

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 9th January 2026

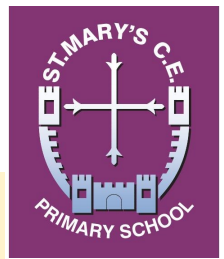
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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 95%
Attendance Year 96.1%

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,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year

I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and happy holiday break. It has been a real pleasure to welcome our pupils back to school this week and to feel the sense of energy and purpose that comes with the start of a new term and a new year.

January is a time for fresh starts and renewed focus. Over the coming weeks, our pupils will be building on the excellent progress made last term, embracing new challenges and continuing to demonstrate our school values in all that they do. I am confident that, with the support of our dedicated staff and our strong partnership with parents and carers, this term will be a successful and rewarding one for everyone.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and commitment to our school community. I look forward to all that the year ahead will bring and to working together to ensure the very best outcomes for our children.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

St Mary's Shining Stars of the week

Millie—for generosity and compassion to others

Harry—for putting so much effort into his phonics and reading

Tom—for positive interactions with both his peers and adults

Teddy—for his effort in English

Libby—for great problem solving, teamwork and calmness

Alfie—for always trying to improve in his English

Year 4—for coming back to school and settling back so well

Ana—for great engagement and involvement in activities

Rosie—for consistently showing the school values this term

Louella—for trying hard with her work and not giving up

Tommy—for patience, respect and positive choices

Bobbie—for resilience even when finding things hard or uncomfortable

Kayhan—for working really hard on his reading and passing 27 quizzes

Claudia—for working hard when drafting her writing on the whiteboard!

Isla—for perseverance and amazing knot tying in the ballista session

Oscar—for his brilliant maths work this week investigating numbers to 20

Teddy—for excellent manners and support of others

Daneen—for taking her time to draw a variety of lines using charcoal in art this week

Year 5—for an amazing residential—beautiful behaviour, respect and teamwork

Nathaniel—for coming back to school with such a positive attitude



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 22 points was Fire House; in 2nd place with 18 points was Earth House, in 3rd place with 17 points was Water House and in 4th place with 13 points was Air House.

Well done everybody!



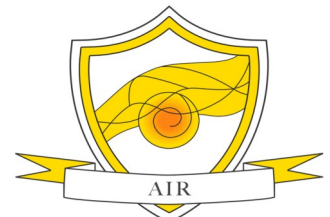
**1st place
(22 points)**



**2nd place
(18 points)**



**3rd place
(17 points)**



**4th place
(13 points)**

Special School Menu—Thursday 15th January



On Thursday 15th January, our school will be taking part in Spring Census Day. This is a very important day for schools, as the number of children having a school lunch directly impacts the funding we receive for the coming year.

To help us secure the best possible funding and continue providing high-quality education and support for all our pupils, we will be encouraging all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and inviting all children in Key Stage 2, to enjoy a school dinner on this day.

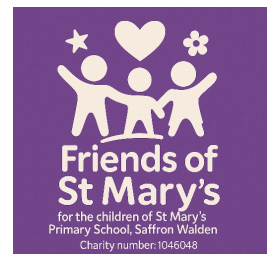
Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, you are very welcome to order a school meal just for Census Day. Packed lunches may still be brought in if you prefer.

Please log in to School Grid and select your child's meal choice by Monday 12th January, so that we can order the correct quantities in advance. The menu is available on the school website, newsletter, and Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support—it really does make a difference and helps ensure our school receives the funding needed to support every child.

Friends of St Mary's—Tesco Blue Tokens Scheme

We're very excited to share that Friends of St Mary's for St Mary's Primary School has been selected to take part in the Tesco Stronger Starts (Blue Token) Scheme. Our project is 'Playground Refurbishment', and voting will take place in Tesco stores from mid-January 2026 until the end of March 2026.



When you shop in Tesco, you'll receive one blue token per transaction (with no minimum spend). We'd be incredibly grateful if you could pop your token into 'Friends of St Mary's - Playground Refurbishment' whenever you see it.

You can vote at:

- Tesco Saffron Walden Superstore
- Tesco Saffron Walden Express

The project with the highest number of tokens in our area can receive up to £1,500, which would go directly towards improving our playground and creating a safe, inclusive, and exciting play space for all our children.

Every token really does make a difference. Thank you so much for supporting Friends of St Mary's and helping us enhance the school environment for our children

Admissions September 2026

Children born between 01/09/2021—31/08/2022



As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 10 November 2025**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above.

Dolce

Diner

15th
January
2026

CENSUS
DAY

Mains

Big City Burger
Route 66 Nuggets (VG)
Hand Stretched Hawaiian Pizza
Brooklyn Baked Potato Bar (V)

Sides

American French Fries
Boston Baked Beans
Sweetcorn
Stars & Stripes Salad Bar

Desserts

Ice Cream & Waffle Bites (V)
Snickedoodle Cookie (VG)
Fresh Fruit



dolce





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring Term

January 2026

Monday 5th January	-	Staff INSET day
Tuesday 6th January	-	Spring Term Begins – Pupils Return from 8.30am
Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th January	-	Yr 5 Residential to Burwell House
Friday 9th January	-	Yr 4 swimming lessons start (last day of swimming lessons Friday 13th February)
Thursday 15th January	-	Census Day & special lunch
Friday 23rd January	-	Explorer Dome in for Reception, Yr 3 & Yr 5
Tuesday 27th January	-	Holocaust Memorial Day

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 27th February	-	Year 3 swimming lessons start (last day of swimming lessons Friday 20th March)
Friday 27th February	-	Yr 4 Public Speaking Competition (Great Chesterford Primary School)
Friday 13th February	-	Last day of term
Monday 16th to Friday 20th February	-	Half Term Holiday
Monday 23rd February	-	Pupils Return from 8.30am

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
Weds 18th to Weds 25th March	-	Book Fair
Friday 20th March	-	Red Nose Day
W/c Monday 23rd March	-	Y3 & Y4 Parent presentations (date & time TBC)
Friday 27th March	-	Easter Service @ St Mary’s Church (11am)
Friday 27th March	-	Last day of term – finish at 1.30pm
Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April	-	Easter Holidays

