

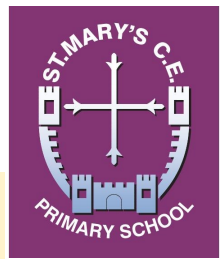
# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 12th December 2025

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



Attendance Weekly 95.7%  
Attendance Year 96.4%

*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,

## Nativity

Our EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 children delivered an exceptional Nativity performance this week, and we could not be more proud of them. The production was truly outstanding from start to finish. Every child demonstrated remarkable commitment as they prepared for the performance, learning their lines with enthusiasm and determination—entirely of their own accord. Their dedication was evident on stage. The costumes were a particular highlight, bringing colour, character, and charm to each scene. The choreography was beautifully executed, and the music added warmth and energy throughout the performance. We were especially impressed by the children's speaking and listening skills; whether narrating, acting, or singing, they performed with confidence, clarity, and excellent teamwork.

We extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers for their ongoing support and for your hard work in preparing such wonderful costumes. Your contribution helped make the production a memorable success for our school community. A huge thank you must also go to Mr Brown, Miss Sykes, Mrs Holmes, Miss Nicholson and the whole of the EYFS and KS1 staffing team for their hard work, creativity, and dedication in preparing the children so thoroughly for this year's performance.



## Spirit of Christmas

The school choir delivered a wonderful performance at the *Spirit of Christmas* concert, held at St Mary's Church over the weekend. The event brought the local community together to celebrate the festive season through music, with the choir performing their chosen song - O Holy Night - as well as songs with the Saffron Walden Choral Society and other local schools. Their confident singing and harmonies created a warm and joyful atmosphere and the

concert was warmly received by family, friends and members of the community, making it a memorable and uplifting occasion for everyone who attended. Well done for all your hard work! Thank you so much to Mrs Potter and Miss Hunter on their sterling work with our school choir—who continue to go from strength to strength!



## St Mary's Shining Stars of the week

**Amber**—for always being kind and respectful when play leading

**Hilai**—for her effort in showing the school values

**Elsie**—for fantastic focus and effort in reading

**Lizzie**—for excellent effort in her writing activities

**Sid**—for always putting the effort into his play leading role

**Megan**—for pushing herself during class HIIT sessions

**Eliza**—for her beautiful angel performance in the nativity

**Elif**—for her enthusiastic singing throughout the nativity performance

**Franek**—for all your insightful comments especially during Science

**Linda**—for always working hard and for her development and progress in writing and reading

**Vezenga**—for always showing wonderful manners and trying hard with her work

**Charlie**—for always lending a hand to Mr Clark in lessons and for his tiny table championships

**Paloma**—for her continued effort and focus, also putting her hand up on the carpet

**Freya**—for always contributing to class discussions and showing real effort towards learning this week

**Mason**—for always being willing to help out in the classroom and approaching all learning with enthusiasm

**James**—for showing respect to his peers and teachers and always listening attentively



## House triumphs!

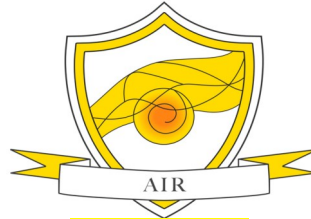
These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 70 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 67 points was Fire House, in 3rd place with 62 points was Air House and in 4th place with 53 points was Earth House. Well done everybody!



**1st place  
(70 points)**



**2nd place  
(67 points)**



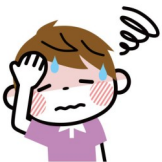
**3rd place  
(62 points)**



**4th place  
(53 points)**

## Cheerleading

*Hello, I am the cheerleading captain, it has been an amazing experience doing a cheer dance for the past six weeks. Last week we were trying to perfect our routine. Finally, on the 4th December we filmed the routine and it was epic! Although at the end of one of the videos the chefs came out of the kitchen! In the end we managed to get a clean routine, then we all watched it and it was brilliant. We have only two people to thank for this, and that is Carron Shaw who choreographed the routine, and our fantastic head of P.E. Ms Driscoll who did all of the filming and arranged it all. It was so fun!!! By Claudia Ricketts Year 6*



## Keeping the School Healthy

We would like to politely remind you that if your child has a sickness bug and/or diarrhoea, they must remain off school for a minimum of **48 hours after the last episode of illness**. If symptoms continue beyond 48 hours, NHS and Essex County Council guidelines advise seeking medical advice from your GP. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our school community healthy.

## Bedazzle Accessible Performing Arts Academy

On Thursday morning, this week, the school was treated to a fabulous performance of A Christmas Carol, which was delivered by the Saffron Walden-based Bedazzle Accessible Performing Arts Academy. It was engaging, interactive performance—and our pupils absolutely loved it. Chloe, from Year 6 reported: 'I think it was really sweet how the panto gave people who wouldn't usually get a chance to act in productions new experiences and opportunities.' Everybody at St Mary's would like to thank the Friends of St Mary's team for arranging and funding this amazing opportunity for our pupils at this magical time of the year.



Have a lovely weekend—one week to go!

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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

## Admissions September 2026

### Children born between 01/09/2021—31/08/2022



As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 10 November 2025**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above

### Head Lice



Recently, cases of head lice have been identified across the school and we wanted to make sure you were kept informed. Whilst head lice are harmless, it is important that children are checked regularly so that any head lice can be dealt with quickly and before they are allowed to spread.

As there has been an outbreak, we suggest that you check your child's head as soon as possible. Here is some simple advice you may wish to follow to keep head lice outbreaks to a minimum.

- Check your child's hair regularly
- Treat head lice as soon as you spot them
- You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice
- Wash clothing and bedding in a 90 degree wash

Further advice on the treatment of head lice can be found on NHS website.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

### Pixie Post Office



Children are invited to bring their Christmas cards to the Pixie Post Office, located in the school office.

Please remember to address each envelope with the recipient's name and year group.

### Special Christmas Lunch—Wednesday 17th December



Dolce will be offering the children a special Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 17th December**. Please pre-order as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment. Pre-Orders to be placed via the School Grid by **Tuesday 9th December**. If you experience any trouble logging into your account, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

**Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper to school on this day**

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH

December 2025

## MAINS

ROAST TURKEY, STUFFING & CHIPOLATA  
PUFF PASTRY CHRISTMAS CRACKER (VG)

## SIDES

ROAST POTATOES, CARROTS, PEAS, SPROUTS, GRAVY

## DESSERTS

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING & CUSTARD (V)  
REINDEER SHORTBREAD (VG)  
FRESH FRUIT





# Diary Dates

## Key Dates for the Autumn & Winter Term

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)
Tuesday 9th December	-	Year 4 Greek Day
Wednesday 10th December	-	EYFS/KS1 Scoot Fit
Thursday 11th December	-	FOSM Panto
	-	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12th December	-	FOSM Christmas Fair (4.30pm—6.30pm)
Tuesday 16th December	-	Reception Polar Express Day
Wednesday 17th December	-	Christmas Lunch (Christmas Jumper)
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)
Friday 9th January	-	Year 4 Swimming Starts (5 weeks)
Monday 23rd January	-	Reception, Year 3 & Year 5 Explorer Dome
Tuesday 24th February	-	Years 1&2 Saffron Hall Visit
Friday 6th March	-	Parent/Carer Book Look
Tuesday 10th March	-	Parent/Carer Consultations
Thursday 12th March	-	Parent/Carer Consultations

