

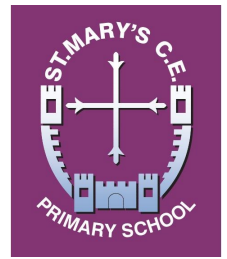
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 7th November 2025

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance Weekly 97.2%
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,

Well done to our Year 6 Tag Rugby Team (article by Miss Driscoll) Thursday 6th November saw a strong and determined team of Yr 6 pupils take part in a local Tag Rugby tournament which was held at Herberts Farm, Saffron Walden. Our team was led by Blake Colgan (Captain) and Woody Boyce (as Vice Captain) - both the boys did a sterling job keeping the team together whilst moving forward, allowing some fantastic team moments for all to be involved. Our team played in the A tournament and needed to finish in the top 4 to progress to the Uttlesford finals. Our team finished a very respectable 5th place, winning 2 games, drawing 1 and losing 3 games—albeit extremely narrowly. With only one or two tries behind the teams that eventually won each match. The matches were exciting, played with determination, respect and passion. Throughout the tournament Blake made some fantastic tags and held the middle ground whilst being brilliantly supported by Marcel, Sid, Shayne and Alfie Michael - who also played their parts in tagging and reaching the try line. Out on the wings Woody and Georgia made great runs for the try line at speed; Nuala, Megan, Hugo and Blossom protected the wings really well, grinding their opponents to a halt at the turnover tag point whilst also making some advances to score at the try line.

The afternoon was full of many wonderful moments that made us feel immensely proud of our pupils. The smiles on their faces, flushed cheeks from all the intense effort and the way they held themselves as a team was simply brilliant. They wore their purple P.E tops with pride. To all of year 6, a huge thank you for all your hard work over the last half term in P.E. And a special thank you to Mr Jarman who attended the event with us, shared his expertise and supported us to the end!

St Mary's Shining Stars of the week

Libby—for excellent engagement and effort 100% of the time!

Penny—for her fantastic effort and superb focus in all lessons!

Sydney—for always being involved in class discussions!

Carter—for his brilliant maths skills. Solving 'fact families' this week

Roux—for working hard in all subjects—well done!

Jackson—for working really hard in English and Maths this week

Aribella—for always putting 100% effort into everything she does!

Casey—for all of his hard work and focus this week

Lily—for growing in confidence and independence

Cody—for brightening the classroom with beautiful art work

Archie—for persevering with fine motor activities and trying really hard with his pencil grip

Henry—for his hard work and dedication in his reading comprehension assessment

Thomas—for excellent perseverance during PE and a great 'can do' attitude!

Oluwanifemi—for always bring a smile to her class!



Uttlesford Foodbank—Harvest Festival Donations—thank you message!

Everyone at Uttlesford Foodbank would like to thank the children, parents and staff of St Mary C of E Primary School for your very generous Harvest Festival collection which weighed a whopping 203.84kg. This is enough to provide over 400 meals! How fantastic is that?



Every month the Uttlesford Food Bank hands out (on average) 5 tonnes of food which is the same as 10 baby elephants! Without the support of children and schools like yours and our amazing community, they couldn't do the work that we do. Harvest donations are so important to keep our shelves topped up after a busy summer and keep us going until all the Christmas goodies come in.

We have been overwhelmed by the level of generosity. Above all, your thoughtfulness will provide so much hope and comfort to those people who are going through a difficult time and will help them while steps are taken to provide more permanent support. Once again thank you so much for your generous donation. Best wishes from everyone at Uttlesford Foodbank.

School Uniform Update— The Importance of Wearing School Uniform

Our uniform plays a key role in school life, helping to foster a sense of belonging, equality, and pride among all students.

Wearing the correct uniform:

- **Promotes a sense of community** – when all students dress alike, it encourages unity and reduces distractions related to clothing choices.
- **Supports equality** – uniform ensures that all students are treated equally, regardless of background or personal fashion preferences.
- **Encourages discipline and professionalism** – wearing the uniform correctly reflects the values and expectations of our school.
- **Ensures safety and identification** – a consistent uniform makes it easier to identify students both on school grounds and during trips or outings.

We kindly ask that all students continue to wear the full school uniform each day, including logo sweatshirts, cardigans, and PE tops. Please do check the school website for the current uniform policy.

We appreciate that school uniforms can be expensive. To help, we have worked closely with Gray Palmer (our uniform provider), who have kindly sourced a more affordable alternative to the items they currently supply:

- **Purple Sweatshirt with Embroidered School Logo** Current price: £19.00 | New price: £12.00
- **Purple Cardigan with Embroidered School Logo** Current price: £21.00 | New price: £14.00
- **Purple PE Top with Printed School Logo** Current price: £23.95 | New price: £14.00

The transition to the new prices will happen immediately. Gray Palmer will sell any remaining old-priced items before the new-priced items are available. If you are experiencing any difficulties obtaining the uniform, please contact the school office so we can provide support. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a positive and focused learning environment for all students.

House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 56 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 51 points was Fire House, in 3rd place with 46 points was Air House and in 4th place with 44 points was Earth House.

Well done everybody!



**1st place
(56 points)**



**2nd place
(51 points)**



**3rd place
(46 points)**



**4th place
(44 points)**

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>

HERO

Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day

5 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	20 minutes	25 minutes
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equates to a yearly loss of:



Five minutes late per day adds up to three learning days lost in a school year

If 15 minutes late each day you will miss two full weeks of school in one year

Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!

GOOD TIMEKEEPING



What to do the night before:

Get everything you need for school ready



Set your alarm allowing plenty of time

Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school



Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime

Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours!



Five minutes late per day soon adds up to three days of lost school time

For mental health support for young people
visit: www.youngminds.org.uk

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**



CHILDREN'S TENNIS LESSONS

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAYS 3.15PM-4PM
AUTUMN/WINTER TERM



AGES 5-11 YEARS OLD

6
PLACES
LEFT

AGILITY/BALANCE/CO-ORDINATION
EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN RACKET
BRING IT !

CONTACT ALI: 07581087325
alistennis@outlook.com



Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Autumn & Winter Term

Monday 3rd November	-	Parent Consultation Booking System Opens
Wednesday 5th November	-	Dolce Special Lunch Menu
Thursday 6th November	-	Year 1—Year 6 Book Look (8.30am—9.00am)
	-	Reception—Year 6 Book Look (3.15pm—4.00pm)
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	-	Reception—Year 6 Book Look (8.30am—9.00am)
	-	Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church (11.00am)
	-	Parent/Carers Consultations (3.30pm—6.30pm) Year 1 only
Tuesday 11th November	-	Parent/Carers Consultations (3.30pm—6.30pm)
Thursday 13th November	-	Parent/Carers Consultations (3.30pm—6.30pm) - NOT YEAR 1
Monday 1st December	-	Friends of St Mary's AGM (3.30pm—4.15pm)
Friday 5th December	-	FOSM KS2 Disco
Saturday 6th December	-	School Choir—Spirit of Christmas at St Mary's Church (1.30pm)
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
Monday 5th January	-	Inset Day
Tuesday 6th January	-	First Day back for pupils
6th—8th January	-	Year 5 Residential Trip (Burwell House)

