

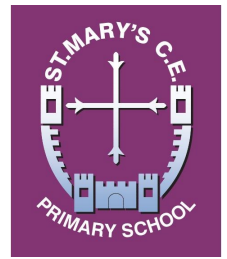
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 24th October 2025

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance Weekly 95.7%
Attendance Year 96.8%

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,

Light Day – Celebrating Faith and Hope at St Mary's

Today, St Mary's was filled with warmth and joy as we celebrated our annual **Light Day** — a special time to reflect on the meaning of *light* in our faith and in our lives. Light Day gave everyone a chance to pause and think about how light is often used as a symbol of **goodness, hope, and God's presence**. In assemblies and class worship, pupils learned about how light appears in different religious stories — from the light that guided the Wise Men to Jesus, to the lamps of Diwali and the candles of Hanukkah. Together, we explored how faiths around the world use light to represent love, peace, and new beginnings.



Each class took part in creative and thoughtful activities. Children made beautiful lanterns and candle holders, created "Let Your Light Shine" artwork inspired by the Bible verse *Matthew 5:16*, and wrote prayers of thanks for the light in their lives — from family and friends to the beauty of the world around them.

In the afternoon, we gathered for a special **whole-school worship**, where pupils shared their reflections and sang songs celebrating light, hope, and kindness. Light Day reminded us all that, even in difficult times, we can each be a light for others through acts of kindness, friendship, and faith. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so meaningful — our school community continues to shine brightly together.

Stars of the week

Bobbie—for her effort, hard work and beautiful artwork

Lottie—for her determination and hard work

Henry—for his hard work in the hall

Aalyian—for consistently showing the school values

Kiara—for her effort and English and Maths

Year 4—for an amazing first half term! They have been a pleasure to teach

All the playleaders—for their hard work and support at lunchtimes

Teddy—for an amazing final piece of writing/fabulous use of vocabulary

Tom—for beginning to challenge himself and show what he can do

Ladybird class—for a brilliant half term in which everyone has worked hard throughout

George—for showing fantastic courage and effort by speaking out more in class



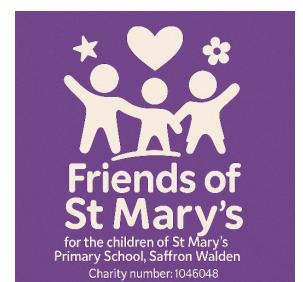
Friends of St Mary's—Non-Uniform Day Friday 7th November

We're excited to announce that a St Mary's Non-Uniform Day will take place on **Friday 7th November!** In exchange for wearing the children's own clothes, we kindly ask for donations towards our Christmas Fair tombolas.

- **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: Please bring in chocolate or sweet goodies for our Sweet Treat Tombola.**
- **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6: Please bring in any bottles (soft drinks, sauces, toiletries, festive tipples etc.) for our Bottle Tombola.**

Your generosity and support are hugely appreciated - it all helps make our Christmas Fair a magical event for the children and community!

Don't forget! the St Mary's Christmas Fair will be held on *Friday 12th December, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm*. We can't wait to see you there!



House triumphs!

These are the results for this half term: in 1st place with 356 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 330 points was Fire House, in 3rd place with 321 points was Earth House and in 4th place with 291 points was Air House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(356 points)**



**2nd place
(330 points)**



**3rd place
(321 points)**



**4th place
(291 points)**

Attendance

Today, your child will be bringing home their attendance record for this academic year so far. These will be sent out every half term throughout the year.

Regular attendance helps children learn, make friends, and enjoy everything school has to offer — every day really does count! We understand that children sometimes need to stay home if they're unwell, but being in class as much as possible makes a big difference to their progress.

If you have any questions or need support with attendance, we're here to help — together, we can make every school day count!



Calling for Class Reps!

We're looking for **Class Reps** to help keep parents and carers connected and informed across each class in the school. Each class would ideally have **one or two reps (maximum)**, so you can share the role. Guidance and support will be provided — you won't be left on your own!

Being a Class Rep is a great way to:

- Share reminders about school events and trips
- Help new families settle in
- Pass on non-urgent messages from the school or PTA
- Build a stronger sense of community within each year group

If you're friendly, organised, and happy to help share updates (without taking on too much extra work!), and you'd be happy to meet with myself and members of the St Mary's team every half term during the school day (so a maximum of 6 meetings a year) then please email the school office on admin@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk by Friday 7th November at 3pm to let us know that you would be interested and we will be in touch.

Thank you for helping to make our school community even stronger and your continued support of the school.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November at 8.30am. Have a lovely half term.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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



Years 1 & 2 Parent Survey



Our school has been selected to take part in a national survey from Active Essex – Active Lives: Children and Young People. To meet the requirements of this survey, some questionnaires have already been completed in school by our KS2 classes. However, parents of pupils in Years 1 and 2 have been invited to complete a parent survey.

I would be very grateful if you could use the link below, which has been specifically designed for your child's class, and complete the survey using the information provided. **The deadline for submitting your response is Friday, 14th November 2025.** <https://ipsos.uk/WLZWZGC>

Parent/Carers Consultations

Tuesday 11th November and Thursday 13th November



Appointments can be booked from **Monday 3rd November** for the parent consultations via our Parent's Evening System which can be found at <https://stmarys.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.

The booking system closes on Friday 7th November at 12.00pm.

In order to log on securely parents/carers will need to put in their name as given to the school, your child's given name (or chosen first name as given to the office) and your child's date of birth as an 8 digit number e.g. 25/09/2008.

Please use the link below to login into the Parents Evening System to book your appointment.
<https://stmarys.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please arrive promptly for your meeting. The meetings will be face to face and held in the main school hall from 3.30pm - 6.30pm, with each family having the opportunity to make a 10 minute appointment per child.

Parents who have already had a One Plan Meeting will not be offered a separate parent consultation meeting.

If you need any assistance with booking your appointment, please contact the school office.

Special Bonfire Night Menu – Wednesday 5th November



Our catering team, Dolce, will be providing a special menu on Wednesday 5th November. You can view the full menu in this newsletter, on the website and the school facebook page.

If you would like to order a lunch for your child on this day, please do so via School Grid. If you experience any issues logging into your account, please speak to a member of the School Office who will be happy to help.



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More news on the fair to follow soon!

With thanks,
Friends of St Mary's
For the children of St Mary's Primary School, Saffron Walden.



The logo for 'dólce' is located in the top right corner, featuring the brand name in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a yellow rectangular background.

Fireworks & Bonfire Night

5TH NOVEMBER 2025

MAINS

BONFIRE BANGER

VEGGIE BONFIRE BANGER (VG)

HOT BAKED POTATO BAR WITH A CHOICE OF FILLINGS (GF)

INCLUDING BANGING BBQ CHICKEN AND WINTER WARMER QUORN KORMA (V)

SIDES

WHIZZ-BANG WEDGES

SPARKLER SWEETCORN

FIREWORK SLAW

GUY FAWKES SALAD BAR

KINDLING KETCHUP

DESSERT

ROCKET LOLLY (VG) (GF)

CHOCOLATE CATHERINE WHEEL (V)

FRESH FRUIT



Friends of St Mary's and St Mary's Primary School
presents their annual

Christmas FAIR

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS!

(Bookings only and a small fee applies)

Join us, and Father Christmas, for an evening of
crafts, food, cakes and games!

12/12/2025
4.30pm until 6.30pm

St Mary's Primary School

**FREE
ENTRY**





Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Autumn & Winter Term

Monday 20th October	- Individual/Sibling Photos
Tuesday 21st October	- Year 1, 3 & 6 One Plan Meetings
Wednesday 22nd October	- Year 5 One Plan Meetings
Thursday 23rd October	- Year 2 One Plan Meetings
Friday 24th October	- Non-Uniform Day—Light Day
27th—31st October	- HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 3rd November	- Parent Consultation Booking System Opens
Wednesday 5th November	- Dolce Special Lunch Menu
Friday 7th November	- Parent Consultation Booking System Closes (12.00pm)
Friday 7th November	- Non uniform day (Friends of St Mary's Christmas Fair)
Monday 10th November	- Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church (11.00am)
Tuesday 11th November	- Parent/Carers Consultations (3.30pm—6.30pm)
Thursday 13th November	- Parent/Carers Consultations (3.30pm—6.30pm)
Monday 1st December	- Friends of St Mary's AGM (3.30pm—4.15pm)
Friday 5th December	- FOSM KS2 Disco
Monday 8th December	- EYFS/KS1 Nativity at St Mary's Church (6.00pm)
Wednesday 10th December	- EYFS/KS1 Scoot Fit
Thursday 11th December	- FOSM Panto
Friday 12th December	- FOSM Christmas Fair (4.30pm—6.30pm)
Monday 15th December	- Year 5 Parent/Carers Residential Information Meeting (5.00pm)
Wednesday 17th December	- Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 19th December	- Carol Service at St Mary's Church (9.30am)
	- End of Term—1.30pm Finish

