

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 30th January 2026

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Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 94.9%

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,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's newsletter.

Stars of the Week

Sisi—for persevering when writing her facts in English this week

Sabrina—for coming into school with a smile and joining in with athletics

Cece—for showing safe, respect and effort

Joseph— for his problem solving skills in maths

Aaron—for working hard in his English

Maya—for always making the right choice and showing our school values

Isla—for fantastic effort in maths this week

Mabel—for always being so positive and enthusiastic about learning

Arthur—for making friends with confidence

Roux—for working so hard in class and showing safe, respect and effort

Tomas—for his effort and focus in reading and when doing his quizzes

Sky—for always doing the right thing, trying hard in lessons, her homework and being a role model to younger children

Alfie—for excellent effort in all lessons and showing real perseverance in Maths

Carter—for always being a kind, caring friend and role model on the playground



WhatsApp Class Rep Meetings:

A huge thank you to our new WhatsApp Class Reps, who have already met with me for our first WhatsApp Class Rep meetings. These informal sessions have been a great opportunity to talk through the new Class Rep roles, share ideas about how the groups will work in practice, and discuss the helpful feedback and questions they have brought to the school leadership team. We're really grateful for the time and thought they've already given to helping strengthen communication between parents and the school.

Just a reminder that our current reps are:

Reception - **Becca Grey and Matthew Jupp**

Year 1 - **Alice Kirby and Francesca Lee**

Year 2 - **Carla Cox and Jodie Pledger**

Year 3 - **Gemma O'Keefe**

We currently have no reps for **Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6**— which means that these year groups are not being represented at these meetings. If you are interested in one of these positions, please let the school know, either by popping into the school office or sending us an email on admin@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

New WhatsApp Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers

During this week's meeting we discussed the adoption of a new WhatsApp Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers. Many of our classes and year groups use WhatsApp to help parents and carers stay informed and connected. These groups can be really helpful for sharing reminders, organising lifts, and building a sense of community. To make sure they remain positive, respectful, and supportive spaces for everyone, we are introducing a **WhatsApp Code of Conduct**.

What is the purpose of school-related WhatsApp groups?

WhatsApp groups are intended for practical communication between parents and carers, such as homework reminders, trip information, or last-minute changes. They are **not** an official school communication channel, and they should not be used to raise concerns about individual children, staff, or school decisions.

Key expectations

We ask all members of school-related WhatsApp groups to:

- Be polite, respectful, and considerate at all times
- Remember that tone can be easily misunderstood in written messages
- Avoid sharing rumours, speculation, or unverified information
- Keep messages relevant and avoid excessive posting
- Respect everyone's privacy—no sharing of phone numbers, photos, or screenshots outside the group without permission

What should not be shared?

Please do not use WhatsApp groups to:

- Raise complaints or concerns about pupils, parents, or staff
- Discuss behaviour issues or sensitive matters
- Share offensive, political, or inappropriate content
- Post messages late at night or very early in the morning

Raising concerns

If you have a concern about your child or any aspect of school life, please contact the school directly through the usual channels. This helps ensure issues are dealt with fairly, confidentially, and by the right people.

If the code is not followed

Group admins may remind members of the code (privately) in order to protect the wellbeing of the group and wider community.

A copy of the WhatsApp Code of Conduct is included along with this newsletter. Our next meeting will take place in March. Thank you for your support in helping keep our parent communication positive, respectful, and focused on what matters most—our children.

Reading Support

During this week's WhatsApp Class Rep meeting, several representatives asked whether we could share guidance for parents and carers on how to support children with reading at home, along with suggestions for additional texts pupils might enjoy alongside their class reading book.



I'm pleased to share that our school website has a dedicated Reading section, which includes Recommended Reading Lists for every class from Reception to Year 6. There is also a number of helpful information sheets offering practical advice on how parents and carers can support their child when reading at home, named: Reading with Trust and 7 Top Tips to Support Reading At Home. All of these resources can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/reading>

House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 73 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 50 points was Fire House, in 3rd place with 49 points was Air House and in 4th place with 47 points was Earth House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(73 points)**



**2nd place
(50 points)**



**3rd place
(49 points)**



**4th place
(47 points)**

Have a great weekend!

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Legoland Expression of interest—Friends of St Mary's

We're exploring the idea of a very exciting LEGOLAND Windsor trip on **Friday 1st May 2026** - which just so happens to be an INSET day!

Thanks to the magic of having an active PTA, we're able to access heavily discounted tickets for St Mary's families.

The exciting bit...

Legoland tickets usually cost £32 per person.

But with our PTA discount, tickets would be just £19 per person!

- Children under 90cm go FREE

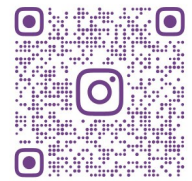
- Carers go FREE**

(The tickets are just for individuals that are 90cm+, we will not need to know a split in adults and children).



Travel:

Families would make their own way to Legoland, or why not car share and go with friends? It could be such a fun day out seeing lots of familiar St Mary's faces enjoying the rides together!



@FRIENDSOFASTMARYSSW

What happens next?

At this stage, we're simply gauging interest.

If you'd like to be involved, please complete the short form linked below. If there's enough interest, we'll be in touch with full details and next steps.

Important note:

Payment of your ticket(s) would need to be made no later than 10 days before the trip to secure them.

It would be lovely to see lots of St Mary's families there, making memories and having a brilliant day out together!

If you have any questions, please contact us at pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk.

I would be grateful if you could respond by no later than 28th February.

Contact Details

To ensure we can contact you quickly and effectively, particularly in the event of an emergency, it is essential that the school holds accurate and up-to-date contact information for every child.

Please inform the school as soon as possible if there have been any changes to your contact details, including:

- A change of home address
- A new or updated mobile telephone number
- A change to your email address
-



In addition, it is very important that the school is made aware if there has been a separation within the household and the child's primary carers with parental responsibility are now living at different addresses. This helps us ensure that communication is shared appropriately and that our records accurately reflect your child's current circumstances.

Keeping this information up to date supports the school in safeguarding your child and maintaining effective communication with families.

Please email to school office with any changes. If you would like to check your child's details, please ask the office to print out a Data Collection Sheet for your child. If you need to update any details or have any questions, please contact the school office.



**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!

SEND Outreach Drop in sessions

Uttlesford Healthy Family Support Team would like to invite you to an informal SEND drop in session at your school or preschool.

We will be there to listen to any concerns you have and advise you of the SEND support our team can provide for you and your child. This support includes 1:1 home support for parents coping with a child with an additional need, providing strategies to support your child with behaviour, toileting, sleep and eating. We can also attend one plan and EHCP meetings with you at your school or preschool.

Our team can advise and support with signposting to other health services such as Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. We can provide support with referrals for Autism and ADHD.

We can also support with referrals or signposting to other support services such as Home Start and Families in Focus for an extended level of home support, should you request this.

w: essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

Commissioned by



Friends of St Mary's

NON-UNIFORM DAY!

FRIDAY 13th 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**

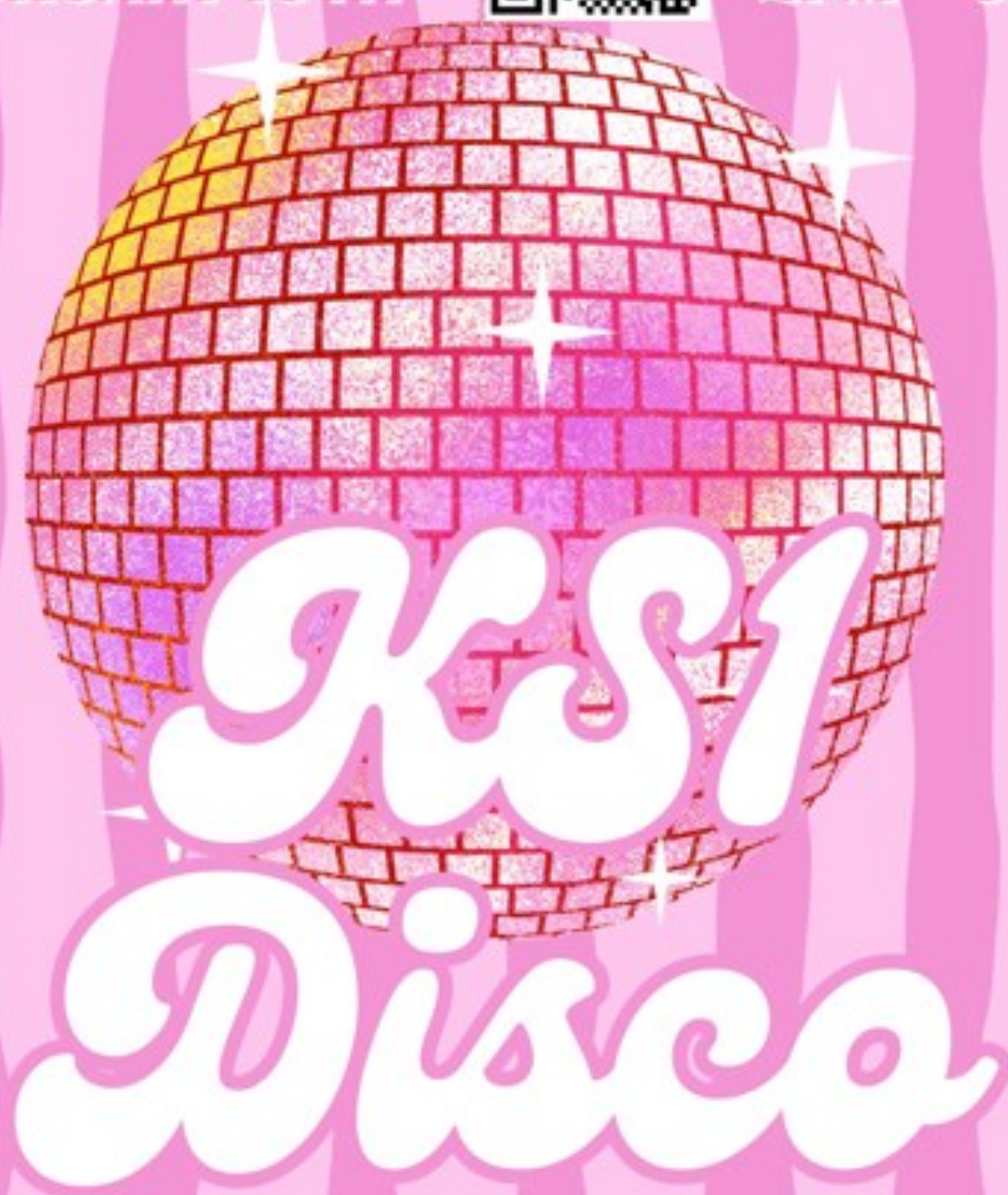
Donations welcome Friday
13th February!

Thank you for your support!

FEBRUARY 13TH



2PM - 3PM



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



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring Term

January 2026

- 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

