

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 18th September 2026

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 96.8%

Attendance Year 97.4%

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,

A Mark of Musical Success!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with our school community! St Mary's has recently been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication & Improvement by the Greater Essex Music Hub.

This award recognises the value that we place on music across our school and celebrates our continued commitment to developing and improving musical opportunities for our children.

Music is such an important part of school life at St Mary's, from singing in assemblies and performances, to learning instruments, taking part in choir and enjoying a wide range of musical experiences. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and confidence our children show when making and performing music.

A huge well done to all of our children and staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to music. We look forward to continuing to develop our musical opportunities and helping our children discover the joy of music!

A special mention and heartfelt thanks must go to Mrs Potter for her sterling leadership of music at St Mary's. Her passion, commitment and enthusiasm have helped to make music such an important and joyful part of school life. We are particularly grateful for the time and dedication she gives to leading our school choir, inspiring our children to sing with confidence, pride and enjoyment. Mrs Potter is ably supported by Miss Hunter, and together they do a wonderful job of nurturing our young singers and providing opportunities for our children to share their musical talents. We are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated staff who give so much to enrich the lives of our children through music.

Thank you, Mrs Potter and Miss Hunter, for all that you do!



Our Shining St Mary's Stars of the Week!

A big well done to all of these amazing pupils who have been chosen by different members of staff for displaying our key values since the start of this term.

Linda—for fantastic recall of previous learning

Ernie—for consistently displaying safe, respect and effort

Theo—for settling in so well in Year 4

Maya—for being such a good role model in the class

Lily—for making good choices

Sabrina—for always making an effort in every task she is given

Victory—for always showing active listening and our school values

Rosie—for fantastic effort in her work

Carter—for his fantastic answers on the carpet

Max—for his focus and effort in class

Jasper—for being a brilliant playleader and taking on his responsibilities so well

Callum—for his effort in Geography



Polite Reminder

A reminder to all parents and carers **not to park on Pound Walk**, as this can cause obstruction and make it difficult for pedestrians and other road users. We have also received reports of **children nearly being hit by vehicles near the school and along Pound Walk**, and residents have raised concerns about traffic and parking in the area.

Thank you for your continued support.



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 82 points was Earth House; in 2nd place with 61 points was Water House, in 3rd place with 47 was Air House and in 4th place with 43 points was Fire House.

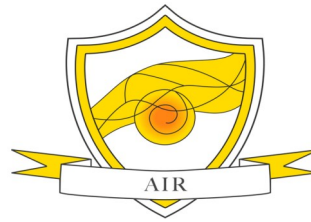
Well done everyone!



**1st place
(82 points)**



**2nd place
(61 points)**



**3rd place
(47 points)**



**4th place
(43 points)**

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

2026/2027 Secondary School Applications

We would like to remind all parents and carers of Year 6 pupils that the application window for a **Year 7 secondary school place for the 2026–2027 academic year** opens **tomorrow, Saturday 12th September 2026**.

Applications should be made via the **Essex County Council website**.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary-school-places>

The closing date for applications is **31st October 2026**. We strongly recommend that applications are submitted before the deadline to ensure that your child's application is considered.

Please ensure that you carefully research the secondary schools available to your child and read the relevant admissions information before submitting your application.

Wonderlicious Bars Fundraiser - What a Success!

What an absolutely WONDERLICIOUS fundraiser!



FOSM would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Wonderlicious Bars fundraiser. We have been overwhelmed by the fantastic feedback from families, with comments including "What a great idea!", "It's so much fun!", "Gorgeous chocolate!" and "I can't believe how big the chocolate was!" Perhaps our favourite of all was: "You must make sure you do it again!"

In fact, the fundraiser proved so popular that some families were disappointed to have missed the chocolate-ordering deadline. But don't worry - FOSM promises there will be another one! We are already looking at bringing Wonderlicious Bars back around World Book Day in March, so watch this space...

Of course, a huge part of the excitement was discovering who had a winning bar! The anticipation - and even a few nerves - on the children's faces as they opened their chocolate bars is a memory we won't forget.

Congratulations to all our lucky winners, including Oscar H, who won an amazing Rally Experience, and lucky siblings Alycia and Micky P, who won hot chocolate for their class and a £10 Harts voucher. We think you'll agree, the prizes were fantastic!

Most importantly, every chocolate bar purchased has helped us towards our fundraising goal for this academic year. Money raised will go towards improvements to the playground, benefiting all of the children at our school.

A very special THANK YOU must also go to the wonderful local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes and helped make the fundraiser extra special:

Harts Bookshop • Tesco • Exquisite Cakes • Langley Park Rally School •

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and support of our school - we couldn't run exciting fundraisers like this without the support of our families and wider community.

Thank you once again to everyone who bought a bar, joined in the excitement and helped make the fundraiser such a brilliant success. We hope you enjoyed the chocolate as much as we enjoyed running it!

Until the next Wonderlicious adventure...



FOSM—Easy Fundraising and Parent Lottery

Here Are Two Easy Ways to Support Friends of St Mary's!

Friends of St Mary's is always looking for new ways to raise funds to support our school and help provide additional opportunities, resources and experiences for our children.

We're delighted to share that we have now signed up to easyfundraising and The Parents Lottery - two simple ways for parents, carers, family members and friends to support Friends of St Mary's throughout the year.



Support Us While You Shop with easyfundraising

Did you know that your everyday online shopping could help raise money for Friends of St Mary's - without costing you anything extra?

easyfundraising works with thousands of online retailers. Once you've signed up and selected Friends of St Mary's Primary School PTA as your chosen cause, simply start your online shopping through **easyfundraising** using their website, app or Donation Reminder.

When you make an eligible purchase, the retailer makes a donation to Friends of St Mary's at no additional cost to you.

So whether you're shopping for clothes, booking a holiday, buying gifts or making other everyday online purchases, those small donations can add up and make a real difference to our fundraising.

It's free to join, free to use and an easy way to support our school while shopping online.

Sign up and support Friends of St Mary's here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-st-marys-primary-school-pta>



Please feel free to share the link with grandparents, relatives and friends too - the more supporters we have, the more we can potentially raise!

Join The Parents Lottery

Friends of St Mary's has also joined The Parents Lottery, giving our school community another way to support our fundraising - with the added excitement of the chance to win a prize!

The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery specifically designed to help schools and PTAs generate ongoing fundraising income.

Supporters can take part from £1 per week, with the chance to win up to £25,000, while helping raise funds for Friends of St Mary's at the same time.

You don't have to be a current parent to take part, so grandparents, relatives, friends, former families and other members of our wider community can support us too.

Join The Parents Lottery and support Friends of St Mary's here: <https://www.theparentslottery.org/school/the-friends-of-st-marys-school-parent-teacher-association1753292609>



Please remember that The Parents Lottery is a form of gambling and participation is for eligible adults only. Please play responsibly.

Every Little Bit of Support Makes a Difference

Fundraising plays an important part in helping Friends of St Mary's support our school and our children. Whether you choose to use **easyfundraising** when doing your normal online shopping, take part in The Parents Lottery, or simply share these links with family and friends, every bit of support helps.

Thank you, as always, for supporting Friends of St Mary's and helping us continue to raise funds for our school community.

Friends of St Mary's

A vibrant space-themed menu poster. At the top, a large, cratered planet (resembling the Moon) has a red banner across its center that reads "SPACE DAY". Below the banner, a yellow hard hat sits on the planet's surface, with a blue ring around it containing the text "1ST OCTOBER". The background is a deep purple space filled with stars, a bright orange comet streak, a rocket ship on the left, and a large reddish planet on the right. A large, stylized orange and yellow flame-like shape serves as a backdrop for the menu text. At the bottom, two astronauts in white suits are floating, and a small green alien with large eyes is peeking from behind a rocky, cratered planet in the foreground.

SPACE DAY

1ST OCTOBER

MAINS

CHICKEN METEOR-BITE BURGER
VENUS VEGGIE BURGER (VG)
SPACESHIP SANDWICH BAR
BIG BANG BAKED POTATO BAR (V)

SIDES

GUARDIAN FRIES OF THE GALAXY
PLANETARY PEAS
BLACK HOLE BEANS
SOLAR SYSTEM SALAD BAR

DESSERTS

JUPITER JELLY AND ICE CREAM (V)
COSMIC COOKIE (VG)
FRESH FRUIT (VG) (GF)



ALI'S TENNIS

A **FUN** WAY TO GET INTO TENNIS



MONDAYS
3.15 – 4PM



**INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE AVAILABLE**



**SEPTEMBER –
DECEMBER TERM**
11 LESSONS TOTAL



AGES 5 – 12



**ON SITE
AT SCHOOL**



**EQUIPMENT CAN
BE PROVIDED**

**11
LESSONS
TOTAL**



**LEARN
NEW SKILLS**



**BUILD
CONFIDENCE**



**HAVE
FUN!**

BOOK NOW!



07581087325

HOLIDAY COURSES

**Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2, Learn
to ride courses and a new course
Child Bike Workshop & Learn**

To book, please visit link

essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

Venues: Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow & Witham

There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn/Winter Term

Autumn 2026 Term

Thursday 10th September	- Year 1—First Forest School
Friday 11th September	- Year 5 swimming starts
Saturday 12th September	- Year 7 Secondary School Application open
Monday 14th September	- Reception—First Full Day (8.30am—3.15pm)
	- FOSM Wonderlicious Bars Collection—School Office
Wednesday 16th September	- Yr 3 Egyptian Workshop at Saffron Walden Museum
	- Year 6 Dodgeball Festival
Thursday 17th September	- Reception—First Forest School
Thursday 24th September	- Years 3 and 4 Football tournament
	- Years 5 and 6 Football tournament
Tuesday 29th September	- 9.00am and 6.00pm Little Wandle Phonics and Independence Workshop
Wednesday 30th September	- Choral event Year 4 pupils St Mary's Church 12.30pm – 4.30pm
Thursday 1st October	- Census Day—special school lunch
Friday 2nd October	- SEND Coffee morning 9.00-9.30 (TBC)
Monday 5th October	- Harvest Festival 9.30am St Mary's Church
Monday 12th October	- Individual Photographs
Thursday 15th October	- Yr 1 and 2—Aurora Orchestra at Saffron Hall
Friday 23rd October	- Light Day (pupils & staff wear colourful clothes)
Friday 23rd October	- Last day of Autumn Half Term
Mon 26th—Fri 30th October	- Half Term Holiday
Monday 31st October	- Year 7 Secondary School Application close
Monday 2nd November	- INSET Day—Staff Training
Tuesday 3rd November	- Pupils return at 8.30am
Wednesday 4th November	- Flu Immunisation Team visiting School
Tuesday 10th November	- Parent/Carer Consultations
Thursday 12th November	- Parent/Carer Consultations
Monday 16th November	- R27 Open Morning for Parents and Carers
Tuesday 24th November	- R27 Open Morning for Parents and Carers

