

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 25th September 2026

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Attendance Weekly 94.4 %

Attendance Year 96.7%

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,

Leadership and Responsibility at St Mary's

On Tuesday, we held a special assembly focusing on **leadership and responsibility** and what it really means to be a leader. We explored the idea that leadership is not simply about being "in charge" or having a title, but about **serving others, setting a positive example and making a contribution to our school community**.

We talked about how effective leaders can be quiet, thoughtful, kind and dependable, and that trust is built through our actions and the way we treat others. We also explored the many opportunities for pupils to take on leadership responsibilities at St Mary's, helping children to develop important skills such as listening, communicating, making decisions and taking responsibility.

The assembly linked closely to our school values of **Compassion, Friendship and Respect**. We discussed how leadership can be demonstrated through everyday actions — helping someone, listening carefully, showing kindness, following rules, admitting when something has gone wrong and having the confidence to ask for help.

Our key message was that **you do not need an official leadership title to be a leader**. Every child has opportunities to show leadership through the choices they make and the way they support others. We challenged pupils this week to look for examples of leadership in themselves and their friends and to think about one positive action they could take.

Throughout the Collective Worships this week I have been presenting badges to a number of pupils who have been selected to help lead and organise some important areas of the school. These have included: Worship Council, School Council, Librarians, Hall Monitors, Sports Ambassadors and House Captains. Over the next two weeks we will be presenting badges to: our Playleaders, Computer Monitors and Eco Ambassadors.

We are very proud of all the children who take on leadership responsibilities at St Mary's and of the many pupils who demonstrate leadership every day through their actions, attitudes and care for others.

A 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.

Lottie—for excellent independent work and perseverance in Maths

Charlie—for always showing effort in all subjects

Sophie—for being kind and thought friend

Nfemi—for working hard on her maths

Hilai—for being polit, respectful and putting 100% effort into her work

Lavinia—for her hard work with Maths

Andrea—for fantastic use of inverted commas in English

Millie—for great focus and effort to recall maths skills

Lili—for fantastic engagement and involvement in class discussions

Ruby—for showing good active listening

Maddison—for showing great independence and resilience

Heida—for her effort in handwriting

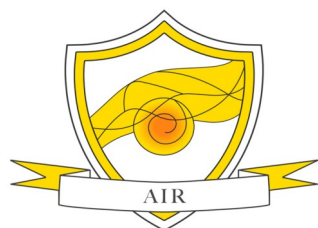
Harry—for his incredible vocabulary in RE

Jaxon—for settling into St Mary's so well and already being a behaviour model



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in joint 1st place with 50 points were Air and Earth Houses; in 2nd place with 47 points was Fire House and in 3rd place with 46 points was Water House. Well done everyone!



**1st place
(50 points)**



**2nd place
(50 points)**



**3rd place
(47 points)**



**4th place
(46 points)**

Harvest Festival food donations 2026: from St Mary's Worship Council

St Mary's Worship Council have decided to organise a collection for Essex Food Bank this year; we believe this is a very important charity, as it helps people and families in our local community and the wider area of Essex, and supporting it reflects our Christian ethos of kindness, compassion and caring for others.

Although all donations will be gratefully received, some foods and essential items are in greater demand than others. If you are able to donate, it would be wonderful if you could include one or more of the specific items listed on the poster on page 3 of this newsletter. Please bring your donations to the classroom or school office and the last day for donations is Monday 5th October. Thank you for your kindness and support.



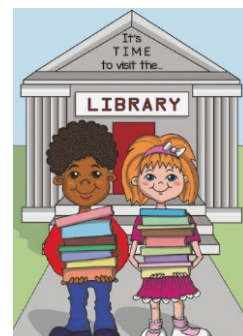
Saffron Walden Library Visits: from Mr Brown, English Lead

At the start of this term, we have been working closely with Saffron Walden Library to help promote the importance and enjoyment of reading across our school.

As part of this partnership, each class will have the opportunity to visit the library at some point between now and Christmas. This will be an excellent experience for them to explore the library, learn how the library system works, and understand how they can access a wide range of books and resources within their local community.

We would like to thank the staff at Saffron Walden Library for their support and for helping us to encourage our children to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Have a great weekend.



Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Phonics and Independence Workshop for Parents and Carers

We would love to invite you to our Phonics & Independence Workshop, Tuesday 29th September in the school hall, 9–10am and 6–7pm, designed to give you a little more insight into how we support your children as they begin their journey into reading and school life.

The session will cover:

- **The basics of phonics** and how it is taught using the **Little Wandle** scheme.
- How we approach **early reading** in school and how you can support your child at home.
- Some **simple, practical tips** for gently encouraging independence as your child starts school — from getting dressed and organising belongings to building confidence in doing things for themselves.
- An opportunity to ask questions and find out more about how we work together to support your child.

The workshop is primarily aimed at parents and carers of **Reception children**, but parents and carers of children in **Key Stage 1** are very welcome too.

We hope you can join us for what we hope will be an informative and useful session. We look forward to seeing you there!

Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 140 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Veg & Fruit
- Cooking & Pasta Sauces
- Toiletries & Cleaning Sprays
- UHT Milk
- Cereal & Oats
- Long Life Juice & Squash
- Puddings & Custard
- Noodles & Rice
- Instant Mash & Stuffing
- Tinned Pasta Meals

0300 102 7980 (option 1)
uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1176230)



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 various planets. A large, stylized orange and yellow nebula or galaxy shape frames the central 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.

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)



West Autumn Term

The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshow

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



Wednesday 4 November 2026



Epping Hall, 2 St Johns Road, Epping, CM16 5DN

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



In Partnership with





Uttlesford Help Hub



We work with local organisations to offer practical support, advice, and guidance to help you get back on track.

We can help with:

- Benefits and housing
- Rent and council tax
- Managing payments and arrears
- Wellbeing and mental health
- Employment advice

Support



Dunmow Library
47 White Hart Way
Great Dunmow
CM6 1FS

11 March
8 April
13 May
10 June
8 July
12 August
9 September
14 October
11 November
9 December

Saffron Walden
Community Link
1A Market Street
CB10 1HX

26 March
30 April
28 May
25 June
30 July
27 August
24 September
29 October
26 November
17 December

Everyone needs a little extra support sometimes.
The Help Hub is here to make sure you get help
quickly - before small problems become big ones.



**Uttlesford
Help Hub**

Everyone needs a little extra support sometimes. The Help Hub is here to make sure you get help quickly - before small problems become big ones.

Support



*New
location!
Elsenham*

We work with local organisations to offer practical support, advice, and guidance to help you get back on track.

We can help with:

- Benefits and housing
- Rent and council tax
- Managing payments and arrears
- Wellbeing and mental health
- Employment advice

2026 Dates

20 October
17 November
15 December

1.15pm to 4.15pm
Third Tuesday of each
month



Elsenham Memorial Hall
Elsenham Playing Field
Off Leigh Drive, Elsenham
Essex CM22 6BY



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO OUR
PROSPECTIVE YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING ON
THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER.**

Our Headteacher, Ms. P Lankester, will be holding three Headteacher talks in Saffron Hall at 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm. The talks are a ticketed event and you will need to book through the Saffron Hall booking website

There is no need to book to attend the evening.
Tours with our students are arranged on arrival.



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT**



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



Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Autumn/Winter Term

Autumn 2026 Term

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

