

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 13th February 2026

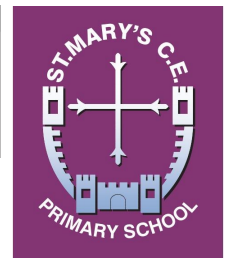
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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 96.4%

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,

Indoor Athletics Triumphs—article by Ms Driscoll!

What a week, what a way to finish this half term! This week saw both our Yr 3/4 and Yr 5/6 Indoor Athletics team attend the Uttlesford finals at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre. For our school this was a great achievement. However, in true St Mary's style we showed up to compete in the finals and gave it everything we had. And we couldn't be prouder - both teams finished in 1st place. A moment that's been a long time coming and so deserved!

It was a nail-biting morning, filled with lots of nerves, personal achievements, joy and laughter with an abundance of cheering from the sidelines. Displaying compassion, respect, perseverance, and determination as a team. The way both teams supported each other throughout the morning truly was an incredible thing to watch. It was heartfelt and full of friendship from start to finish.

Whilst we don't have the individual results for the field events, we had triumphant moments beating our own personal scores. The smiles and high fives said it all.

The track was run with speed, great technique and skill. We had a few moments when things didn't go to plan. But we will learn from those and grow as we always do. They didn't stop us; we just ploughed on and pushed harder. A huge well done to all our pupils. You all stood out and were a force to be reckoned with.

Today you all became the Uttlesford Champions for Indoor Athletics. We are immensely proud of you and your achievements. Your hard work and dedication paid off, yet again. And whilst our Year 3/4 team finish the competition here, our 5/6 team will move onto the COUNTY FINALS on Wednesday 18th March.

Lastly, we need to thank Mrs Pledger and Mr Findlay who have both given up their time to support the teams on both occasions. Always proud to be purple!

Grow 15

We are excited to introduce St Mary's C of E School's fundraising campaign for this academic year—**Grow 15!** On pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter we have included the details regarding this fundraising initiative, including links to the overall Grow15 fundraising page (with GoodHub), as well as the individual class fundraising pages.

At St Mary's, we are committed to providing an enriching, nurturing environment where every child can flourish academically, spiritually and socially. Grow15 is about coming together as a school community to raise vital funds that will directly enhance our pupils' learning experiences and school environment whilst also developing their creativity and entrepreneurial skills.

St Mary's School Council and The Friends of St Mary's have launched a year-long campaign to raise **£12,000 to refurbish all school toilets**. After years of heavy use, the facilities are worn and no longer reflect the caring environment we aim to provide. The planned upgrades will create clean, safe, and welcoming spaces that support pupils' wellbeing and confidence each day. Through Grow15, we have sent every pupil home this week with £1 in a small brown envelope, inviting pupils and their families to consider how best to turn this £1 into £15 (or more!) Every contribution—large or small—will make a real difference.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing more details about how our pupils are carrying out their fundraising achievements - through our weekly newsletter and our special Grow15 display board in school. Whether you are able to donate, help spread the word, or participate in related events, your support is greatly appreciated. Together, we can help St Mary's continue to grow and thrive for all our children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. **See pages 3 and 4 for more information.**



GoodHub

House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 100 points was Earth House; in 2nd place with 68 points was Air House, in 3rd place with 52 points was Fire House and in 4th place with 49 points was Water House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(100 points)**



**2nd place
(68 points)**



**3rd place
(52 points)**



**4th place
(49 points)**

Stars of the Week

Hattie—for working hard in her lessons

Muhammed—for insightful contributions to class discussions

Filip—for showing respect and kindness to others

Felicity—for her neat, carefully painted art end piece

Chloe—for always helping staff and also being a good role model

Oliver—for showing kindness and respect

Skye—for her amazing progress in phonics

Sage—for working hard and showing safe, respect and effort

Ava—for always having a positive attitude towards play leading

Skye—for always being positive

Dani—for her positive attitude

Bobbie—for her hard work and effort in Maths

Nina—for always being inquisitive and hardworking

Chloe—for her studding mosaic in Art

Reception Class— the whole class for working together to learn to line up in alphabetical order at break and lunch time!



Polite Reminder—Parking in Castle Street

As we continue working together to keep our school community safe, we kindly remind all families to park respectfully and responsibly during drop-off and pick-up times. For the safety of our students, please avoid stopping or dropping children off in the middle of the road, as this creates unnecessary traffic congestion and puts pedestrians at risk. Instead, use designated parking areas and allow your child to exit the vehicle from the curb side. Being patient, following local traffic rules, and showing consideration for our neighbours helps ensure a smooth and safe experience for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.



Have a lovely half term and I look forwards to welcoming you all back to St Mary's on **Monday 23rd February** at 8.30am.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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



Grow 15 fundraising initiative



Hello! We are St Mary's Primary School Council and we **really** need your help!

Grow15! is this year's exciting new fundraiser for all of our pupils. Following on from the HUGE success of last year's Grow10 campaign, this term we need your child to use their creativity and their entrepreneurial skills to turn £1 into £15 and help their class raise £450! If every class reaches their fundraising target, we will raise a massive **£3,150** which will go directly towards the urgently needed toilet refurbishments for our pupils.



Why we're raising money:

St Mary's School Council and The Friends of St Mary's have jointly launched an ambitious campaign over the course of the year to raise £12,000 to refurbish all of our school toilets.

Our toilet facilities play a vital role in pupils' daily wellbeing, comfort, and dignity. Unfortunately, after many years of constant use, they are beginning to show their age. Fixtures are worn, facilities are no longer fit for purpose, and they do not reflect the welcoming, caring environment we strive to provide for our children.

The School Council believes now is the right time to act. By upgrading and modernising our toilets, we can create clean, safe, and pleasant spaces that support pupils' health and confidence throughout the school day. These improvements will make a real and lasting difference to everyday school life for all members of our community.

Thank you so much for your support!

***Can your child help their class to smash the target and make even more money?
The School Council thinks they can!***



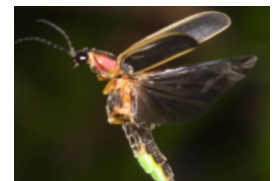
So... What do I do?

With the start-up £1 (given to you by the School Council) you will need to generate as much income as possible to grow your money and make as much profit as you can. At the end of this fundraiser (**which is at 12pm on Friday 17th April**) the profits are then returned to the school to help us reach our **£3,150 target!**

Helpful suggestions:

- Profits can be reinvested to generate more income and more profits

Children can work on their own or together with their classmates or a sibling to pool their money and raise their profits



To collect and donate your child's profits:

There are two ways to do this online:

1. Add your profits to the class pot by donating directly to your child's class page – share the QR code with friends and family so they can donate too
2. Set up a mini-campaign page that links directly to your child's class page. Just click on the red "Fundraise" button to the right. Then follow the instructions to create a personal page. Children can write their own text, add pictures, and promote their idea here. They can also share their personal QR code or page link with friends and families so they can donate. All money raised on your child's personal campaign page will feed directly into their class total.



Families will also be able to donate cash and/or a one-off payment via the School Office (please speak to a member of the school office team if you need more information on payment).

Fundraising ideas:

- Grow a plant or bake some cakes
- Recycle or upcycle items from home and sell on
- Create or make something you can sell to friends and family
- Help a neighbour or family member with odd jobs
- Loan out things you own for a fee
- Challenge yourself to do something and get sponsored
- Come up with an inventive idea all of your own...

GoodHub[®]



Prizes:

At the end there will be TWO prizes awarded to each Class:

- A prize for the **MOST CREATIVE** idea
- A prize for the **MOST ENTREPRENEURIAL** idea



There will also be a special prize and trophy for the **CLASS WHO RAISES THE MOST** money collectively.

Notes to Parents and Carers:

Please support and encourage your child to take part and please return the £1 coin by 20th March if your child does not wish to participate.

Where Can You Find Our Fundraising Pages?

Main fundraising page - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/grow15>



Reception - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/st-marys-c-of-e-va-primary-school-saffron-walden-208182>

Year 1 - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/st-marys-c-of-e-va-primary-school-saffron-walden-208183>

Year 2 - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/st-marys-c-of-e-va-primary-school-saffron-walden-208184>

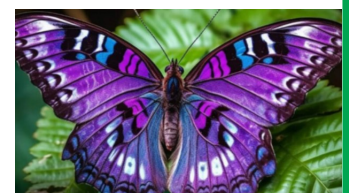
Year 3 - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/st-marys-c-of-e-va-primary-school-saffron-walden-208185>

Year 4 - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/st-marys-c-of-e-va-primary-school-saffron-walden-208186>

Year 5 - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/st-marys-c-of-e-va-primary-school-saffron-walden-208187>

Year 6 - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/st-marys-c-of-e-va-primary-school-saffron-walden-208188>

If you have any questions, or wish to donate your time and expertise to support the School Council on this fundraising project, please contact the school office on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk





Spring Term

The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



This term we are in Chelmsford, Harlow, Colchester and Basildon

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:

<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



In Partnership with





PRO KARATE HERTS AND ESSEX

**THIS FEBRUARY WE'RE SPREADING
THE LOVE!**

FREE HALF TERM!

FOR SCHOOL CLUBS RUNNING
WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

**GET IN
TOUCH NOW**

VIA INSTAGRAM,
FACEBOOK OR EMAIL

senseichelsea@yahoo.co.uk



Starting Reception Roadshows



Is Your Little One Starting Reception in September 2026?

Come along to our Starting Reception Roadshow!

Get ready for a fun, friendly, and totally FREE event designed to help you to support your child feel excited and confident about starting reception.

Essex Early Years has teamed up with local schools plus education, health and care partners to bring you a lively, helpful session packed with top tips and advice.

Want to join in?

Ask your child's childminder, preschool, or nursery for details about your nearest event, or visit the Essex Talk, Listen and Cuddle website to find out more about dates and times across Essex.

Starting Reception Roadshow near you:

[R A Butler Academy, Saffron Walden, CB11 3DG](#)

Where:

Thursday 19th March 2026

When:

6:00pm until 8:00pm



You can find out information about the event by scanning the QR code or visiting www.tlc-essex.info and searching 'Starting reception'



Follow us on social media to join our Starting Reception Campaign



Instagram Facebook



February Half-Term Clubs Now Open for Booking – Essex ActivAte

Essex Activate half-term clubs are now open for booking and offer free spaces for eligible families across Essex. These clubs play a vital role in supporting local communities by providing school-aged children with access to high-quality, enriching activities during the school holidays.



Activities include sports, creative arts, wellbeing sessions, food education, and opportunities for children to build confidence and make new friendships. With nearly 100 clubs operating across the county, families can enjoy a wide range of exciting experiences throughout the half-term break.

A Holiday Activities voucher code is not required to book a free place. Families can simply visit the Find Your Active Activity Finder, locate their nearest club, and contact the provider directly to secure a space.

Many clubs also offer paid places, so there is something for everyone at an Essex ActivAte club. Please use the link below for more information.

[Essex Activate | Active Essex](#)

The advertisement features a background image of a hand dropping a blue token into a clear plastic bin at a Tesco store. The bin is filled with many other blue tokens. In the foreground, a red Tesco shopping bag is filled with groceries like bread, tomatoes, and a carton of milk. The overall theme is supporting a school charity through a community scheme.

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

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
Tuesday 24th February	-	Yr 1 & Yr 2 Saffron Hall Visit
Friday 27th February	-	Yr 4 Public Speaking Competition (Katherine Semar)

March 2026

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 March	-	World Book Day
Monday 16th to Friday 20th March	-	Neurodiversity Week
Monday 16th March	-	Y4 Parent presentations 9.00am (School Hall)
Tuesday 17th March	-	CHANGE OF DATE - Y5 & Cheer Squad Dance Show at Saffron Hall 4.15pm—6.00pm
Wednesday 18th March	-	Yrs 5 & 6 Athletics Squad District Finals
Friday 20th March	-	Red Nose Day
Monday 23rd March	-	Y2 Duxford Trip
Tuesday 24th March	-	School Choir workshop at SWCHS
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

