

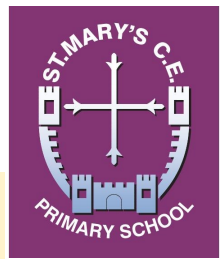
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 19th December 2025

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance Weekly 94.5%
Attendance Year 96.3%

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,

Christmas Fair

Hello from Friends of St Mary's!

What a year 2025 has brought us! Here's a roundup of my highlights from the year!

We started our fundraising efforts with our Easter Rainbow Raffle, which was a huge success, raising just over £1,000!

And who can forget the Summer Fete and the hot weather! We had inflatables, a BBQ, ice creams, traditional games, the famous 'soak the teacher' (and a selection of pupils!) and our wonderful cake stall. We were blown away with the attendance, and it was even opened by the Mayor of Saffron Walden. This raised just under £3,000!

The recent St Mary's Christmas Fair was a truly magical way to continue the school's Christmas festivities that had already begun! The hall and classrooms were full of happy, smiling faces as families enjoyed a wonderful range of stalls, including a beautiful cake stall, Guess the Name of the Elf, the ever-popular ball or brussel sprout lucky dip, glitter tattoos, make-your-own reindeer food, festive crafting with decorate-your-own crackers and baubles and the beautiful handmade crafts from all the children.

A very special highlight was the visit from the wonderful Father Christmas, who welcomed children into our very own grotto, spreading festive cheer and creating some truly magical memories. With hot dogs sizzling, hot chocolate flowing and such a warm, joyful atmosphere throughout, it really was a perfect Christmassy afternoon/evening for everyone! (See more photos on page 4)

A special mention to Mrs Gordon Gutierrez for the most beautiful Mexican piñatas that she made for the children's enjoyment. The children certainly gave them a good thwack during the fair, and they absolutely loved taking part in a Mexican tradition at Christmas time - it was such a brilliant addition to the fair!

We thank you for all your wonderful messages and compliments since!

We also recently held the famous Key Stage 2 disco which saw the party vibes in full swing - there were glow sticks, sweet and savoury treats, tattoos, and bubbles. More importantly, DJ Pike played the very best tunes (the 'oldies' being the most popular would you believe!) Look out for the Key Stage 1 disco in February!

Together, an UNBELIEVABLE **£3,900** was raised from the recent disco, Christmas fair, and Christmas raffle and the FOSM team couldn't be happier!!

I would like to take this opportunity to personally say a massive thank you to Francesca and Mel, all the committee members, volunteers, school staff for giving up their time - a shout out to Mr Jarman for supporting our ideas! - to local businesses, friends of the school, and to the wonderful families and friends who have supported us in various ways - we truly couldn't do it without you...

Please, if you'd like to get involved in the future, we would love to hear from you. We will welcome you with open arms! No experience is needed at all - whether you can spare a little time at an event, help behind the scenes, can provide a raffle prize, a sponsorship or have a new idea to share, every bit of support makes a huge difference to the children of St Mary's.

Please get in touch at pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk.

It leaves me to say a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at FOSM - here's to an exciting 2026, where we will see more events, trips, workshops, and above all, smiles all round!

All the very best,
Jess - Chairman



Super Stars of the Week

Mohammad— for always being a behaviour role model in Year 4

Sage—for his excellent MFL day work

Lily—for her effort in art and producing a wonderful Northern Light picture

Maddison—for her enthusiasm in the nativity

Ladybird class—for all their hard work this term

Hattie—for always being kind when playing games

Amber-May—for achieving the Super Badger Award as a St John Ambulance Badger

Nuala—for always doing the right thing, putting in her best effort and being a fantastic role model

Hafiza—for always being kind

Shayne—looking out for others and being a good friend

Woody for being a reading role model to the class

Archie—for super effort when writing his non-chronological report

Isla—for improvement in her writing, independence and vocabulary

Harry—for such independence this term



House triumphs!

Well done to Water House who won the overall house prize for this term and received their reward earlier this week. Well done everybody!

P.E. achievements: Miss Driscoll—P.E. Coordinator

We have had such a fantastic end to this half term with P.E achievements. Last week the Cheerleading Squad completed the final piece to all their hard work, the film was submitted to the judges. They managed to clock up 12 hours of practice. Perfecting their marching, round offs, formations and displaying all our school values. The six weeks flew by – the tears and belly laughs made it a journey to remember. The cheer squad have been invited to perform their routine at the dance and gymnastics show next term at SWCHS. We can't wait to share the performance with you! (The date will be shared when we have it.)



As we reflect on this terms achievements and activities that have taken place in our school, we are extremely proud of all our pupils and classes for all their continued hard work and determination to succeed. Every child has had the opportunity to take part and represent the school. And they have done it superably – as always!

Our final Sports shout out for 2025 is for the roaring success in our class challenges. This year saw a record amount of St Mary's children make the top 5 on the leader table across all our local schools. What a wonderful achievement for our school. This has led to some more medals being awarded just in time for Christmas. Well done Team St-Mary's, you really do make us all so extremely proud! Have a wonderful Christmas and see in 2026 for Indoor Athletics!



As we draw the end of our last week of the Autumn/Winter Term, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this term and wish all our children and families a safe, happy, and relaxing Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year on Tuesday 6th January at 8.30am.

Have a great Christmas and New Year!

Mr C. D. Jarman

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





Friends of St Mary's Christmas Fair 2025





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn/Winter & Spring Term

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



Reminder: Pre-Ordering School Dinners



A reminder to all parents and carers that **school dinners must be pre-ordered via School Grid**. Orders need to be placed **no later than 8.55am** on the day the meal is required. All information about School Dinners, including how to place, can be found on the **school website**.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping our kitchen staff plan and prepare meals efficiently.

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. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above.