

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 10th July 2026

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 94.3%

Attendance Year 95.7%

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,

A Message from the Chair of Governors—To the Whole School Community

As we come to the end of another academic year I want to thank you all for continuing to support our wonderful school. I deliberately addressed this to the Whole School Community as you all play such an important role in making the school what it is. A place where children are safe and supported and in an environment where they can learn and realise their full potential. Their behaviour and academic achievement continue to make me so proud to be associated with the school. So, thank you all.

I have been a school governor for 8 years including the last 4 and a bit years as Chair of Governors. I feel it's now time to step down from the role and so will be retiring as a Governor on 15 July 2026. I am very confident that I leave behind an excellent Board of Governors who will continue to oversee and support the school's development and prosperity. The school had a good Ofsted Report, is financially stable, provides first class provision for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and has full classrooms. It's a great school and one you should be proud to be part of.

So it is with some regret that I am retiring but the time has come for colleagues with fresh ideas and energy to take the reins. I wish them, and all in the school community, well.

Will Coldwell, who is the current Vice Chair, will be Acting Chair until an election for the new chair and vice chair takes place early in the new academic year.

Thanks again for all your support.

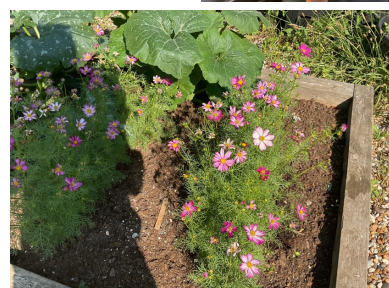
Best Wishes and God Bless.

John Westnedge—Chair of Governors

Forest School update—by Mrs McInnes

Another great day today at Forest School this week, before it got too hot - we watered the plants in the Eco Garden which are doing really well despite the heat. The children were so thrilled to discover some delicious looking courgettes and beans! We took them to the kitchen and had a great chat with the chefs who told us they would make some courgette cake. The children can't wait to eat this, some of them have never had cake like this before with healthy veg inside.

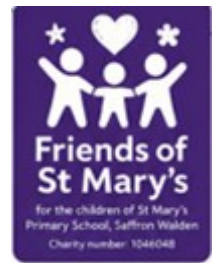
Brilliant to see so much learning going on and so many connections being made between growing plants and the food we eat. They showed great listening and respect and worked so well as a team, helping me to find the juiciest courgettes with their beady eyes!



Friends of St Mary's - Thank You !

As we reach the end of another fantastic school year, I wanted to take a moment, on behalf of Friends of St Mary's, to simply say thank you.

When I look back at everything we've achieved together this year, I feel incredibly proud. Together, we have raised an amazing **£9,868** for our wonderful school. That's an incredible achievement, and every single penny has come from the kindness, generosity and support of our amazing school community.



Friends of St Mary's has grown from strength to strength this year, and that is entirely because of the people around us. To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, staff and every parent and carer who has supported us by attending events, buying raffle tickets, donating prizes, volunteering their time or simply cheering us on - thank you. You have all played a part.

I couldn't write this without giving a very special mention to Francesca and Mel. They are quite simply amazing and always "on it!" No matter what the challenge, they are there with ideas, encouragement, hard work and plenty of laughter. I'm incredibly lucky to have them by my side. The three of us, along with our fantastic volunteers, all share one simple goal - to create lasting memories and wonderful experiences for the children of St Mary's. We genuinely hope that every event has brought smiles, laughter and happy memories for your families too.

Our volunteers are nothing short of incredible. They give up evenings, weekends and family time, often working quietly behind the scenes so that our events run smoothly. Many even dip into their own pockets to help make things extra special. Their kindness, dedication and generosity never go unnoticed, and I am endlessly grateful for everything they do.

One of the things that means the most to us is creating a real sense of community. We want Friends of St Mary's to be about so much more than fundraising. We want families to come together, make friends, enjoy themselves and create memories that our children will remember long after they've left primary school.

To all the staff at St Mary's - thank you. Time and time again you've stepped forward to volunteer, support us and help make every event possible. Whether you've been soaked at the fete, danced at the discos or simply helped us behind the scenes, we couldn't do it without you.

This year, we've seen one of our biggest achievements become a reality - the children's toilet refurbishments. Seeing those beautiful, modern facilities and knowing that our children now have somewhere they can feel comfortable and proud of makes every planning meeting, every late night and every event worthwhile. It's a reminder that, when a community comes together, amazing things really do happen.

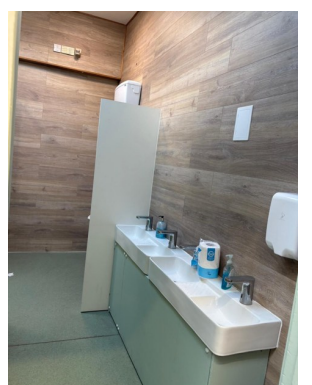
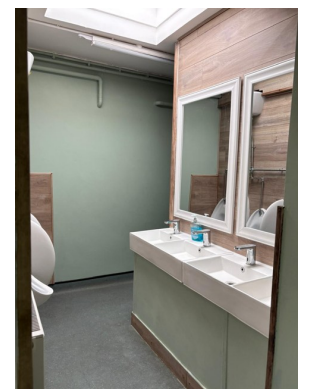
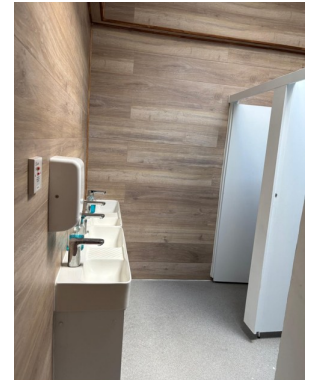
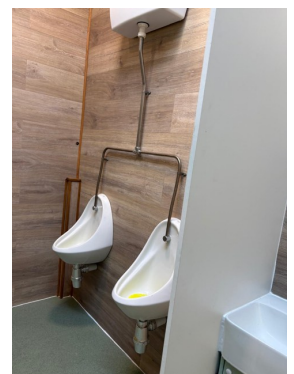
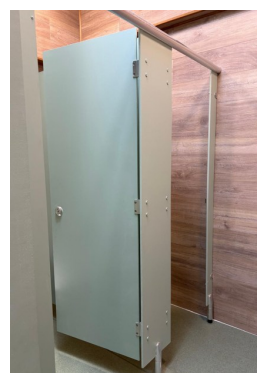
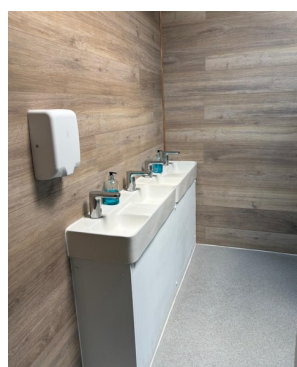
To every parent and carer who has supported us throughout the year, I hope you know just how much of a difference you've made. Every pound spent and every hour given has helped improve the school experience for every child at St Mary's.

We're so proud of what we've achieved together, but we're already looking ahead! We have some exciting plans for the next academic year as we begin fundraising for improvements to our play-ground. We can't wait to continue building on everything we've started and making St Mary's an even more wonderful place for our children.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in Friends of St Mary's, for supporting us and for making this such a special year.

Have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you in September for another exciting year!

Jess - Chairman



Smartphone Free Childhood: Explorer Passport - brand new!

This summer, give your child something more valuable than entertainment: the chance to discover what they're capable of

The Smartphone Free Childhood **IRL Explorer Passport** is a free, printable passport packed with simple, screen-free adventures for children aged 7–11. Designed to be completed mostly independently, it encourages children to explore, create, solve problems and try new things – helping them build confidence while discovering what they enjoy, what they're good at, and just how capable they really are. You can find further information and a link to download and print it here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/help-your-child-build-confidence-this-summer-with-the-irl-explorer-passport>



The Amazing Generation, by Jonathan Haidt

A fantastic read aimed at 9-12 year olds to help them understand how tech affects their brains and lives: the book offers a positive, uplifting guide for families to read together or for children to enjoy independently: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/the-amazing-generation-by-jonathan-haidt>

Social media ban for under-16s

As you're probably aware, the UK Government has announced it will ban social media platforms from providing their services to under-16s. Here are Smartphone Free Childhood's answers to the most common questions parents have been asking: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/uk-social-media-under-16-faq>

Alternatives to smartphones

Smartphone Free Childhood have put together this guide to the best child-friendly 'non-smart' phone options out there: simple phones, follow-on phones for older kids, GPS trackers, data-free SIMs, and more: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

With just one week to go of term—I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the warm, Summer weather. Don't forget that we break up on Friday 17th July at 1.30pm.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Sponsored Summer Read Challenge!

As 2026 is the National Year of Reading, we're inviting all of our children to take part in our Sponsored Summer Read Challenge this summer!

Whether it's books, comics, magazines, newspapers or even audiobooks, every page turned is another step towards helping Friends of St Mary's raise money for future projects and opportunities for our school. It's the perfect opportunity to discover new stories, keep those reading skills sharp over the holidays and have lots of fun along the way!

Children are encouraged to ask family and friends to sponsor them, then see just how many books and other reading materials they can enjoy over the summer holidays.

What's up for grabs?

- The class that reads the most will win an exciting Movie & Snacks Afternoon!
- The top reader in the winning class will get to choose the movie (from a selection) and the snacks!

Reading has never been so rewarding, so let's make the most of the National Year of Reading and see if we can make this our biggest summer reading challenge yet!

Copies of the sponsorship form will be sent home with all children before the end of term but we attach it if you're able to print. If you need any extra copies, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Completed sponsorship forms and any money raised should be returned to school by Friday 11th September 2026.

Happy reading, and good luck!



KS2 (Years 3-6) Free School Meals – Important Update for September 2026

From September 2026, the Government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). From the start of the new academic year, all parents and carers receiving Universal Credit will be eligible to apply, regardless of their household income.

If your child will be in Year 3 or above from September 2026, they may be eligible for Free School Meals if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (*please note: for applications made before the end of the Summer Term 2026, there is still a household income threshold of £7,400 or less. From September 2026, this income threshold will no longer apply.*)
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Even if you have previously been told that you were not eligible, we strongly encourage you to submit a new application. Applications can be made now, and we would appreciate it if they could be completed before the end of the Summer Term.

Applying is quick and easy, taking around five minutes. You will need your National Insurance number to complete the application. **Please apply online via Essex County Council:** <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

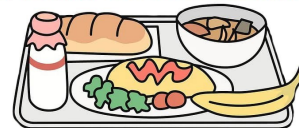
If your child is currently receiving benefits-related Free School Meals, you will also need to submit a new application for the 2026–2027 academic year. The transitional protection arrangements have now ended, meaning all eligible families must have their entitlement reassessed.

As well as providing your child with a free, healthy meal every school day, a successful application helps the school receive additional government funding through the Pupil Premium.

This funding enables us to provide extra educational support, resources and enrichment opportunities that benefit eligible pupils.

If you think you may be eligible, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need help completing your application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Free School Meals



Are you entitled?



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S PRESENTS

SPONSORED SUMMER READ



Read. Raise. Reward!

Can you read as many books, comics, magazines, newspapers or audiobooks as possible over the summer holidays while raising money for Friends of St Mary's?



Every page you read helps support exciting projects and experiences for everyone at school!



WINNING CLASS MOVIE & SNACKS AFTERNOON!



The class that reads the most books over the summer will enjoy a fantastic movie afternoon with delicious snacks!



TOP READER IN THE WINNING CLASS

The child who reads the most books in the winning class will get to:



CHOOSE THE MOVIE (from a selection)



CHOOSE THE SNACK (from a selection)

NAME: _____

CLASS (SEPTEMBER): _____



SPONSOR ME!



SPONSOR NAME	£ PER BOOK OR DONATION	AMOUNT PAID ✓

THANK YOU!



MY READING RECORD



TITLE	TYPE (Book/Comic/ Magazine/Newspaper/ Audiobook)	✓

TOTAL ITEMS READ: _____

PARENT/CARER DECLARATION

I confirm that the reading record above is accurate.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

HAPPY
READING!



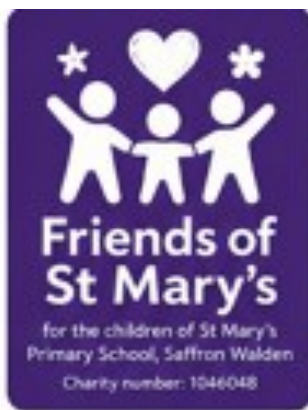
RETURN INFORMATION



Please return your completed sponsorship form and money to school by:

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026





FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

2025 - 2026

What an Amazing Year!

TOGETHER WE RAISED

£9,868

♥ THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE! ♥

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM



3 DISCOS

CHRISTMAS
FAIR RAFFLE

RAFFLE
TICKET

CHRISTMAS
FAIR



RAINBOW
RAFFLE



QUIZ NIGHT

QUIZ
NIGHT!



QUIZ NIGHT
RAFFLE



SUMMER
FETE



PARENTKIND
LOTTERY

Parentkind
Lottery

SPONSORSHIPS



TESCO
GRANT

TESCO

WHAT YOUR MONEY HAS FUNDED

WE HAVE FUNDED
THE CHILDREN'S
SCHOOL TOILET
REFURBISHMENT!



A cleaner, brighter, better space for our children.

THANK
YOU!

To every volunteer, sponsor,
parent, carer and supporter.
**TOGETHER WE'VE MADE
A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE
CHILDREN OF ST MARY'S.**

*We couldn't
do it without
you!*

Thank You!

♥ TO OUR AMAZING ♥

SPONSORS & DONORS!

Your generosity helps us create wonderful opportunities and unforgettable experiences for the children of St Mary's. ♥

We are so grateful for your support! ♥



Ross Nursing Services ♥

LEISURE CENTRE



Lord Butler
Leisure Centre ♥

FILL'S
ON WHEELS

Fills Cafe ♥

Magic Ices



Magic Ices ♥



ELECTRICAL COURSES LTD

Electrical Courses UK ♥



ADAMS
HARRISON
SOLICITORS

Adams Harrison
Solicitors ♥

CHATER'S

Chater's ♥

POPPY'S BARN

COUNTRYSIDE TEA ROOM · CLAVERING · ESSEX

Poppy's Barn ♥

Thank you for believing in our school community.

You make a difference!

FOSM ♥

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Together,
we achieve
great things! ♥

14TH SEPTEMBER 2026

WE CELEBRATE

ROALD DAHL'S BIRTHDAY!

AND IT JUST
SO HAPPENS TO BE
THE NATIONAL
YEAR OF
READING!

FIND A
GOLDEN
TICKET
IN THEIR

FOSM WILL BE OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO

FIND/WIN A
GOLDEN TICKET

IN THEIR
"WONDERLICIOUS"
BARS!

WONDERLICIOUS
BAR

A MAGICAL TREAT
FULL OF WONDER!

ONLY
£2.50
EACH



GOLDEN
TICKET

AMAZING PRIZES TO BE WON!



A CLASS
NON UNIFORM DAY



A MINI PICNIC WITH
YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHER



EXCITING GIFTS



VOUCHERS

AND SO MUCH MORE!



Friends of
St Mary's

for the children of St Mary's
Primary School, Saffron Walden

Charity number: 1046048

PRE-ORDER NOW!

PRE-ORDER VIA THE LINK PROVIDED
IN THE FOSM SHOP!



[https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/
the-friends-of-st-marys-parent-teacher-associations-shop](https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/the-friends-of-st-marys-parent-teacher-associations-shop)

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND HELP US CREATE WONDERFUL MEMORIES!

Children's Vision Screening and Eye Health

Getting your child's free NHS eye test is important because early detection of vision problems means treatment can start sooner, leading to better outcomes and preventing long-term issues such as reduced or permanent loss of vision.



Commissioned by

Regular eye tests are essential as children often do not realise they have a problem, and unidentified vision issues can affect their learning, development, and everyday activities.

Children aged 4–5 years are offered a vision screening check at school by our trained team. If the screening suggests your child may have reduced vision, we will contact you, recommending a referral to a hospital specialist or local optician for an NHS eye test.

If you have already been contacted but have not yet attended, please arrange this as soon as possible. Even if your child did not need a referral, it's important to remember that vision can change as children grow.

Early assessment and treatment can make a big difference to your child's vision and development. Even if your child did not need a referral, it is important to remember that vision can change as children grow.

Children's eyes are still developing until around 7–8 years of age, and problems are not always obvious. Eye tests are free for all children under 16, and for those under 19 in full-time education. Glasses are also free or subsidised if needed.

w: www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

LORD BUTLER SUMMER CAMPS

WITH ALI'S TENNIS



WEEK 1



10TH 11TH
13TH AND 14TH
AUGUST

2-4 PM

AGES 5-12

WEEK 2



17TH 18TH
20TH 21ST
AUGUST

2-4 PM

AGES 5-12



TENNIS
FOR
EVERYONE



EQUIPMENT
PROVIDED



IN SAFFRON
WALDEN



PARKING
AVAILABLE



FACILITIES
ON SITE

**BOOK
NOW!**

PICK AND CHOOSE ANY DAYS



07581 087325



ALISTENNIS@OUTLOOK.COM

**HAVE FUN,
LEARN NEW
SKILLS, PLAY
GAMES AND
MATCHES!**

Booking
Required



KIDS BOOK CLUB

At Saffron Walden Library

**THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
2-3PM**

Come along to our new book club, aimed at
ages 8-12

Read new stories

Make new friends

Take part in book-themed games and
activities

Book your place at the 'Hello' desk



Upcoming Events

MAY
1
LEGOLAND DAY
(FOSM PERK!)

MAY
10
6:00PM
FOSM/CHATER'S QUIZ
NIGHT

MAY
21
GLADIATOR 'STEEL'
VISIT

JUL
4
TIME TBC
SUMMER FETE

AUG
SPONSORED SUMMER
READ

SEP
14
ROALD DAHL DAY -
"WONDERLICIOUS!"

DEC
11
4:00PM - 6:00PM
CHRISTMAS FAIR

More to come!

pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk



Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Summer Term

Friday 10th July	-	Reception Celebration Assembly
Friday 10th July	-	FOSM KS2 Leavers Disco (5.00pm—6.30pm)
Monday 13th July	-	Move Up Afternoon
Tuesday 14th July	-	Yrs 5/6 Performance—6.00pm
Wednesday 15th July	-	Year 3 End of Year Celebrations
Wednesday 15th July	-	Leavers Lunch—Dolce Special Menu
Thursday 16th July	-	R26 Transition Morning (Group A—9.30-10.25, Group B—10.30-11.25)
Friday 17th July (20th July INSET Day)	-	Leavers Service at St Mary's Church (9.30am)
	-	Last day of term—1.30pm finish

Autumn 2026 Term

Tuesday 1st September	-	INSET DAY
Wednesday 2nd September	-	INSET DAY
Thursday 3rd September	-	First day back for Pupils
	-	R26 Group A—Stay and Play (9.30—10.30)
	-	R26 Group B—Stay and Play (11.00—12.00)
	-	Year 1 and Year 2 Meet the Teacher (3.15pm)
	-	Year 3 Meet the Teacher (3.30pm)
Friday 4th September	-	Year 4 and Year 5 Meet the Teacher (3.15pm)
	-	Year 6 Meet the Teacher (3.30pm)
Monday 14th September	-	Reception—First Full Day (8.30am—3.15pm)
Thursday 10th September	-	Year 1—First Forest School
Thursday 17th September	-	Reception—First Forest School

