

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 4th September 2026

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly %

Attendance Year %

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,

Welcome Back to St Mary's!

A very warm welcome back to all of our children and families after what we hope has been a wonderful and relaxing summer break. It has been lovely to see the children returning through our gates, full of smiles, excitement and stories to share. We are especially delighted to welcome our new children and families to the St Mary's community. The new school year is a time for fresh starts, new friendships, exciting learning and lots of opportunities to grow and shine. We are looking forward to another fantastic year together, filled with laughter, kindness, curiosity and the wonderful St Mary's spirit. Let's make it a year to remember!



Along with this week's newsletter—please find attached our **Communication Policy**. Please give this a good read through!

Mobile Free Zone

As part of our Saffron Walden schools' commitment to pupil wellbeing, we will be moving to a smartphone free approach for all of our primary pupils. **This is a phased change** culminating in a full ban on smartphones in primary school from September 2027. We know many children already own devices, so we are providing plenty of notice and clear, practical guidance.

At St Mary's Church of England Primary School, our priority is children's safety, learning and friendships. We recognise that some families need a way to contact children who travel independently; if so, please choose a basic call/text phone which will need to be switched off and stored in the school office during the day.



Why this change?

- Evidence continues to link early smartphone use with poorer mental health, disrupted sleep and attention, exposure to harmful content and cyberbullying, and reduced time for play and in person social interaction.
- We encourage families to delay social media until legal ages and to monitor use of other data enabled devices at home.

What's the timeline?

- Now to August 2027: Only current Year 5–6 pupils who travel independently may bring a phone; it must be switched off and stored during the day in a box in the school office. We strongly recommend a basic call/text handset instead of a smartphone. Our current Year 5 pupils may only have a non-smartphone if it is needed for independent travel.
- From September 2027: No smartphones are permitted for any primary pupil on site or at school activities. If a phone is essential for travel, it must be a non smart (call/text only) device.

How will school manage phones during the day?

- On arrival, phones are switched off and placed in a class phone box stored in the office, and collected at the end of the day.

Additional support

- For non smart alternatives, many retailers offer affordable models (e.g., simple 'brick' phones). Local 'Smartphone Free Childhood' sessions will share tips and answer questions.

Thank you for partnering with us to safeguard children and help them thrive at school. If you have questions or need to discuss reasonable adjustments for medical or accessibility reasons, please contact the school office.

Please read through the attached Mobile Phone Policy which has been sent along with this newsletter (and is also available on our school website). If you have any questions regarding this policy please speak to a member of SLT.

We kindly remind parents, carers and visitors that, for safeguarding reasons, mobile phones must not be used while on school premises. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Term Dates

Please check out this year's terms dates including the inset days which is on page 4 of this newsletter and on the website <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/school-opening-hours-term-dates>.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday 7th September 2026.

Warm regards.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

OUR SCHOOL IS A
MOBILE-FREE
ZONE!

Please keep our school safe today,
By putting your mobile phone away!





St Mary's C. E. (VA) Primary School Term and Holiday Dates for the Academic Year 2026-2027

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
										1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
28	29	30												30													

January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					

 = Schooldays	 = School holidays	 = Bank holidays
 = Weekends	 = School INSET days (non-pupil days)	

Schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Friday 18 December 2026 <i>Half Term 26 October – 30 October</i>	74 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027 <i>Half Term 15 February – 19 February</i>	54 days
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 <i>Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday - 3 May</i>	67 days
		<u>195 days</u>

Please note:

The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.

You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.

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!



ALI'S TENNIS



A **FUN** WAY TO GET INTO TENNIS



MONDAYS
3.15 – 4PM



**INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE AVAILABLE**



**SEPTEMBER –
DECEMBER**

11 SESSIONS



AGES 5 – 12



**ON SITE
AT SCHOOL**



**EQUIPMENT CAN
BE PROVIDED**



**LEARN
NEW SKILLS**



**BUILD
CONFIDENCE**



**HAVE
FUN!**

BOOK NOW!



07581087325



Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Autumn Term

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

