

# St Mary's Newsletter



**Autumn Term – Friday 16th October 2026**

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Website: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk)

Attendance weekly: 97.8%

Attendance Year: 97.1%



*Our motto: Let Your Light Shine... as You Grow inspired by Matthew 5:*

**Compassion**

**Friendship**

**Perseverance**

**Respect**

**Trust**

**Truthfulness**

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Welcome to this week's newsletter, which details some of the key events that have taken place this week at St Mary's. Don't forget to check out our Diary Dates at the end of this newsletter (more key dates are added each week and highlighted blue. Moreover, don't forget to have a read of our Class Updates, which are compiled by our Class Teachers and reflect what our pupils have been learning about in class. Read on and enjoy!

## **Polite Reminder: Mobile Phone Use on School Site**

We would like to remind all parents, carers and visitors that mobile phones should not be used while on the school site. This includes making or receiving calls, sending messages, taking photographs or recording videos. This guidance helps us to safeguard our pupils, protect their privacy and maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone.



**No mobile phone zone**

If you need to make an urgent call, please do so outside the school grounds. We kindly ask everyone to support us in following this guidance and thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping St Mary's a safe and welcoming place for our whole school community.

## **Shining Stars of the Week**

A HUGE well done to all of these pupils who have been nominated as our Shining Stars this week! Keep up the great work.

**Tommy** – for improved focus and effort especially in Maths

**Lexi** – for an excellent final piece in art

**Archie** – for his fantastic marking in PE this week during a game of basketball

**Ava-Mae** – for putting lots of effort into her classroom learning

**Oscar** – for working hard to show safe, respect and effort

**Nina** – for enthusiasm and positivity across all areas of learning

**Isla** – for fantastic effort in both Maths and Writing

**Cece** – for some fantastic sentence writing this week

**Ernie** – for making great behaviour choices and demonstrating our school values

**Alfie** – for his work on finding one more/one less

**Sisi** – for her perseverance in learning her 4 operations in maths (adding, subtracting, multiplication and division)

**Percy** – for always being kind and respectful

**Elsie** – for her fabulous reading with Mrs Holmes and Mrs Ramshaw this week

**Ethan** – for contributing confidently in circle time



### **Cross-Country Tournament at Herberts Farm**

On Wednesday, 29 of our children took part in a cross-country tournament, representing St Mary's brilliantly. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to challenge themselves, demonstrate resilience and show perseverance, particularly when the course became difficult. These qualities have been a key focus of our Collective Worship this half term, where we have been exploring the importance of never giving up, even when things feel challenging. It was lovely to see our children putting these values into practice, supporting one another and showing great determination and sportsmanship throughout the event. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and congratulate them on their fantastic efforts!



### **The Little Recyclers – Clothing Collection**

We are delighted to be taking part in **The Little Recyclers' clothing collection** to help raise funds for our school while supporting the environment through recycling and reusing unwanted items.

Please start gathering any unwanted clothing and accessories at home. We can accept good-quality, clean clothing for adults, children and babies, paired shoes, bags, hats, scarves, belts and other fashion accessories. Please note that school uniform, duvets and pillows cannot be accepted.

Please bring your filled bags into school on Wednesday 4 November. The items will be collected and weighed, with 45p raised for every kilogram collected.

Thank you, as always, for your support. Every bag helps us raise valuable funds for St Mary's while giving unwanted items a new lease of life!

### House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 95 points was Earth House; in 2nd place with 72 points was Fire House, in 3rd place with 54 points was Water House and in 4th place with 49 points was Air House.

Well done everyone!



**1st place  
(95 points)**



**2nd place  
(72 points)**



**3rd place  
(54 points)**



**4th place  
(49 points)**

Have a great weekend.

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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

## Autumn Term Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings

We are pleased to invite you to our **Autumn Term Parent/Carer Consultations**, which will take place on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 10th November 2026**
- **Thursday 12th November 2026**
- **Time: 3.30pm – 6.30pm**

### Booking Information

Bookings will open on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** and close on **Friday 6th November**. All information, including the link to the online booking system, can be found on the school website.

Each family will have the opportunity to book a **10-minute appointment per child** to meet with their child's teacher and discuss their academic progress.

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/parentcarer-meetings-autumn-2025>

### Important Information

The consultations will be held face to face in the school hall. Please arrive promptly for your appointment and enter the school via the reception area off Castle Street.

### Children on a One Plan

This term, there will be a slight change to the arrangements for parents and carers who would usually attend a One Plan meeting. We would like to invite you to attend one of the Parent/Carer Consultations to discuss your child's academic progress. A separate meeting will be arranged the week commencing 7th December to discuss your child's One Plan in more detail. Information on how to book these meetings will be sent out later in the Autumn term.

We look forward to welcoming you into school and working together to support your child's learning and progress.

## Flu Immunisations – Wednesday 4th November



Vaccination UK will be visiting the school on behalf of the NHS on **Wednesday 4th November** to offer flu immunisations to all children.

You should have received an email from Vaccination UK with details on how to register or opt out your child for the programme. If you are experiencing any difficulties with registration, please use the link below to complete the process.

[Give or refuse consent for your child's flu vaccination – Give or refuse consent for vaccinations](#)

School name on registration form is: **St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Please note that this is not a school-led programme. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Vaccination UK directly at [essex@vaccinationuk.co.uk](mailto:essex@vaccinationuk.co.uk) or 01245 984145



# SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes -  
more funds for  
your organisation.

**1 kg = £0.45**

YOUR COLLECTION IS  
ARRANGED ON:

**4 NOVEMBER**

WEDNESDAY

FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND  
BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION  
WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

WE ACCEPT



- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

WE DON'T ACCEPT



- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duvets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING  
AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES

hello@thelittlerecyclers.co.uk • 0330 043 0550 • thelittlerecyclers.co.uk

# Diary Dates

## Key Dates for the Autumn/Winter Term 2026

|                                                     |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October                     | - Individual/Sibling Photographs                                 |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October                    | - KS2 Cross Country event at Herberts Farm (29 pupils)           |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October                   | - Yr 1 and 2—Aurora Orchestra at Saffron Hall                    |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October                   | - Children's Parliament Event (3 pupils at Houses of Parliament) |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October                     | - Y1 Golden Ticket Non-Uniform Day                               |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October                    | - Whole School African Drumming Workshop                         |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October                  | - Year 5/6 Dodgeball team event                                  |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                     | - Light Day (pupils & staff wear colourful clothes)              |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                     | - Last day of Autumn Half Term                                   |
| Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> —Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> October  | - HALF TERM HOLIDAYS                                             |
| Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October                     | - Year 7 Secondary School Application close                      |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                     | - INSET Day—Staff Training                                       |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November                    | - Pupils return at 8.30am                                        |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November                  | - Flu Immunisation Team visiting School (morning only)           |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November                  | - Little Recyclers Clothing Collection (see attached poster)     |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November                   | - Parent/Carer Book Look (8.30am-9.00am)                         |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November                   | - Parent/Carer Book Look (3.15pm-4.15pm)                         |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November                   | - Yr 5/6 Tag Rugby tournament at Herberts Farm (tbc)             |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November                     | - Outdoor Classroom Day                                          |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November                   | - Parent/Carer Consultations (3.30pm-6.30pm)                     |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November                  | - Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church (11.00am)              |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November                  | - Parent/Carer Consultations (3.30pm-6.30pm)                     |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November                  | - KS1 Inclusion Event                                            |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November                    | - Children In Need Day                                           |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> November | - Anti-Bullying Week (Break the Silence)                         |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November                    | - Knife Crime Workshop (Yr 5 and Yr 6)                           |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November                    | - R27 Open Morning for Parents and Carers (9.30am)               |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November                 | - Governors Day                                                  |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November                    | - Yr5 Parent/Carer Residential Meeting (5.00pm)                  |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November                   | - R27 Open Morning for Parents and Carers (9.30am)               |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December                    | - SEND Coffee Morning (2pm to 3.15pm)                            |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                  | - The Snowman Performance @ Saffron Hall                         |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December                     | - FOSM KS2 Disco (5.00pm – 6.30pm)                               |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December                  | - FOSM Panto Performance of The Christmas Carol                  |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December                  | - Save the Children Jumper Day                                   |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December                   | - R-Yr2 Nativity at St Mary's Church (6.00pm)                    |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December                 | - Christmas Lunch                                                |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                    | - Carol Service at St Mary's Church (11.00am)                    |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                    | - LAST DAY OF TERM – 1.30pm finish                               |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January                      | - INSET DAY                                                      |