

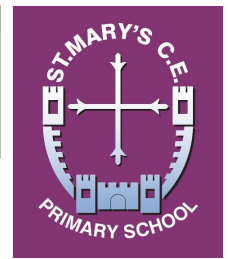
# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 13th March 2026

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



APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 96%  
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,



## Grow £15 Fundraising Success!

I am delighted to report that our Grow15 Campaign is really gathering steam and our lovely families have been busy sharing what our pupils have been up to in their fundraising throughout this week. Please continue to share a photo (or two) and a few words explaining to us all about their fundraising concept. We will continue to share all of these in our upcoming newsletters. Please see below for our new Grow15 Leaderboard. It is currently extremely tight at the top—with Year 6 narrowly inching into a lead! Let's see who's at the top next week!



**Arthur, from Butterfly Class** painted lots of beautiful pictures and then set up a stall to sell his artwork. He managed to raise an amazing £58 (and sold all of his pictures!)

**Ana Maria from Busybee Class**, held a home-made cake sale over the weekend. She was really happy preparing everything from sharing flyers with her neighbours beforehand to let them know what she was doing; she even manned her stall from 10am to 3pm one Saturday. She was well rewarded with cash donations of £154 which is an amazing achievement!



Grow 15 Leaderboard		
Position	Class	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> place	Year 6	£406.25
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Year 3	£381.65
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Reception	£359.25
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Year 5	£241.41
5 <sup>th</sup> place	Year 4	£205.75
6 <sup>th</sup> place	Year 1	£96.25
7 <sup>th</sup> place	Year 2	£40.00
Grand Total: £1730.56		

**Mabel, Sophie and Maja (from Grasshopper Class)** held a superb sweet sale and fun lucky dip sale and raised a phenomenal £126.90!



**Azaan and Aalyian (from Ladybird Class and Caterpillar Class)** held a stall selling delicious bhajis, pakoras and cakes—raising £30 between them for the school (£15 has gone into each of their class fundraising pots).

## British Science Week- The case of the stolen cake!



This week we have been celebrating British Science Week. Children across year groups have been completing their own investigations and asking enquiry questions to solve who stole the cake. Each year group were given the same 5 suspects (5 of our wonderful support staff team) and given investigations from spot the difference in Reception, looking at photo line ups to find clues, comparing fibres to clothing in year 1, year 2 compared and investigated the fingerprints left behind, footprint analysis in year 3, chromatography in year 4 and handwriting analysis in year 5. Year 6 have been busy preparing their enquiries for our school science fair coming up. There has certainly been a buzz of excitement around the school as the children analysed their evidence and concluded who they believed stole the cake.



Mrs Holmes, Science Lead



## Stars of the Week

**Woody**—for thinking outside of the box for the science experiments

**Tommy**—for an amazing improvement in his arithmetic paper

**Georgia**—for always trying her best.

**Lili**—huge focus and improvement through effort in maths

**Percy**—for being respectful and compassionate to everyone in the school

**George**—for working really hard on his setting description in English

**Carter**—for his effort in dance rehearsals

**Nika**—for working very hard and showing effort

**Elif**—for always trying her best and persevering in every task.

**Franciscek**—for excellent effort in phonics and spelling

**Ernie**—for showing courage and resilience during music performances

**Poppy**—for excellent effort in English and producing some wonderful writing

**Sofia**—for always being a kind and helpful member of the class and supporting others

**Winifred**—for fantastic progress in reading and showing good comprehension skills



## House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 74 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 68 points was Earth House, in 3rd place with 59 points was Air House and in 4th place with 56 points was Fire House. Well done everybody!



**1st place  
(74 points)**



**2nd place  
(68 points)**



**3rd place  
(59 points)**



**4th place  
(56 points)**

## Essex Early Years Charter—by Miss Nicholson, Reception Teacher at St Mary's

St Mary's is now a member of the Essex Early Years Charter. The Charter is a set of shared principles and values designed to ensure every child in Essex gets the best possible start in life. It serves as a "badge of commitment" for schools, nurseries, and childminders to reassure parents that their childcare provider aspires to a high standard of excellence and collaboration. If you would like to know more, please look at the E-flyer on the Reception information page of our website.



## Recommended Reading Update

We are excited to share that the *Recommended Reading* section on the school website has recently been updated for every year group across the school. Each year group now has a **"50 Recommended Reads"** list, starting from **Reception all the way through to Year 6**.

These pages provide a fantastic visual collection of books that children can enjoy and explore at home. The aim is to help families easily discover a wide range of engaging, high-quality texts that are suitable for each age group.



Alongside the new recommended reading lists, we have also included a **Reading Challenge** on the website to encourage children to read widely and try new books throughout the year. Parents and carers will also notice a **QR code** on the page. By scanning this, you can access a range of additional resources, including **book packs, book reviews, bookmarks and other reading materials** to support reading at home.

The school has a selection of these recommended books available, and children may come across some of them during their time in class or through school reading opportunities. If you are looking for other titles from the lists, we would also encourage families to visit and make use of the **local library**, which is a fantastic way to access a wide range of books for free.

We hope these resources will help inspire a love of reading and make it even easier to find great books to enjoy together. If you have any questions about the recommended reads or the reading challenge, please feel free to get in touch.

**Mr Brown** EYFS, KS1 and English Lead

Have a great weekend

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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

## Free Easter Holiday Clubs with Essex ActivAte are live to book



Easter holiday clubs with Essex ActivAte are now live to book across Essex and Thurrock, with thousands of free activity spaces available for eligible school aged children and young people. Families can now book onto more than 200 local clubs, offering a brilliant mix of fun activities, movement, and a free, nutritious meal each day. The programme also provides reliable and sup-

portive childcare throughout the school holidays, helping families manage routine, work and well-being.

To book a free place at an Essex ActivAte Easter club, eligible parents will receive an emailed, Holiday Activities voucher code from their child's school. Each child will receive their own unique code and booking link, taking parents straight to the Holiday Activities platform, where they can log in or create an account to secure their space.

Take a look at the club directory over on the Active Essex Website to see what clubs are on locally. <https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/half-term-programmes/>

We are inviting all children to take part in **Wear Red on Red Nose Day** on **Friday 20th March**.

Children may choose to wear:

- a full red outfit, or
- a small red item with their usual school uniform, such as red socks, a red hair ribbon, or another red accessory.

There is no expectation for families to spend money or purchase anything new. If your child does not have anything red, they are very welcome to attend school in their normal uniform as usual.

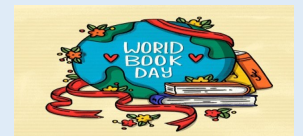


## World Book Day Celebrations - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

- Our celebrations will continue on Monday 16th March with a Poetry Dance Workshop. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore poetry through movement and creativity. We are asking for a £3.00 contribution towards the cost of the workshop, this can be paid via School Money.
- Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on this day.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate speak to a member of your child's class team.



## ONLINE PARENT & CARER DROP IN SUPPORT WEDNESDAY 1 hour session via Zoom

Does your child use aggression and/or harmful behaviours toward you?  
You're not alone.

We can help support your family & offer strategies to try, an understanding ear and guidance on how to change this behaviour. Connect with other families experiencing the same.



CapaFirstResponse.org



FREE!



# BIG WALK AND WHEEL

16 - 27 March 2026

 Walk Wheel  
Cycle Trust

Headline sponsor  
**SCHWALBE** ➤

## We're taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel 2026 challenge.

*Join in by walking,  
wheeling, scooting or  
cycling to school  
between 16 - 27 March.*

- ✔ Be active and feel more energised
- ✔ Help the environment by replacing a car journey
- ✔ Help us win some fantastic prizes

[www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk](http://www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk)

Headline sponsor:

**SCHWALBE** ➤

 Walk Wheel  
Cycle Trust

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is a registered Charity in England and Wales (224552), Scotland (SC527032) and Republic of Ireland (2026424)  
© Walk Wheel Cycle Trust 2026

# Thank you for helping us grow!

23<sup>rd</sup> March After School



Chocolate  
Rice  
Crispy  
Cake  
Sop

Chocolate  
cupcakes  
Sop

Bagged  
Sweets  
Sop



Handmade by  
Daniella Evans  
Y2

WPCP

Toy Sale,

SWEET LUCKY

dip,



Football Card

Sale,

- ♥ Monday 16th March
- ♥ Please bring your change.





**RECYCLED**



**SHOPPING LISTS!**



Help the Planet  
& the School!

Made from  
Scrap Paper!

ONLY  
**50P**  
EACH!

**BUY A PAD!**

**MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>**

**3:15 - 3:30 PM**

**AFTER SCHOOL!**

SAVE MONEY  
& SAVE TREES!



**GET YOUR RECYCLED NOTEPADS!**



**GET YOUR LIMITED EDITION**

# **HAND-DRAWN COMIC BOOKS!**



**ONLY £1 EACH!**

**£2 FOR A SIGNED COPY!**

**PLUS ENTER OUR RAFFLE!**

**£1 TO WIN THE ORIGINAL SIGNED TRANSCRIPT!**

**FREE SWEETS WITH EVERY COPY!**



**Available on 27th March 13:30**

**Written & Illustrated by Teddy Fleming Year 6**

# Upcoming Events

MAY  
**1**  
LEGOLAND DAY  
(FOSM PERK!)

MAY  
**10**  
6:00PM  
FOSM/CHATER'S QUIZ  
NIGHT

MAY  
**21**  
GLADIATOR 'STEEL'  
VISIT

JUL  
**4**  
TIME TBC  
SUMMER FETE

AUG  
SPONSORED SUMMER  
READ

SEP  
**14**  
ROALD DAHL DAY -  
"WONDERLICIOUS!"

DEC  
**11**  
4:00PM - 6:00PM  
CHRISTMAS FAIR

More to  
come!



Friends of St Mary's

???

# QUIZ NIGHT!

Sunday 10th May • 6PM

Chater's, Saffron Walden



**BUY YOUR TEAM**

VIA:



Hosted by Quiz Master, Sam La Roche!

# STIEEL



Is coming to St Mary's...



...MAY 2026



# Diary Dates



## Key Dates for the Spring Term

### March 2026

Monday 9th March	-	Grow 15 Sweet Stall—3.15pm
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
Wednesday 11th March	-	Charity Samosa, Pakora & Cake Stall—3.15pm
Thursday 12th March	-	Parent/Carer Consultations from 3.30pm
Friday 13th March	-	Grow 15 3D Printed Fidget Toys—3.15pm
Monday 16th March	-	Y4 Parent presentations 9.00am (School Hall)
Monday 16th March	-	Poetry Dance Workshop
Monday 16th March	-	Grow 15 Lucky Dip and Football Cards—3.15pm
Monday 16th to Friday 20th March	-	Big Walk and Wheel Event
Monday 16th to Friday 20th March	-	Neurodiversity Week
Tuesday 17th March	-	CHANGE OF DATE - Y5 & Cheer Squad Dance Show at Saffron Hall 4.15pm—6.00pm
Tuesday 17th March	-	Grow 15 Stationery Sale—3.15pm
Wednesday 18th March	-	Yrs 5 & 6 Athletics Squad District Finals
Friday 20th March	-	Wear Red on Red Nose Day
Friday 20th March	-	Year 1 Dance Festival
Friday 20th March	-	Grow 15 Easter Lucky Dip Stall—3.15pm
Monday 23rd March	-	Y2 Duxford Trip
Monday 23rd March	-	Grow 15 Bake Sale—3.15pm
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
Friday 27th March	-	Grow 15 Comic Book Sale—1.30pm
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	-	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 31st March	-	FOSM—last day to submit Tesco Tokens

