

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 20th March 2026

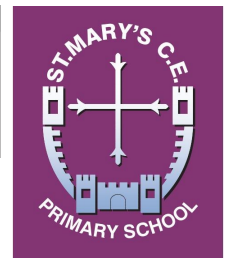
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Website: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk)



APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 96.4%

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!

A massive well done to all of our little **Grow15 Fundraisers** who have been incredibly busy carrying out their creative and thoughtful enterprises over the last few weeks. Let's see what they have been up to this week!

**Phoebe and Max** (from Yr 2) grew and then split plants and sold them outside Waitrose in Saffron Walden last weekend (with the Mother's Day rush). It was a very cold start but they did so well. Max drumming up interest with a very confident "plants for sale" market voice and both of them working on their maths for the change needed. They raised a fabulous £75 in cash with some online donations too. Julie Willis (from the St Mary's staffing team) made and sold beautiful greetings card and gift tags and raised a wonderful £9.00

**Woody** (in Yr 6) raised a mighty £96 selling his 3D printed fidget toys which he sold on the playground next week.

**Sylvie** (in Yr 2) was learning to sew with her Mamgu and they began creating bookmarks using a basic running stitch. Sylvie decided that she wanted to make & sell her bookmarks to attempt to turn her £1 into £15. Her Mamgu kindly donated enough plastic for her to create 5 bookmarks, which she has made and sold. She also did some cat sitting for our neighbours and earned herself £5. Sylvie has used the money so far to buy more of the plastic required and sewn even more bookmarks and currently has an order list 25 people long and, with a little help, she looks set to smash her £15 target by the April deadline.

**Maisie and Edie** (both from Yr 5) held a cake stall in the playground—selling yummy cakes. We can't wait to find out how much they managed to raise! Update next week!

**Hugo and Cece** (from Yr 2 and Yr 6) carried out a fantastic toy stall in the playground. This included a lucky dip and selling football cards. They raised a brilliant £20 between them!

**Please do remember to share a photo or two of your child (or children) in action—whether it's of them selling something, or creating, or just hard at work—we'd love to see them and include them in our newsletter each week.**

## Grow15 Leaderboard:

A HUGE well done to Year 6 and Year 3, who have already smashed through their class targets of £450. Year 6 are currently in the lead, closely followed by Year 3 who are nipping at their heels! It's also tight in the middle—let's see who hold first place by the end of next week as we break up for Easter. Keep sharing those Grow15 links with family and friends to keep our pot... growing!

Just a reminder that the winning class gets to hold a fantastic Pizza Party, as well as receiving the much-coveted Fundraising Trophy for 2026. **We have also extended the finish date for after the Easter holidays** as we have had so many requests for pupils to hold 'sales' on our playground. We will confirm the finish date next week.

**TOTAL RAISED, INCLUDING CASH DONATIONS IS £2302.56.** Thanks for all of your amazing support with this vital fundraising initiative.



## Grow 15 Leaderboard

(as of 19/03/26)

Position	Class	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> place	 Year 6	£542.25
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	 Year 3	£525.40
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	 Reception	£359.25
4 <sup>th</sup> place	 Year 5	£321.16
5 <sup>th</sup> place	 Year 2	£232.50
6 <sup>th</sup> place	 Year 4	£225.75
7 <sup>th</sup> place	 Year 1	£ 96.25
<b>Grand Total: £2,302.56</b>		

### Stars of the Week

**Effy** -for always showing kindness to her friends and helping around class

**Mbinauo** - for excellent effort in handwriting sessions

**Elena** - for following instructions and listening well on the carpet

**Chloe**—for her rise in confidence across all subjects and in the playground-

**Alfie**—for his focus and perseverance across English and Maths

**Aaliyan**—for his resilience in learning his timetables

**Bel**—for her effort across all subjects

**Ernie**—for fantastic effort and focus in reading

**Ruby**—for her effort in her handwriting

**Mia**—for an excellent attitude towards learning across all areas

**Laurence**—for being an excellent role model to his peers and always making the right choice

**Toby**—for reading over 1 million words so far this year

**Ana**—for reading over 2 million words so far this year

**Hattie**—for being diligent in monitoring her science experiment

**Sydney**—for being diligent in monitoring her science experiment

**Mbali**—**Playleader Award**—for working hard in the hall and for your positive attitude



### House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 76 points was Air House; in 2nd place with 71 points was Water House, in 3rd place with 60 points was Earth House and in 4th place with 58 points was Fire House. Well done everybody!



**1st place  
(76 points)**



**2nd place  
(71 points)**



**3rd place  
(60 points)**



**4th place  
(58 points)**

### Smartwatches In School



We would like to remind you about our school's policy regarding the use of smartwatches during the school day. To help maintain a focused and distraction-free learning environment, pupils are not permitted to wear or use smartwatches on school premises.

Smartwatches can function similarly to mobile phones, with messaging, internet access, cameras, games and notifications that may disrupt lessons and impact pupils' concentration. Therefore, we ask that pupils do not bring smartwatches to school. If they are brought in, they should be removed and kept securely in a box in the school office and switched off for the duration of the school day.

If a pupil needs to contact home, they may do so through the school office. Likewise, if you need to reach your child urgently, please contact the office and we will ensure messages are passed on promptly.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this expectation and helping us create a positive and focused learning environment for all pupils.

## **PE, Sport and Dance Update! By Miss Driscoll, Sports Coach**

As I sit and reflect on this half terms P.E achievements for our pupils and school I find myself bursting with pride and almost lost for words.

This week has seen pupils shine on stage performing at Saffron Hall in the Dance and Gymnastics show as well as attending the County Finals for Indoor Athletics after a huge success in the first two rounds.

### **Dance Performances on Tuesday 17th March:**

On Tuesday evening our Year 5 class took to the stage to perform a Dance - It's my Party! And what a performance - a party was definitely had on stage. The routine was pieced together during P.E lessons and they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and passion letting individual personalities shine through. Their smiles during the performance spoke a thousand words. They were infectious and the whole audience enjoyed their performance.



Our Cheer Squad were also invited to show off their skills and routine after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Uttlesford competition in December. Break times over the last few months have been sacrificed to keep the routine fresh and on point. But for the performance our pupils managed to take it up a notch - looking united, strong and faultless. Demonstrating they deserved their medal finish!



Both performances were unbelievable and stood out amongst the crowd. A huge congratulations to all our performers. You are all superstars!!

### **Indoor Athletics County Final on Wednesday 18th March:**

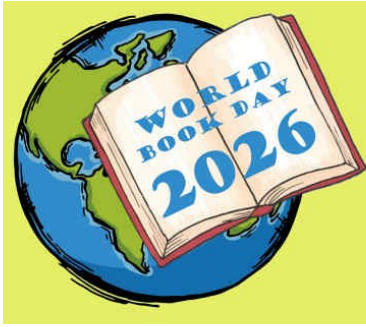


On Wednesday, our indoor athletics team embarked on a trip to the County Finals at Garron Park, Southend. A pipe dream that has been in the making over the last four years. To get the opportunity to attend was always going to be a wonderful and memorable experience. The competition was fierce, fast and strong. However, that didn't put our athletes off. They ran faster and stronger, letting their presence be known on both the track and field. We most certainly have some outstanding runners - both our relay teams finished in first place making them the fastest in the county. The technique in the Obstacle race by both our teams was faultless and fast. In the Over and Under Race we

saw speed and superb execution of the tunnel. We had fast and furious starts in all our events with last legs of the race full of determination and fight to the finish line. Whilst we still don't know the field event results, I think it's safe to say that every athlete can be incredibly proud of their individual efforts that contributed to our team making history - not only making it to the county finals; they smashed it! Out of 12 teams our team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. This is the highest finishing place Uttlesford has ever had at County Finals and it was made by our pupils. What an achievement! Months of hard work, training and chasing dreams has truly been a journey of pride for us all. Well done team, you were a force to be reckoned with.

To all our pupils that represented the school this week, you have made us all incredibly proud. Keep shining bright! I wonder what delights the summer term will bring.

## World Book Day Celebrations



Our school had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day with a range of creative and engaging activities across all year groups. A real highlight of the day was seeing the children bring classic poetry to life through expressive dance and movement.

Our younger pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed *The Owl and the Pussycat*, delighting everyone with their imaginative interpretations and joyful energy. Meanwhile, children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took on the challenge of *Jabberwocky*, showcasing fantastic creativity as they explored the rhythm, language and drama of this much-loved poem.

It was a pleasure to watch the children perform with such enthusiasm and confidence—these performances were truly a joy to see. Well done to all of the children, who worked incredibly hard, embraced the challenge, and gave everything a good try. Their effort and creativity made the day a memorable celebration of reading and the arts for everyone involved.

Mr Brown  
EYFS and KS1 Lead  
Year 2 Teacher



2 WALDEN LOCAL Wednesday March 18 2026



● A small group of Year 5 children at St Mary's, Saffron Walden, have been working with local musician Quintus Bezinger on an exciting project to create a brand-new song for the school. Said a spokesman for St Mary's: "The children shared ideas, exploring lyrics and thinking about the message they would like the song to represent about our school community. They have also been experimenting with rhythm and melody, working together creatively to help shape a song that celebrates the spirit and values of St Mary's."

## 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 supportive childcare throughout the school holidays, helping families manage routine, work and wellbeing.

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/>

# PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS

**MORE fun, MORE friendships, MORE smiles during the EASTER BREAK!**

**BOOK NOW!**

**Essex Premier Education**

**Excellent Trustpilot**

### YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CLUB

**Venue:** RA Butler Academy

**Dates:** Week 1: 30th March- 2nd April & Week 2: 7th-8th April

**Times:** 9:00AM - 3:30PM

**Ages:** 5-11 Years Old

**Additional info:** Funded places available for Free school meals



Please use the QR code to access free booking placements for qualifying families



Our 5\* Holiday Clubs are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained during the half-term break.

And with the HAF programme, your children can attend sessions free of charge. Each session includes healthy food and enriching activities.

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.

**Book now** for loads of Easter fun!



**SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps/HAF](http://premier-education.com/holiday-camps/HAF)



**PLEASE BRING**

Plenty of water  
Suitable clothing  
Loads of energy!



**Excellent Trustpilot**

## The holidays are fast-approaching

Are you *looking* for something for your child to do during this time?

Why not sign them up to one of our Bikeability Courses.

- Chelmsford
- Harlow
- Witham
- Colchester
- Uttlesford



Please see below the link to book Easter holiday courses:  
<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>

# Friends Of St Mary's Update



Hi everyone! **We are so excited to share that the St Mary's Summer Fete is happening on Saturday 4th July, 11am–2pm – and it's set to be our biggest and best yet!**

We're planning **more stalls, more fun, and more amazing memories for the children and families...** but we *really* need your help to make it happen.

To bring this event to life, we're looking for volunteers to help run stalls, set up, pack down, and keep everything running smoothly on the day. Even an hour of your time would make a huge difference. Please email [fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) if you can help! **Save the date** and get ready for a brilliant day!

Thank you as always for your support - we truly couldn't do this without you.

## Legoland Trip: Friday 1st May (School INSET Day)

Just a reminder about the upcoming FOSM day trip to Legoland, during the staff INSET Day in May.

### LEGOLAND PAYMENT DETAILS

A reminder for those who have reserved tickets for the May INSET Day LEGOLAND visit. (1st May 2026).

Payment deadline: Friday 17th April 2026. Tickets will be confirmed with LEGOLAND on Saturday 18th April 2026.



### Important, please read:

- ♦ Payment **MUST** be made by the deadline to secure your tickets.
- ♦ Please include your **CHILD'S SURNAME** and **YEAR GROUP** as the payment reference.
- ♦ Surnames may not match the surname of the person paying.
- ♦ If you have more than one child visiting from the school, just make **ONE** single payment transfer using **ONE** of the year groups of your children.

***(For example: Mrs Smith has 2 children at St Mary's. Both are going to LEGOLAND with her. All 3 are paid tickets. One child is in year 1 and one child is in year 2. Mrs Smith makes one payment to the FOSM bank of £57, with reference SMITH YEAR 1).***

### ***The bank details are:***

*Account holder: Friends of St Mary's*

*Account number: 61154241*

*Sort code: 041450*

*Institution: SumUp Payments Limited*

**If payment is not received by the deadline, your reserved tickets will unfortunately be released and no longer guaranteed.**

If you have reserved tickets but have changed your mind, that's absolutely fine - just let us know at [fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk).

If you require extra tickets, please email [fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) with your requirements and transfer the correct amount to the account above.

### **Ticket prices:**

- Adult/Child ticket: £19.00
- Carer ticket / child under 90cm: Free (proof of eligibility required for carer tickets)

You are welcome to transfer your money from *now*!

Thank you everyone - we're looking forward to a fantastic day and fingers crossed for the weather!

# 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!

# ST MARY'S SUMMER FETE



## Volunteers NEEDED

4TH JULY 2026 / 11AM-2PM

### We need help with

- setting up
- running stalls
- tidying up/packing away



[fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk)

**PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!**

# STIEEL



Is coming to St Mary's...



...MAY 2026



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!



Essex County Council  
Special Educational Needs  
and Disabilities







# SPACE

## **SPACE offers free support to families of children and young people with SEND.**

Delivered by peer educators – all parents and carers with lived experience.

### **Get support your way:**

-  **in person** – meet us at Local Offer roadshows, coffee mornings, and community events
-  **by phone** – talk one-to-one with a peer educator
-  **online** – join webinars on key topics, led by peer educators
-  **on the SPACE website** – find helpful info and guidance anytime



Book your place for an online session, or a phone call today!

[parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk](http://parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk)



# KEEPING

## WALDEN TIDY!



Edie and Tom are  
doing a sponsored  
litter pick on March  
the 21<sup>st</sup>. If you  
want to sponsor  
please use the  
link online or  
donate directly  
to Tom or Edie  
thank you!



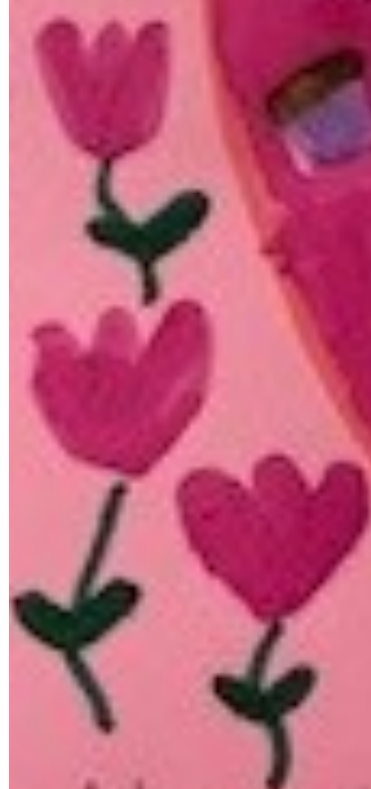
Say  
no to  
litter



"GROW"  
15

Thank you for  
helping us grow!

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



Handmade by  
Daniella Evans  
Y2

Cookies = £1

Brownies = 50p

Cupcakes = £1.50p

Rice Crispy treat = 2 for £1



Cookies  
£1

B

A

K

E



£1.50p

Cupcakes



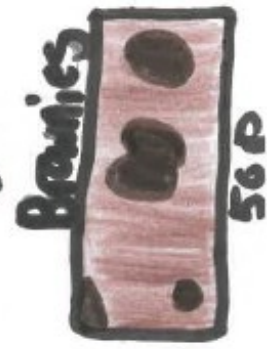
S

A

L

E

wednesday  
25th



Brownies

50p

2 for £1



Rice Crispy Cakes





# 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**

# ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TENNIS LESSONS

SUMMER TENNIS TERM  
12 WEEK BLOCK  
(STARTS 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL)

- LEARN NEW SHOTS
- FUN GAMES
- MINI MATCHES
- DOUBLES / SINGLES
- TEAM GAMES



AGES 5-11 YEARS OLD

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR  
AVAILABLE

**CONTACT ALI: 07581087325**  
**[alistennis@outlook.com](mailto:alistennis@outlook.com)**



# Diary Dates



## Key Dates for the Spring Term

### March 2026

Monday 16th to Friday 20th March	-	Big Walk and Wheel Event
Monday 16th to Friday 20th March	-	Neurodiversity Week
Tuesday 17th March	-	Y5 & Cheer Squad Dance Show at Saffron Hall
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
Saturday 21st March	-	Grow 15 Keeping Walden Tidy
Monday 23rd March	-	Y2 Duxford Trip
Monday 23rd March	-	Grow 15 Bake Sale—3.15pm
Tuesday 24th March	-	School Choir workshop at SWCHS
Tuesday 24th March	-	Grow 15 Cakes and Pocket Hugs—3.15pm
Wednesday 25th March	-	Grow 15 Wildflower Sale—3.15pm
Wednesday 25th March	-	Grow 15 Bake Sale—3.15pm
Thursday 26th March	-	Y3 Parent Presentation 9.15am (School Hall)
Thursday 26th March	-	Grow 15 Fidget Sale—3.15pm
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
Friday 27th March	-	Grow 15 Rocky Road Sale—1.30pm
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	-	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 31st March	-	FOSM—last day to submit Tesco Tokens

### Summer Term

Monday 13th April	-	First Day back for pupils
Thursday 15th April	-	R26 National Offer Day
Friday 1st May	-	INSET DAY
Friday 1st May	-	FOSM Legoland Visit
Tuesday 5th May	-	Yr4 Lee Valley Visit
Tuesday 5th May	-	Reception and Yr 6 Health Checks
Sunday 10th May	-	FOSM Quiz Night—6.00pm at Chaters
11th May—14th May	-	Y6 SATs
Thursday 21st May	-	FOSM Gladiator Steel Visit
Tuesday 9th June	-	Y3 Hatfield Forest Visit
15th June—19th June	-	Y6 Residential Visit
Saturday 4th July	-	FOSM Summer Fete
Friday 17th July (20th July INSET Day)	-	Last day of term—1.30pm finish

