

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 23rd January 2026

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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 95.8%

Attendance Year 96.2%

*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,

## **Indoor Athletics: Year 5 & 6 Pupils Take Part in Inter-School Event**

We said we would be back for Indoor Athletics this January, and we came back in style! This week saw our Year 4/3 team and Year 5/6 team dominated the afternoon. Our pupils were proud to represent St Mary's as they competed alongside teams from several local primary schools, including RA Butler, Katherine Semar, St Thomas More, Great Sampford, Radwinter, and Dame Bradbury's. With some of these schools producing more than one team to compete against. The event was a fantastic opportunity for children from across the area to come together, challenge themselves, and enjoy some friendly competition.



Throughout the afternoon, our pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship, supporting one another and showing respect to competitors from all schools. They should be commended not only for their effort and enthusiasm, but also for being wonderful ambassadors for St Mary's. Not only did they display these superb qualities they have secured a place in the finals at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre on 12th February. Our field event scores have been the best they have been in the last 2 years, with many children finishing in the top three for their event. And the track was fast and faultless with all our baton change overs being smooth and swift. We look forward to sharing the team's success in collective worship next week.

We would like to thank Dame Bradbury's School for hosting the event and especially Ms Driscoll for all of her hard work in organising such a positive and enjoyable experience for our pupils. Events like this are a great reminder of the strong links between our local schools and the benefits of pupils learning and competing together.

Well done to everyone involved — we are very proud of you!

## **Stars of the Week**

**Ruby**—for excellent effort and perseverance in Maths

**Finley**—for always being positive and showing resilience

**Amber**—for always doing the right thing.

**Zara**—for already reading over 2 million words this year.

**Amelia**—for always putting so much effort into all her work

**Aaliyan**—for his effort in R.E.

**Sebastian**—for his behaviour and effort at athletics

**Grayson**—for transitioning so well in the mornings

**Isla**—for working hard on her maths

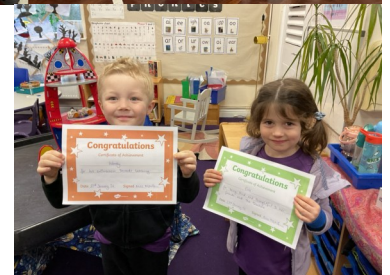
**Felicity**—for her improved handwriting and brilliant writing quality in English

**Rose**—for her confident delivery in the speaking and listening task in English

**Eva**—for being kind and thoughtful to her friends and teachers.

**Woody** - for his enthusiasm towards learning

**Alycia**—for showing improved focus in all areas of learning and approaching learning with positivity



## House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 55 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 48 points was Air House, in 3rd place with 46 points was Fire House and in 4th place with 42 points was Earth House. Well done everybody!



**1st place  
(55 points)**



**2nd place  
(48 points)**



**3rd place  
(46 points)**



**4th place  
(42 points)**



**RAINBOW  
RAFFLE**

### Non-uniform Day - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 13th February is, not only the last day of term, but also a Non-Uniform Day - in exchange for a donation towards our **Rainbow Raffle!** Instead of a £1 donation, we are kindly asking each child to bring in an item in their year group's assigned colour. These will be used to create fantastic rainbow hampers and raffle prizes.

#### Suggested Colours by Year Group:

Reception – Red

Year 1 – Orange

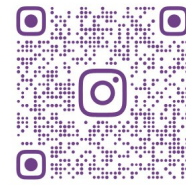
Year 2 – Yellow

Year 3 – Green

Year 4 – Blue

Year 5 – Purple

Year 6 – Pink



@FRIENDSOFSTMARYSSW



#### **Please bring donations into school on Friday 13th February.**

Thank you so much for your support - the Rainbow Raffle is always a favourite and helps raise essential funds for the children at St Mary's!

Have a lovely weekend!

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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

#### **ACL – Family Learning.**

ACL Essex is the largest provider of adult education in the county. There are some fantastic courses coming up over the next few weeks for parents / carers. You can book yourself onto these by clicking the links for each course, below. For more info visit [www.aclessex.com](http://www.aclessex.com)

#### **Managing Anger in Young People - [book now](#)**

Understand triggers and learn strategies to support emotional regulation.

Tuesday 27th January

7pm

Online Live

#### **A Guide to Sibling Harmony - [book now](#)**

Reduce rivalry and promote positive relationships between siblings.

Friday 30th January

12:30pm

Online Live

#### **Family First Aid - [book now](#)**

Learn how to perform CPR, how to deal with choking, burns and poisoning and common childhood medical concerns.

Monday 2nd February

6pm

Online Live

#### **Routines Rule**

Discover why setting routines is essential for children and how it can create a calmer, more harmonious home life. Learn practical tips to establish routines that work for your family.

Tuesday 10 February 2026

09:45

Online Live

For all ACL Family Learning - [Family Learning - ACL Essex](#)

**Joanna Crocker**

**Welfare and Support Officer**



Friends of St Mary's

# NON-UNIFORM DAY!

FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

## RAINBOW RAFFLE DONATION DAY!

Bring in an item in your class colour to help create our raffle hampers!

Suggested Colours by Year Group :

♥ Reception - **RED**

♥ Year 1 - **ORANGE**

♥ Year 2 - **YELLOW**

♥ Year 3 - **GREEN**

♥ Year 4 - **BLUE**

♥ Year 5 - **PURPLE**

♥ Year 6 - **PINK**

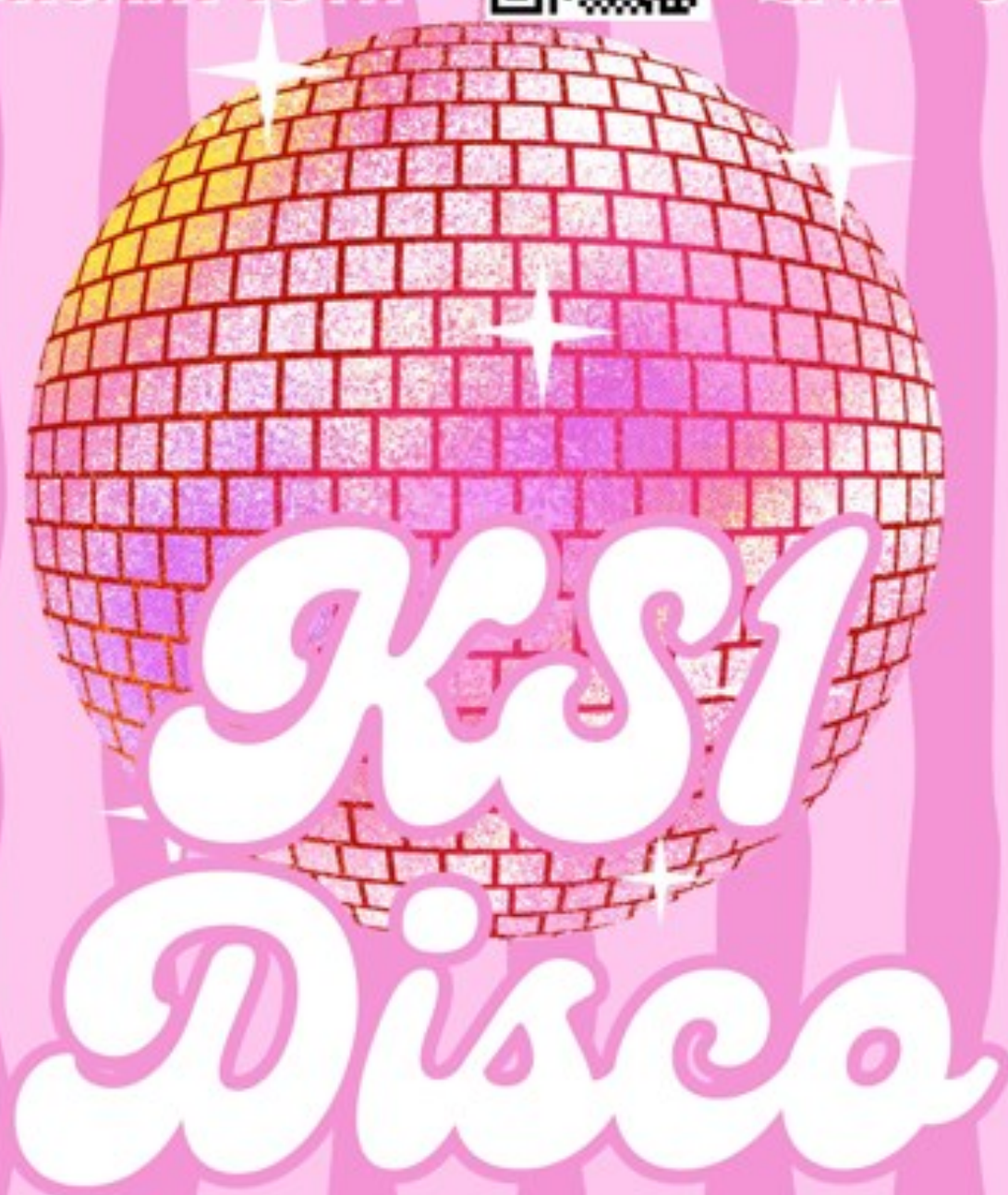
Donations welcome Friday  
**13<sup>th</sup> February!**

Thank you for your support!

**FEBRUARY 13TH**



**2PM - 3PM**



**£6.50- INCLUDES SNACKS,  
DRINKS AND A PARTY BAG**



**Friends of  
St Mary's**  
for the children of St Mary's  
Primary School, Saffron Walden  
Charity number: 1046048



SUPPORT US WITH TESCO'S  
**BLUETOKEN**  
SCHEME!



**DROP IN A  
BLUE TOKEN  
FOR FOSM!**

**VOTE FOR US  
IN STORE!**



**Help us raise funds for our school!**



# Diary Dates



## Key Dates for the Spring Term

### January 2026

- Friday 23rd January - Explorer Dome in for Reception, Yr 3 & Yr 5
- Monday 26th January - Holocaust Memorial Day—1.30pm
- Thursday 29th January - Reception and Year 1—No Forest School

### February 2026

- WHOLE MONTH - LGBTQ+ History Month
- Mon 9th to Friday 15th February - Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
- Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
- Friday 13th February - Year 3 swimming lessons start
- Friday 13th February - 2pm—3pm Key Stage 1 disco/non uniform day
- Monday 16th to Friday 20th February - Half Term Holiday
- Monday 23rd February - Pupils Return from 8.30am
- Friday 27th February - Yr 4 Public Speaking Competition (Great Chesterford Primary School)

### March 2026

- Monday 2nd to Friday 6th March - One Plan Meetings TBC
- Tuesday 3rd March - Governors' Day
- Thursday 5th March - Parent/Carer Book Look/Share Our Work sessions:  
8.30am to 9am & 3.15pm to 4pm
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day—Dolce special lunch
- Monday 9th to Friday 13th March - British Science Week
- Monday 9th to Friday 20th March - Assessment weeks
- Tuesday 10th March - Parent/Carer Consultations from 3.30pm
- Thursday 12th March - Parent/Carer Consultations from 3.30pm
- Monday 16th to Friday 20th March - Neurodiversity Week
- Monday 16th March - Y4 Parent presentations 9.00am (School Hall)
- Weds 18th to Weds 25th March - Book Fair
- Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day
- Thursday 26th March - Y3 Parent Presentation 9.15am (School Hall)
- Friday 27th March - Easter Service @ St Mary's Church (11am)
- Friday 27th March - Last day of term – finish at 1.30pm
- Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Easter Holidays

