

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 10th October 2025

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Attendance Weekly 97%

Attendance Year 96.9%

*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

**Harvest Service Celebration:** On Monday we came together as a school to celebrate our annual Harvest Service, and what a wonderful occasion it was! The children sang beautifully, shared poems, and reflected on the importance of giving and being thankful for the food we have.



Well done to all the children for their thoughtful contributions and to everyone who helped make the service so special. Thanks also to Mr Clarke for organising the service, Reverend Jeremy for his thoughtful talk about the different types of seeds (and the importance of nurturing living things) and for the Worship Council members for doing a great job in joining everything together.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who kindly donated items for our Harvest collection; these generous donations will make a real difference to local

families in need. All contributions have now been delivered to the local food bank, who were so grateful for your support. It's heartwarming to see our school community come together to help others.

**Together, we've sown seeds of kindness and grown a harvest of hope.**



**A Ballerina's Visit to St Mary's—Inspiring Pirouettes and Dreams**

This week, St Mary's Primary School had the pleasure of welcoming a very special visitor – professional ballerina Pippa Higham! The pupils were full of excitement as Pippa, who has performed on stages across the UK, shared her passion for ballet and gave an inspiring insight into the world of dance.

Pippa led the assembly, where she spoke about her journey from being a young dancer just like many of our pupils, to performing in prestigious productions. She encouraged the children to believe in themselves, work hard, and always follow their dreams – no matter how big they may seem. Pippa went on to teach some basic ballet positions and even how to perform a pirouette! The children absolutely loved the chance to get moving, and many discovered a newfound interest in ballet and performing arts. "It was amazing!" said Tom. "I didn't know ballet could be so much fun!"

"I liked how Pippa told us to keep trying even when things feel hard," added another pupil. Staff were equally impressed, praising the confidence and joy the sessions brought to pupils.

It was wonderful to see the children so inspired. Pippa's visit reminded us all how important it is to dream big and be creative. A huge thank you to Pippa Higham for spending the day with us and sharing her talent, energy, and enthusiasm. We hope her visit will inspire many of our pupils to keep dancing, keep dreaming, and always aim high!

**Christmas Fair:** Friends of St Mary's and St Mary's Primary School would love to warmly invite all parents and carers - from all cultures, backgrounds, and traditions - to take part in our 'Christmas Around the World' Fair. This year, we're opening up stalls to families who'd like to share how they celebrate Christmas. Whether it's a traditional festive food or drink, decorations, music, or a unique custom from your home or heritage - we'd love to showcase it!



You're welcome to simply attend and enjoy the fair, or to get involved and teach us about your Christmas. Let's celebrate the rich diversity of our wonderful school community together. If you'd like to take part, please contact [pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) - we'd love to hear from you!

**House triumphs!** These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 63 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 50 points was Fire House, in 3rd place with 47 points was Earth House and in 4th place with 43 points was Air House. Well done everybody!



**1st place  
(63 points)**



**2nd place  
(50 points)**



**3rd place  
(47 points)**



**4th place  
(43 points)**

### Stars of the week

**Layla**—for fantastic effort in Maths

**Dillon**—for his hard work in Maths

**Toby**—for fantastic self-challenge and focus in his reading

**Eliza**—for her beautiful, neat painting in art this week

**Ernie**—for hugely improved focus in class and quiet determination

**Phoebe**—for working so hard and always showing safe, respect and effort

**Malachi**—for his effort in art, ensuring his water colour painting was neat

**Joshua**—for being brave by asking for help when needed and for always trying his best

**Freddie**—for demonstrating all of our school values and always showing a positive attitude to learning

**Teddy**—for pushing himself in English and Maths while also getting more involved in class discussion

**Nina**—for consistently demonstrating outstanding behaviour and brilliant work ethic

**Chloe**—for always having a positive attitude and organising playleader pictures

**Mia**—for being a great role model to others and always showing kindness to peers



Have a great weekend.

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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

### School Crossing—Monday 13th October—IMPORTANT INFORMATION



We have been advised by Essex County Council that there will be no Crossing Patrol Officer on duty both in the morning and afternoon on Monday 13th October.

If your child walks to school independently, please remind them to take extra care when crossing the road. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

### School Dinner Survey



Our catering team from Dolce are asking all parents and carers to complete a short survey using the link below.

[St Mary's Survey](#)

Please note that the survey will close on **Wednesday, 15th October.**

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback.



**Harvest Festival  
St Mary's Church  
6th October**



## A poem from the Inclusion Team for Mental Health Awareness

### *Welcome To Holland*

*By Emily Perl Kingsley*

*I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this...*

*When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.*

*After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The flight attendant comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."*

*"Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."*

*But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay. |*

*The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.*

*So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.*

*It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.*

*But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."*

*And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.*

*But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.*

# Health Advice Drop-in for 5-19 year olds

**Dates:** Wednesday, 22nd October, 19th November & 17th December 2025

**Time:** 8.45 - 9.45am

**Venue:** Spangles Family Hub, St. John's Road, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8JP

Drop-in sessions for parents/carers to get advice and support for school aged child with a member of our school health team, where you can discuss things which may be concerning you. No booking needed.

## Areas of support

- Managing worries, low mood, stress or anger issues
- Bullying and friendship issues
- Diet / Nutritional support
- Improving sleep
- Day and night wetting
- Behavioural concerns
- Personal hygiene
- Sexual health
- Information and signposting regarding medical conditions

**t:** 0300 247 0122

**w:** [essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk](http://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk)

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# *Coffee Morning*

**MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER**

**8.30am—9.30am**

**SCHOOL HALL**

*Everyone Welcome!*

**Come along and have a chat with Mr Jarmain (the Headteacher), Mrs Robinson (Inclusion Lead), Jo Crocker (Welfare and Support Officer), KT Haynes (Stort Valley Schools Trust), Jess Dowling and members of the Friends of St Mary's team and a MIND practitioner**



# Diary Dates

## Key Dates for the Spring/Summer Term

Monday 6th October	- Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church (9.30am)
Friday 10th October	- World Mental Health Day—wear something yellow
Monday 13th October	- Parent/Carer Coffee Morning (8.30—9.30) School Hall
14th—15th October	- Black History Month Workshops Reception —Year 6
Thursday 16th October	- Yrs 3&4 Multi Skills Event
Monday 20th October	- Individual/Sibling Photos
Tuesday 21st October	- Year 1, 3 & 6 One Plan Meetings
Wednesday 22nd October	- Year 5 One Plan Meetings
Thursdday 23rd October	- Year 2 One Plan Meetings
27th—31st October	- HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 3rd November	- Parent Consultation Booking System Opens
Friday 7th November	- Parent Consultation Booking System Closes (12.00pm)
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

