

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 17th July 2026

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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 94.5%

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 Thank You to Our St Mary's Community

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped make St Mary's such a happy, caring and successful school. To our incredible pupils, thank you for your enthusiasm, curiosity and determination. You fill our school with energy, laughter and a love of learning, and we are immensely proud of everything you have achieved—not only academically, but through the kindness, resilience and respect you show every day. To our dedicated staff, thank you for your commitment, care and hard work. Your passion and professionalism inspire our children to be the very best they can be, and I am truly grateful for everything you do. To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support and trust. Working in partnership enables our children to thrive, and we greatly value the encouragement you give both at home and in school.

Thank you also to our governors for their guidance and commitment, and to our wider school community—including our wonderful FOSM team, volunteers, parish and local organisations—for the generosity, time and support you give throughout the year.

As another successful year comes to a close, we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for. I hope the summer holidays bring you time to rest, enjoy precious moments with family and friends, and create many happy memories.

Thank you for your continued support of St Mary's. We look forward to welcoming you all back in September. Until then, have a safe, restful and happy summer.

Thank You to Our Chair of Governors

As we come to the end of another successful school year, I would like to express my sincere thanks to John Westnedge for his outstanding service to St Mary's. John has been a dedicated governor for the past eight years, including the last four years as Chair of Governors. Throughout his time with us, he has provided exceptional leadership, unwavering support and a genuine commitment to ensuring the very best for our pupils, staff and wider school community. As Chair, John has been approachable, thoughtful and highly organised, offering wise guidance and calm leadership through both the opportunities and challenges that every school experiences.

His encouragement and expertise have been invaluable, and his dedication has helped St Mary's continue to grow and flourish. The strength of any successful school relies on the support and challenge provided by its governing body, and John has led ours with integrity, professionalism and kindness. His commitment to the school has made a lasting difference, and his contribution will be remembered with great appreciation.



On behalf of everyone at St Mary's, we would like to thank John for his eight years of dedicated service and wish him every happiness and success for the future. It has been a privilege to work alongside him, and he leaves with our heartfelt gratitude for all he has done for our school community.

Thank You and Farewell to Our Leaving Staff

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we also say farewell to a number of valued members of staff who are leaving St Mary's to begin exciting new chapters in their careers. Miss Humphreys, Miss Sykes, Mrs Bonomo-Jackson, Ms Pariskova and Miss Dangerfield leave us for new career opportunities, some of these members of staff are beginning on the very first stages of their own teaching careers—how exciting!

**Thank You and
Farewell**

Each of them has made a unique and lasting contribution to our school community. Through their dedication, professionalism and genuine care for our children, they have helped shape the lives of so many pupils and supported our school in countless ways. Their commitment, enthusiasm and kindness have been greatly appreciated by colleagues, children and families alike.

While we are naturally sad to see them leave, we are also incredibly proud as they embark on new opportunities and challenges. We thank them for everything they have given to St Mary's and for the positive impact they have made during their time with us.

On behalf of everyone at St Mary's, we wish each of our leaving staff every happiness and success in the future. We hope they look back on their time here with great fondness and know that they will always remain part of the St Mary's family. Thank you for everything you have done for our school. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you all the very best for the future.

Polite reminder—School dinner account

Please could you check your child's school dinner account and clear any outstanding balance as soon as possible on School Grid. If the balance remains unpaid, the school will need to cover the cost of the meals provided, which places additional pressure on the school budget.

If you believe you have already made a payment or have any questions about your account, please contact the school office



Find a Golden Ticket in our Wonderlicious Bars!

This year, we're celebrating Roald Dahl's Birthday on Monday 14th September in a truly wonderlicious way! Better still, 2026 is the National Year of Reading, making it the perfect opportunity to inspire children to discover the magic of books while having a little fun along the way.

Friends of St Mary's are offering our delicious Wonderlicious Bars, each priced at £2.50.

Hidden inside selected bars will be Golden Tickets, with fantastic prizes to be won, including:

- A class non-uniform day
- A mini picnic with a favourite teacher
- Exciting gifts
- Vouchers

And plenty more magical surprises!

Pre-order your Wonderlicious Bars now via our Zeffy shop: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/the-friends-of-st-marys-parent-teacher-associations-shop?> or scan the QR code. Bars will be given out on the 14th September.



Every bar purchased helps Friends of St Mary's continue making a difference for our children. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards improving our school playground, helping us create an even more exciting, inclusive and enjoyable outdoor space for every child.

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support. Good luck... we hope you find a Golden Ticket!

Young Voices

We have an exciting opportunity to attend the Young Voices concert at the O2 arena in January next year. **This will be open to all KS2 children that sign up to choir from September. Children will need to attend choir weekly (Tuesday lunchtimes) in order to come on the trip as there is lots to learn!** Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Parents of current Year 4 children - please note that the date will not clash with the Year 5 residential.

We have not attended this event before so I do not have all the details as yet but I do know that it involves a late night so you may want to consider this when signing your child up. At the moment, we are limited to 30 places - if we have more interest than this, I will look into whether or not we can take more children - we will be travelling by coach. There is also an opportunity for parents to buy tickets and come to the event as well as official merchandise to buy for the children. Again, I will send all this information out once I know who has signed up. More information can be found here:

<https://youngvoices.co.uk/>

For those parents that have had children in choir before, please note that, due to this concert, we will not be doing the Spirit of Christmas event this year. I apologise for this but there is just not enough time to give both events the attention. We will still perform at the school Christmas service.

Please do pop to Year 3 if you have any questions or send an email via the office. Many thanks—Mrs Potter

Have a great summer and I look forwards to welcoming you all back to St Mary's on **Thursday 3rd September at 8.30am**

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>

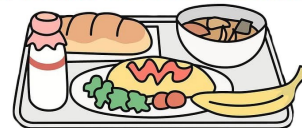
If your child is currently receiving benefits-related Free School Meals, you will also need to submit a new application for the 2026–2027 academic year. The transitional protection arrangements have now ended, meaning all eligible families must have their entitlement reassessed.

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?

Essex County Council - Early Years and Childcare Parents Survey 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Essex County Council is committed to providing outstanding childcare services. But to help us improve we are conducting our annual survey to see how well our program is working.

If you are a parent or carer of a child aged 0-19 years (or 0-25 years for children with SEND), then **we want to hear from you!**

The survey includes questions about:

- Childcare needs for children aged 0-5 years
- Wraparound care for school-aged children
- Childcare during the school holidays (holiday clubs)
- Your child's experience with starting school
- Where you find information about Essex Services

Your information is valued, and your responses will be treated in strictest confidence and will remain anonymous. We ask that you **do not** include any personal details in your responses to this survey, however, if you would like to contact us further about any of the questions asked, please email us at ccdl@essex.gov.uk. The result of the survey will help Early Years and Childcare teams understand the needs of parents and carers in Essex

The survey will be open until Friday the 31st of July and can be accessed through this link - [Essex Early Years and Childcare Survey for Parents 2026 - Essex County Council - Citizen Space](#) or by scanning this QR code below.

Thank you so much for your time.





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 ✓



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: _____



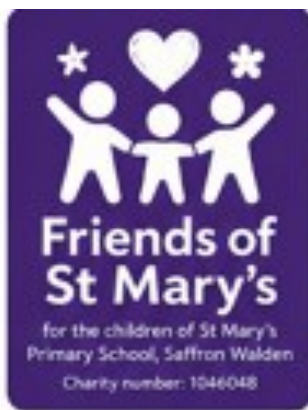
RETURN INFORMATION



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!*

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!

NEW ADDED DATES

FOR
LORD BUTLER
SAFFRON WALDEN

TENNIS
SUMMER FUN!

 **2-3.30 PM**

NEW ADDED DATES

3RD

4TH

6TH

7TH

AUGUST



AGES
5-12YRS



**EQUIPMENT
PROVIDED**
(BRING A RACKET
IF YOU HAVE ONE)



FACILITIES



PARKING



**GREAT WAY FOR
CHILDREN TO
KEEP ACTIVE**



HAVE FUN



**LEARN
NEW SKILLS**



**MAKE NEW
FRIENDS**



Ali's
TENNIS



CALL OR WHATSAPP
07581087325



BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!



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

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

