

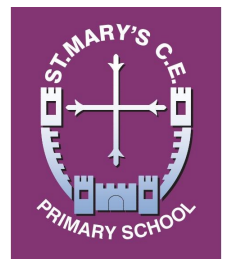
# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 12th September 2025

Telephone 01799 523384

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Website: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk)



Attendance Weekly 98%

Attendance Year 97.6%

*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,

## Changes to Home-learning

Following on from our message in last week's newsletter, we would like to inform you of the upcoming changes to home-learning at our school. Following feedback from children, parents/carers (in our recent survey) and staff, we have reviewed our current approach to ensure that home-learning is meaningful, manageable, and supports learning and is in line with other local primary schools.

Our aim is to strike the right balance: reinforcing essential skills, encouraging a love of learning, and giving families time together without homework becoming overwhelming.

As a school, we believe that the 3 areas of home-learning that have the biggest impact for supporting children's learning in school are: phonics/reading, spelling and number and times-tables knowledge.

Therefore, this is the new structure for home-learning at St Mary's:

**Reception** - daily reading and a weekly phonics worksheet;

**Year 1** - daily reading, weekly number practice and weekly spelling/phonics practice;

**Year 2** - daily reading, weekly times tables practice and weekly spelling practice, followed by a weekly x tables test;

**Year 3** - daily reading, weekly times tables practice and weekly spelling practice, followed by a weekly x tables test;

**Year 4** - daily reading, weekly times tables practice and weekly spelling practice, followed by a weekly x tables test;

**Year 5** - daily reading, weekly arithmetic practice and weekly spelling practice, followed by a weekly spelling test.

**Year 6** - daily reading, weekly arithmetic paper, weekly comprehension and maths reasoning practice.

For Years 5 & 6 pupils the targeted weekly maths learning will be a revision and learning tool which will be integral to weekly class learning, so it is really important that this work is completed weekly to support the children's understanding.

As with all of our curriculum here at St Mary's there will be adaptations made to the home-learning set for children who require this. Please speak to your class teacher if you feel that further adaptations are necessary.

This new structure will officially commence **on Friday 19th September**, but daily reading should already be becoming part of the children's daily routine.

## Bag2School

Following the last two years' successes with this initiative we will again be raising funds by collecting your old clothes. We will be sending bags home next week with your children together with a letter, please fill these and return no later than 30th September.



## Advice from the Smartphone Free Childhood team

The Smartphone Free Childhood team, have asked us to share the following link with our parents and carers, following a lot of parental requests and questions. This video is for watching and sharing with any parent or carer facing phone pressure at home! Please click on this link to access the video:

[https://youtu.be/xsw9HdM\\_MZw](https://youtu.be/xsw9HdM_MZw)



### Stars of the week

Aaron—for getting stuck into class discussions straight away  
Zachary—for excellent engagement and effort so far in Year 5  
Addalynn—for amazing effort and hard work since starting Year 5  
Sky—for working hard in her English and Maths  
Azaan—for his improved writing already!  
Joshua—for always being so polite and respectful  
Amelie—for a great first week at St Mary's!  
Freya—for showing kindness and compassion in class  
Bonnie—for beginning her St Mary's journey so wonderfully, also showing our values.  
Kobe—for working so hard in his first week in Year 2  
Lennon—for a positive attitude towards maths and English and always giving 100%  
Laurence—for being a great role model to all and a great attitude to all learning



### Celebrating Our New Pupil Leaders

We are delighted to congratulate our wonderful pupils who have recently been appointed to positions of leadership and responsibility within our school community. Altogether, 83 pupils were awarded their badges of responsibility during our Collective Worship on Thursday. These roles are a vital part of school life, giving our young people the opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork, and the skills needed to make a positive difference.

From Sports Ambassadors and House Captains, to Computer and Hall Monitors, Librarians, Play Leaders and members of the School Council and Worship Council, each individual has been chosen not only for their commitment and effort but also for the example they set to others.

We are incredibly proud of all our new leaders and know they will carry out their duties with enthusiasm, integrity, and a strong sense of responsibility. We look forward to seeing the many ways they will contribute to the life of our school this year.

Congratulations once again to all those entrusted with these important roles! **Please see their proud faces on the following page of the newsletter!**

### Autumnal Challenges!

As the leaves turn golden and the days grow shorter, we find ourselves well into the rhythm of the autumn term at St Mary's. Autumn is a wonderful reminder of the importance of balance — between work and rest, learning and play. We encourage families to enjoy the crisp evenings, perhaps with a story, a walk in the park, or some simple time together, below are some ideas that you can do at home, if you need help with resources, e.g. colouring pen's, paper, glue or string, please speak to our welfare officer, Jo Crocker.



**Treasure Hunt** – Make a simple scavenger list (e.g., red leaf, feather, acorn) and head outside to see who can find everything first.

**Stargazing on Clear Nights** – Autumn evenings arrive earlier, making it the perfect time to spot constellations together.

**Conker Hunt** – Find horse chestnuts (“conkers”) and have a go at the traditional game—or simply enjoy gathering them.

**Go on a Nature Walk** – Collect colourful leaves, pinecones, and acorns. Children can use them for art projects or to create a seasonal display at home.

**Create a Nature Journal** – Children can draw, write, or stick in photos and leaves to record what they see each week.

**Leaf Art & Rubbings** – Press leaves between books to dry them, or place them under paper and rub with crayons to reveal their shapes.

**Visit a Local Park or Woodland** – Many green spaces are at their most beautiful in autumn. Look out for squirrels gathering food for winter.

**Community Events** – Keep an eye out for free harvest festivals, library story times, or local museum days.

**Cook Together** – Try simple, warming recipes using seasonal produce (like apple slices with cinnamon). Cooking together doesn't have to cost much, and it's a great family activity.

**DIY Autumn Decorations** – Use twigs, leaves, and pinecones to make garlands or centrepieces for the table.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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

# Our New Pupil Leadership Team for 2025 to 2026!



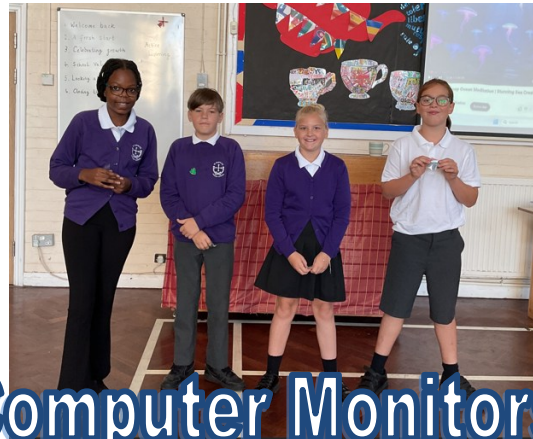
**Librarians**



**Hall Monitors**



**House Captains**



**Computer Monitors**



**Playleaders**



**Worship Council**



**Sports Ambassadors**



**School Council**



# BAG 2 SCHOOL



Our next Bag2School collection  
has been arranged for

Tuesday 30th September 2025

*Any questions please ask |  
the School Office*

What to include in your BAG2SCHOOL plastic bag:



Clothes



Paired shoes



Handbags



Hats



Bags



Scarves and ties



Bras



Jewellery



Socks



Belts

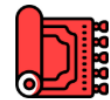
What not to include in your BAG2SCHOOL plastic bag:



Duvets and blankets



Pillows and cushions



Carpets, rugs and mats



Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing



School uniforms with and without logo



Corporate clothing and workwear



Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material



Furniture and large items



Batteries



## FREE PARENT COURSE

# SEND IASS PRESENT THE RAINBOW PARENT COURSE EXPLORING AUTISM TOGETHER

### **A six-week course delivered live online for parents / carers**

**This course has been developed for parents / carers who have children or young people recently diagnosed as autistic, are on the diagnosis journey, and those who wish to explore more about autism.**

The Rainbow course has been written by Angie Purdy and Hazel Smee, both highly experienced specialist teachers and consultants working with families and schools supporting autistic children and young people.

Check out their websites on: [www.angiepurdystar.co.uk](http://www.angiepurdystar.co.uk) and [www.autismsupportandtraining.co.uk](http://www.autismsupportandtraining.co.uk)

### **The Rainbow course will be delivered in the Autumn Term 2025 by Angie Purdy and Hazel Smee**

The course will be presented through live sessions via Zoom. Each session includes input through a PowerPoint presentation and the opportunity to share experiences, learn from each other and ask questions. A copy of the notes from the presentation are made available before each session.

Places will be limited to ensure tailored information and advice is provided.

#### **COURSE CONTENT**

**Week 1 - Exploring autism – building on your understanding of your child.**

**Week 2 - The art of communication – understanding your child's communication skills and how to support them.**

**Week 3 - Being social – how to support your child's social understanding**

**Week 4 - Sensational senses – exploring differences in sensory processing and what it means for your child.**

**Week 5 - Nurturing well-being and emotional regulation – anxiety and helping your child understand how they feel.**

**Week 6 - Behaviour as communication – making sense of the tricky bits.**

#### **DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2025**

**TUESDAY EVENINGS – 7.45pm – 9.30pm – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7<sup>th</sup> Oct, 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (HALF TERM)  
4<sup>th</sup> Nov, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**Two family members may attend together on the same screen**

**Please book your place via the email below.**

**[iasspromotion.development@essex.gov.uk](mailto:iasspromotion.development@essex.gov.uk)**



# *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), Jess Dowling and members of the Friends of St Mary's team and a MIND practitioner**

# CHILDREN'S TENNIS LESSONS

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAYS 3.15PM-4PM  
AUTUMN/WINTER TERM

AGES 5-11 YEARS OLD

14 SPOTS  
LIMITED SPACE



AGILITY/BALANCE/CO-ORDINATION

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN RACKET BRING IT!

CONTACT ALI:

07581087325

[alistennis@outlook.com](mailto:alistennis@outlook.com)



# Diary Dates

## Key Dates for the Spring/Summer Term

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)
Thursday 25th September	-	Yrs 3&4 Girls Football Festival (8.50am —12.30pm)
	-	Yrs 5&6 Girls Football Festival (12.30pm—3.15pm)
Tuesday 30th September	-	Little Wandle Workshop—9.00am or 6.00pm
Wednesday 1st October	-	Year 3 Saffron Walden Museum visit (9.00-12.00pm)
Friday 3rd October	-	EYFS/KS1 Teddy Bear Run (1.30pm)
Monday 6th October	-	Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church (9.30am)
Monday 13th October	-	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning (8.30—9.30) School Hall
14th—15th October	-	Black History Month Workshop Reception —Year 6
Thursday 16th October	-	Yrs 3&4 Multi Skills Event
27th—31st October	-	HALF TERM BREAK
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)
Thursday 4th December	-	FOSM Panto
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
Friday 12th December	-	FOSM Christmas Fair (3.00pm—4.30pm)
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