

# St Mary's Newsletter



**Autumn Term – Friday 23rd October 2026**

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

Attendance weekly: 94.9%

Attendance Year: 96.8%



*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,

**Happy Half Term from St Mary's!**

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, to thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. The positive relationships we share with our families are such an important part of our school community, and we are truly grateful for everything you do to support your children and our school.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils and all that they have achieved this half term. Across the school, the children have worked hard, embraced new learning opportunities and demonstrated our St Mary's values in so many ways. It has been wonderful to see their perseverance when faced with challenges, their compassion towards others, the friendships they continue to build and the pride they take in their learning. They are a real credit to you all!

I would also like to extend a **huge thank you to all our staff** for their dedication, care and hard work throughout the half term. Their commitment to ensuring that every child feels safe, valued, supported and challenged to be the very best they can be is at the heart of everything we do at St Mary's.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you and your families enjoy a well-deserved opportunity to relax, spend quality time together and make some lovely memories. Whether you are heading off on an adventure or simply enjoying a quieter week at home, I hope it is a happy and restful time for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming the children back after the break, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term of learning, opportunities and experiences together.

Thank you once again for being such a valued part of our St Mary's family.

**Together, we help our children to shine and grow, in every way.**

With my very best wishes for a wonderful half term and I look forward to welcoming you all back **on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8.30am.**

**Mr Jarmain**

*Headteacher*



### 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.

**Isla** – for having a positive ‘can do’ attitude

**Alannah** – for always persevering in her maths and morning work

**Wren** – for making lovely progress in her phonics and blending

**Rose** – for using her writing knowledge in different contexts

**Momin** – for settling into Year 3 so brilliantly

**Matthew** – for being respectful and showing effort in English

**Joshua** – for excellent perseverance and effort in Maths

**Alfie** – for working hard in his English

**Marley** – for always being a kind friend and role model in class

**Ayza** – for settling well into Year 1 and embracing the St Mary’s way

**Phoebe** – for some fantastic writing using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases

**Zach** – for fantastic resilience when things have been touch and for always showing kindness

**Quinn** - for making such great effort learning his sounds at school and at home

**Thomas** – for fantastic effort to develop his creative writing and beautiful use of vocabulary



### ♻️ Reminder: Little Recyclers Clothing Collection at St Mary’s! ♻️

A quick reminder that our **Little Recyclers collection** is taking place at St Mary’s! 🌍

This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to help protect the environment by recycling unwanted clothing and textiles, while supporting a more sustainable future for our children.

If you have any suitable items at home that you no longer need, please consider donating them to our collection on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2026. Every contribution, however small, helps us to make a difference!

Please ensure that all donations are securely bagged before bringing them into school and that items meet the collection requirements previously shared with families. Please start bringing in your donation bags after half term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping us to encourage environmental responsibility in our children. ❤️ Please see poster on page 6. **Together, we can make a difference!**



### Walking to School – Keeping Safe

Walking to school is a great way for children to stay active and develop independence. We encourage families to consider walking wherever possible, while ensuring children’s safety remains the priority. As a school, we have a responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of all our pupils. Please refer to St Mary’s Walking to School Policy when deciding whether your child is ready to travel independently.

Please also take a look at the National College’s Wake Up Wednesday flyer, “Safety on the Road,” for helpful advice on keeping children safe around roads.

There is no legal minimum age or distance for walking to school alone. Parents and carers should consider their child’s age, maturity, confidence and road safety awareness.

Remember: practise the route together, use safe crossing points, stop, look and listen, and stay alert near traffic.

Thank you for working with us to keep our children safe on their journey to and from school.

### House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in joint 1st place with 103 points were Water and Fire Houses; in 2nd place with 53 points was Air House, in 3rd place with 51 points was Earth House.

Well done everyone!



**1st place  
(103 points)**



**1st place  
(103 points)**



**3rd place  
(53 points)**



**4th place  
(51 points)**

Have a great half term.

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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



### ECO Garden Update

You will be happy to hear that the St Mary's Eco Garden has come on leaps and bounds this year. We are so proud of all of the children and adults that help to maintain this area – thank you so much for your time and effort. It's wonderful to witness how a project can give back so much, both to individuals (gardening is proven to give people a boost both mentally and physically) as well as the school community and wider town community.

The charity Cultivating Change continue to support us enormously with their knowledge, time and resources including free seeds and equipment. We are very grateful for this. I have felt a shift this year in the children's attitude to gardening and where food comes from as we have actually started to use the garden properly through forest school sessions with Reception and Year 1 but also the fantastic gardening club that Cultivating Change helped us run for all year groups in the school - it was fully subscribed within minutes! Over the year, we have successfully grown and eaten a wide variety of vegetables and herbs including potatoes, squash, beetroot, carrots, kale, lettuce, courgettes (and massive marrows!), sage, coriander, mint as well as some stunning sunflowers, nasturtiums and cosmos flowers.

The children absolutely love gardening club and spending time in the garden - many of them tell me about it separately when I see them at school. They are so proud of the seeds and seedlings they have nurtured and the resulting food they have grown. The school kitchen were very grateful for the home grown organic food and the children enjoyed talking to the chefs about what they would make with the delicious courgettes and potatoes. We also shared produce with the wider community by giving marrows and squash to school dad Max Chater, owner of the local Chater's restaurant - they used the marrows to make marrow and ginger jam, yum!

Gardening club will start again in the spring term. In the meantime, as the weather becomes colder and the days shorter, the garden will rest for a while. Before that, it needs a tidy up so we would be very grateful for any families that would like to come and join us for a garden tidy up activity during half term on Thursday 29th October from 10-12 midday. I will bring some chocolate splodge (infamous McInnes fridge cake!) to keep us all going. Eco committee members have already expressed their keen interest to join in, thank you! Please let the office know in advance if you're planning on coming or would like to be involved in any way with the Eco Garden moving forward.

Thanks again - Mrs McInnes



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

## 1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

## 2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

## 3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

## 4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

## 5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

## 6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

## 7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view, instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

## 8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

## 9 REVERSING VEHICLES

Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

## 10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

## Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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## 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:

**11 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

# FOSM KS2 DISCO

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER

★ KS2 • 5:00PM – 6:30PM ★



GREAT MUSIC  
FROM  
DJ MR PIKE!



SWEET  
TREATS!



FUN  
TOYS!



SNACKS  
AND DRINKS!

★ ARE YOU READY TO PARTY?! ★

TICKETS  
**£4.50**  
PER CHILD

TICKETS NOW  
ON SALE!

Follow this link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/key-stage-2-disco-2>

BRING  
POCKET MONEY!



Please bring  
loose change for  
treats, toys, snacks  
and drinks!

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



### WATER BOTTLES

Please ensure your child  
brings a **named** bottle  
of water with them.



### ALLERGIES

If your child has allergies, please ensure  
they bring their own **named snack**.  
Although FOSM checks the ingredients  
of the food we sell, we cannot guarantee  
that your child won't eat something  
they shouldn't.

# Diary Dates

## Key Dates for the Autumn/Winter Term 2026

|                                                     |   |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                  |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January                     | - | Pupils return at 8.30am                                    |