

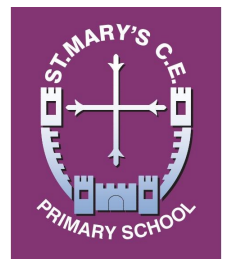
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 4th July 2025

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Attendance Weekly 95.1%
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,



I'd like to start this week's newsletter off by extending my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Summer Fête such a fantastic event! From the sunshine to the smiles, the event was filled with joy, laughter, and community spirit. A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers and stallholders (parents, carers and staff), and local businesses who generously gave their time, energy, and donations to support the event. Without your help, the fête simply wouldn't have been possible. We are especially grateful to our amazing FOSM organising team (led by Jess and Amie) for their tireless planning and hard work. Everyone who donated prizes,

baked goods, crafts, or other items. All the attendees—families, friends, and neighbours—who all came along and made it such a vibrant and memorable day. Events like this remind us of the power of community and the joy of coming together. Thank you once again to everyone who played a part in making the day such a success. We can't wait to see you all again next year!



Warm welcome to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor!

During the fete I was also delighted to welcome the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Saffron Walden to visit the school, and I took the opportunity to give them both a tour of our wonderful school and our lovely grounds. Both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had had children or grandchildren who had previously attended the school and they were both extremely impressed with how much the school has developed over the last few years. They were particularly pleased with the organisation of our classrooms and the overall school environment; the building works that have been completed over the past few years and the energy efficiency works that have been carried out—resulting in the school being a Net Zero Carbon School. They could see that St Mary's is a forward thinking community which continues to go from strength to strength. I look forwards to welcoming them both back to St Mary's in the future!

Friends of St Mary's Summer Fete article by Jess and Amie (Co-Chairs):

We're thrilled to share that our St Mary's Summer Fete was a fantastic success, raising an incredible £2,615! After months and months of planning, we braved the heat, got a little sunburnt, and ended the day exhausted but absolutely buzzing with pride. The turnout was amazing, and the atmosphere was full of fun, laughter, and community spirit. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the event - from those who donated, volunteered, and attended, to all the local businesses, parents, carers, and friends who contributed raffle prizes and stalls. Your generosity made it all possible.

We're proud to announce that a large proportion of the funds raised will go towards the refurbishment of the children's toilets in the school - an essential project that will directly benefit all pupils. Don't forget, there's still time to make that total even higher by buying a raffle ticket (or two!) - entries close Monday morning, so don't miss out on the chance to win one, if not more, of the 19 amazing prizes: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/summerfeteraffle>



Thank you again for your continued support - together, we're making a real positive difference for the children of St Mary's!

House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 78 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 73 points was Earth House, in 3rd place with 58 points was Air House and in 4th place with 57 points was Fire House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(78 points)**



**2nd place
(73 points)**



**3rd place
(58 points)**



**4th place
(57 points)**

Stars of the week

Ethan—for pushing himself in our computing unit with the micro-bits

Lara—for always getting involved in class discussions

Isla— for her fantastic sketches at the museum of zoology

Cali-Mae—for being so helpful with the younger children

Esther—for working hard and challenging herself this year

Carter - for excellent mental maths skills

Sophia—for her perseverance during assessment week

Vivien—for getting a cryptic work clue when no one else could

Addalynn—for her wonderful behaviour & engagement on our school trip

Archie—for showing the school values during break and lunchtime

Jackson—for his improved mindset and positive outlook across all subjects

Rose - for her thoughtful and insightful comments about the books we are sharing

Freya—for her fantastic effort in her homework which was beautifully presented

Bertie—for making our visitor this week feel very welcome and doing some great maths and English work



Visit from the Library Service

On Thursday morning we had a visit from a member of the Essex Library Service team, Stephanie Pemerton, who talked to our pupils about the upcoming Summer Reading Challenge.

Stephanie said that with Summer firmly upon us it is the perfect opportunity to turn up the fun with reading and she encouraged our pupils to join the Summer Reading Challenge, where 'every page you turn brings you closer to exciting rewards, new discoveries, and epic adventures'. Our pupils were told, 'whether you're into magical lands, thrilling mysteries, funny comics, or fascinating facts, there's something for everyone'. She then explained: 'the challenge is simple: read books, log your progress, and earn prizes along the way! It's a great way to keep your brain active over the break and build a life-long love of reading.'

Here's how it works:

- ⇒ Choose books that match your age and interests
- ⇒ Track your reading with our challenge logs
- ⇒ Earn fun rewards for reaching reading milestones
- ⇒ Join us for special events, story times, and end-of-summer celebrations!

Don't let summer slip by without a great story (or ten!). Grab your favourite book, find a cozy spot, and let the adventure begin! Let's make this summer one to remember — one chapter at a time! The challenge takes place between 19th July and 6th September and as a school that is passionate about reading we would really encourage all of our pupils to take part throughout the summer.



Horse Riding Achievement

Two of our pupils achieved a Grade 1 certificate and one pupil got their Grade 3 riding certificate with RDS. Well done to all three, what an amazing achievement!



Cricket Celebrations! (by Miss Driscoll)

This summer term has been immensely busy for P.E, clubs and sports fixtures. With the summer holidays fast approaching our cricket session is drawing to an end. Our school cricket teams have played in local tournaments at the local cricket ground. We've also made it through to the finals for both Yr 6 Dynamos and Year 3 & 4 Rapid Fire. The dedication and effort from all our pupils to work on drills, mastering some tricky rules has been superb. Leading them to top finishes in their tournaments.

On Thursday 3rd July our rapid-fire team headed back to the cricket grounds for our final event of the year. It was a long morning in the sunshine. They took first place in their first set of matches allowing them to play the best of the best in Uttlesford. They kept their nerve, showed off some incredible batting, spot on bowling and great teamwork fielding. This all contributed to them finishing 3rd place. Another triumph for our pupils and school! Whilst we've worked hard in P.E lessons a huge thank you must go to Mr Findlay who kindly provided the team with some extra training and coaching over the last two weeks.

Congratulations to all our cricket stars this term! We are incredibly proud of you.



Next year's classes! New Class teachers and members of staff for September:

In this week's newsletter I am sharing the new class staffing teams for each of our classes for the next academic year 2025 to 2026. Please take a look at the table below to see which teachers will be supporting your child/ren from September. We are all very excited about the upcoming academic year and I know that each of our staff teams are excited to be working with their new class and welcoming them back to school in September.

Name of class:	Year Group:	Class teachers:
Butterfly class	Reception	Miss Nicholson & Mr Powlesland
Ladybird class	Year 1	Mrs Holmes
Caterpillar class	Year 2	Mr Brown
Grasshopper class	Year 3	Mrs Potter
Firefly class	Year 4	Mrs Tagg
Bees class	Year 5	Mr Pike
Dragonfly class	Year 6	Mr Clarke

Book Free Summer Activities for Children with SEND

Essex County Council is delighted to offer a range of free summer activities for children with SEND.

To find and book these activities, follow this link: <https://shorturl.at/VOdRi>

Alternatively, log in to the [Active Essex Activity Finder](#). Then you can use the filter button and under programme select 'ECC Summer SEND Sessions'. From there, you can type in your area to see the listings and booking links.

Summer Essex ActivAte programme

The Department for Education fund free places to children on receipt of income related free school meals (FSM). Alongside these funded places, there are a small number of spaces that can be available for children who fall outside of the eligibility criteria but would benefit from attending a club for their wellbeing.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMER FETE



KS2 Disco—Friday 11th July

The FOSM are delighted to be organising the Key Stage 2 Leavers' Disco to give our Year 6 pupils a fantastic send-off as they head into their next adventure!

Event Details:

- Date: Friday 11th July
- Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm
- Who: Open to children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
- Cost: £4 per child (includes refreshments)



Booking: Tickets are available via the School Money shop.

Please note that no physical tickets will be issued; children will be checked off against a list on arrival. Tickets must be purchased by Monday 7th July. There will also be sweets and temporary tattoos available at 50p each (cash only), so feel free to send your child with a small amount of pocket money.

Warm Weather Reminder:

Hats, Sunscreen and Water Bottles:

As the weather is beginning to get warm & sunny, please can we ask that your child/ren have a high factor sun cream applied before they come to school each day. They should also bring a sun hat and water bottle both clearly named. Children should also now be wearing their Summer uniform. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Thank you for your support in this matter!



Year 6 Leavers Celebration Lunch—Thursday 17th July

We are excited to announce a special whole school disco-themed lunch on **Thursday 17th July** to celebrate our wonderful Year 6 students!

Disco Dress-Up (Non Uniform Day)

Children and staff are invited to come to school dressed in their best disco outfits – think neon, sparkle, and fun!

Lunch Menu

A copy of the special menu is attached. Please make sure to pre-order your child's meal via SchoolGrid as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the event or experience any issues logging into your School Grid account, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.



Timetable for next week's Sports Day on Wednesday 9th July

Years 3 - 6 (KS2)

8:30am – Refreshments available for Parents/Carers
9:00am – Races begin
11:30am – Parents/Carers Race & Toddlers Race
11:45am – Winners' Presentation



Family Picnic

12:00pm – 12:45pm – Whole School Picnic for all pupils with their parents/carers
Children will return to their classrooms for afternoon registration

Reception (EYFS) & Years 1 & 2 (KS1)

12:45pm – Refreshments available for Parents/Carers
1:00pm – Races begin
2:45pm – Parents/Carers Race & Toddlers Race
3:00pm – Whole School Winners' Presentation with KS2
Please note: while we will do our best to stick to the timetable, race times may be subject to change.



At the end of this event, children will return to class and can be collected from the playground via Castle Street.

What to Wear

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit and a t-shirt in their house colour. Please ensure they are also dressed appropriately for the weather and have plenty of water, sun hat, and sunscreen if needed. If you need confirmation of house colour, please speak to a member of the class team.

Catering

Parents and carers are welcome to bring a picnic lunch for themselves and their family. Alternatively, we will be providing the following catering options:

- Bacon rolls – £3.00 each Available to pre-order via the School Money shop Deadline to order: Monday 30th June
- Throughout the day:
- Tea, coffee, squash, and ice lollies will be available
- Dolce will provide a selection of sandwich picnic lunches for children (order as usual via School Grid)
- Just Baked by Sophie will be selling cakes and other tasty treats

Access to Sports Day

Entrance will be via Catons Lane only. At the end of the day, children can be collected from the playground via Castle Street.

Toilets

Parents and carers are welcome to use the toilet facilities in the field cabin.



Parking

Please be aware that parking around the school is limited due to residential restrictions. Both school car parks will be unavailable to parents and carers on the day.

Weather Contingencies

We are hoping for good weather on the day. However, if the forecast predicts extreme heat or heavy rain, we may need to adjust or postpone (Reserve date – Wednesday 9th July) the event for the safety and comfort of all involved. In such cases, we will notify parents and carers as early as possible.



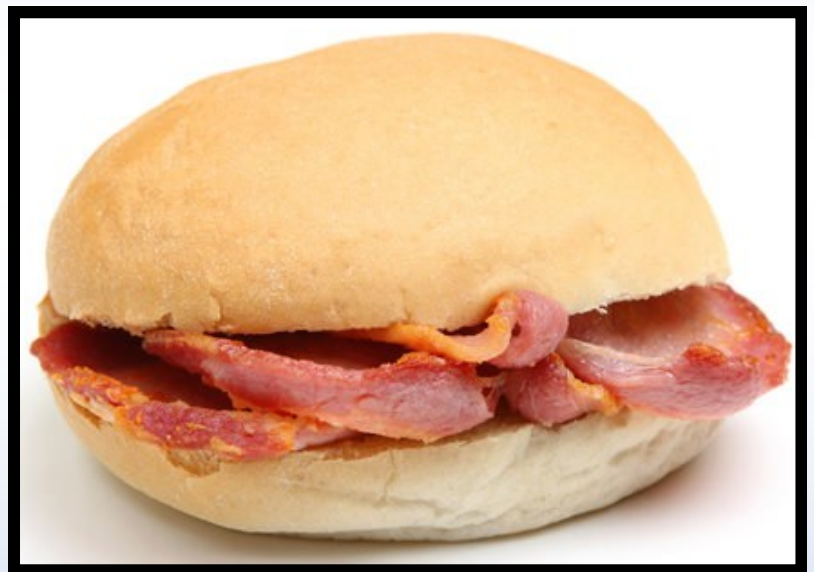
We also advise all attendees to bring sun hats, water bottles, sunscreen, and raincoats just in case.

We look forward to seeing you on what promises to be a fun and active day for all!

Delicious Bacon Rolls

Sport Day—Wednesday 9th July

£3.00



**Pre-order via the
School Money Shop**

(deadline to order Monday 30 June)



Dolce Disco

Thursday 17th July 2025

Mains

- Dolce Disco Dog
- Dance Floor Dog (vg)
- Party Time Pizza (BBQ Chicken)
- Hip Hot Potato Bar (v) (GF)

Sides

- Funky Town Fries
- Boogie Beans
- Panic at the Disco Peas
- Stayin' Alive Salad Bar

Desserts

- Glitter Ball Cookie
- Fruit Ice Lolly
- Fresh Fruit



dolce

Promoting school readiness with our 'I Can Do It' sessions

Is your child starting school in September 2025?

We are running workshops focusing on communication, physical development, promoting independence and supporting socialisation/transitions through fun learning activities.

- **Carver Barracks** 10-11.30am, Tuesday 5th and Tuesday 19th August. Carver Barracks Community Hall, Carver Barracks, Elder St, Wimbish. CB10 2YA.
- **Spangles Family Hub** 1.30-3pm, Friday 15th and Friday 29th August. St John's Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, CM24 8JP.

If you feel you and your child would benefit from attending, then please call to book your place.

t: 0300 247 0122

e: vcl.essexwest-hftcentraladminhub@nhs.net

w: essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

Commissioned by



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring/Summer Term

Tuesday 1st July	- Yr 4 Museum of Zoology Visit
Wednesday 2nd July	- Sports Day (morning KS2, afternoon Reception & KS1)
	- Reception Boydells Dairy Farm Visit
Tuesday 8th July	- SWCHS Science Department visiting Year 6
Wednesday 9th July	- Sports Day (reserve date) morning KS2, afternoon Reception & KS1
	- Year 5 Rounders Festival
Thursday 10th July	- Yr 3 Ancient Egyptians Day (Change of Date)
Friday 11th July	- Reception Celebration Event (9.00am)
Friday 11th July	- School reports sent out
Friday 11th July	- KS2 Leavers Disco (5.00-6.30pm School Hall)
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 Staggered Timetable
Monday 16th September	- First full day for Reception

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue