend and showing huge progress in her sharing skills
- Harry** - for developing positive relationships at school.
- Margot**—for showing great kindness and friendship to her peers



Year 6 Production

Following Tuesday's fantastic performance of Gladis Baker: Gladiator the whole of the Year 6 class received a special certificate for their part in putting together a truly wonderful production performance. Well done everyone!



Year 4 Rapid Fire Cricket

At yesterday's celebration assembly Year 4 were presented with their medals from the Rapid Cricket where they came 3rd in Uttlesford Rapid Fire Cricket Finals. Well done to them all!





A Fantastic Year with Friends of St Mary's!

As this academic year draws to a close, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic and exciting few months since we took over as co-chairs of Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) back in December.

First, a heartfelt thank you to Neil, Ada and Hayley for their many years of dedicated service to FOSM. Their hard work laid the foundations for everything we've been able to build on this year.

Since stepping into our new roles, we've thrown ourselves into planning and running events - none more memorable (or sun-soaked!) than the Summer Fete, which raised a brilliant £2,615! This money is already earmarked to help fund brand new toilet facilities for the children - a real, and lasting improvement to their school experience. A huge thank you to everyone who bought tokens, raffle tickets, bid on our auction and sent donations our way! We are forever grateful.

One of our proudest achievements this year has been growing a truly wonderful group of volunteers - our very own 'Friends' of St Mary's - who have shown up with enthusiasm, time, and smiles to help make every event a success. Thank you to each and every one of you - we simply couldn't do it without you.

Looking ahead, we've brainstormed ideas for the new academic year that we're incredibly excited about. We're talking discos, a Christmas Fayre, new sports equipment, a pantomime trip, and a visit from ITV's Gladiators! Every one of these has the potential to create incredible memories for the children - and with a bit of teamwork and determination, we believe they're all possible. Watch this space!

It's been a whirlwind of activity, but we've loved every minute of it. We've especially enjoyed getting to know more of you - our brilliant parents and carers - and can't wait to see even more new faces join us in September. If you would like to keep in touch with everything 'FOSM', and wish to be part of our WhatsApp group, please email us at pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk.

Have a restful summer and... see you in the new school year!

Jess & Amie
Co-Chairs, Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)



House triumphs!

These are the final results for this year: in 1st place with 583 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 540 points was Earth House, in 3rd place with 517 points was Fire House and in 4th place with 399 points was Air House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(583 points)**



**2nd place
(540 points)**



**3rd place
(517 points)**



**4th place
(399 points)**

School Uniform Supplier

We are aware that a new uniform shop has recently opened in town. However, we currently have an agreement with Gray Palmer to supply the school logoed sweatshirt, cardigan, and PE top. In addition, we have a small stock of pre-loved logoed uniform available and will be on sale after school before the end of the term.

As stated in our uniform policy, we politely ask all parents and carers to purchase the logoed sweatshirt, cardigan, and PE top to ensure consistency and a sense of belonging across the school community.

As part of our ongoing commitment to quality and value, we will be reviewing alternative suppliers for logoed uniform items during the upcoming academic year. We will ensure that you are kept fully informed of any developments or changes resulting from this review.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



Pupil Stationery 2025 2026



As you can imagine, we get through a large number of glue sticks in school each year. Even when buying in bulk with a discount, each glue stick costs around £1.00 — and over time, this becomes a considerable expense.

With school budgets continuing to be stretched, we are kindly asking families who are able to do so to send a named glue stick into school for their child to use after the summer holidays. This request is in line with the approach taken by many local and national schools. If this isn't possible, please don't worry — we will always make sure every child has access to the resources they need.

We are also inviting children in Years 2 to 6 to bring in their own pencil case containing the following items:

- A HB pencil
- An eraser (rubber)
- A sharpener
- A glue stick

Please ensure all items are clearly named.

Dear Parents,

We're delighted to share that St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School has been selected to take part in the **Summer Book Writing Festival 2025**—the world's largest free summer writing programme for children aged 8–16, proudly organised by **BriBooks**.

What's in store for your child?

- The chance to write and publish their very own book
- A Certificate of Participation for every published author
- Free access to an expert-led masterclass on the A to Z of book writing (available after registration)

National & International Recognition Awaits

Top entries will receive:

- A book launch opportunity at the Global Literary Festivals
- Features on the BriBooks YouTube Channel
- Representation at major global literary festivals in **London, New York, and Singapore**
- An invitation to be featured on the Authors of BriBooks podcast

There is no cost at all—participation is entirely free for all students.

Register today: <https://www.camp.bribooks.com//events/student/signup/sc-uk-2025?sid=164100> to receive full details and access to the masterclass.

Scan QR



For any questions, feel free to email us at support@bribooks.com.

Let's encourage St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School's budding storytellers to shine on the world stage!

Warm regards,
Oliver Brown
St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School



**World's Largest Book
Writing Competition**

I'm excited to offer your children **summer holiday forest school** sessions! I'm teaming up with a fellow forest school practitioner and together we are running forest school for a few Wednesdays over the holidays. I know how much they love it and these sessions for 5-11 year olds will be packed full of fun activities. Book using the link underneath. Hope to see some of you there...

Thanks

Mrs McInnes

<https://bookwhen.com/icklewoodsforestschool#focus=ev-s2j6-20250723090000>



Den building
Fire lighting
Tool use
Bug hunting
Nature Crafts
Muddy play

<p>Holiday Club (ages 5-11) 23rd July + 30th July* 6th August* + 13th August 9AM - 3PM</p>	<p>Family Fun (ages 0-11) 1st, 8th + 15th August 9.45AM-11.45AM</p>
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*With Katie from
Sunshine Through Trees!

WWW.ICKLEWOODS.COM
Abbey Farm, Ickleton





Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Spring/Summer Term

Monday 14th July	- Moving Up Afternoon
	- Meet the Teacher (3.15pm Years 1&2), (3.30pm Year 3)
Tuesday 15th July	- Meet the Teacher (3.15pm Years 4&5), (3.30pm Year 6)
	- Yrs 5&6 Production (6pm School Hall)
Wednesday 16th July	- Yr 3 Museum and Bridge End Gardens Visit
Thursday 17th July	- Disco Themed Non Uniform Day
	- R25 Taster Session (Group A 9.30-10.25, Group B 10.30-11.25)
	- Yr 5 Saffron Walden Museum Visit (morning only)
	- Yr 6 Celebration Disco Lunch for whole school
Tuesday 22nd July	- End of Year/Leavers Service (9.30am St Mary's Church)
Tuesday 22nd July	- End of school year - finish at 1.30pm
Monday 1st September	- INSET DAY
Tuesday 2nd September	- INSET DAY
Wednesday 3rd September	- First Day back for Pupils (Year 1—Year 6 Only)
	- Reception Stay and Play sessions with Parents/Carers
	- Group A (9.30—10.30)
	- Group B (11.00—12.00)
Thursday 4th September	- Reception Staggered starts begin
Thursday 11th September	- First Forest School session for Year 1
Monday 15th September	- First full day for Reception (8.30am—3.15pm)
Thursday 18th September	- First Forest School Session for Reception
Friday 19th September	- Year 5 Swimming starts (10 weeks)

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue

