

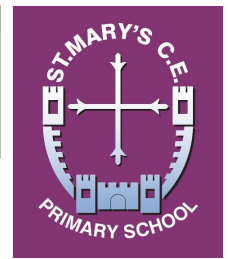
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 27th March 2026

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 94.9%
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!

As our Grow15 Fundraising Campaign gathers pace, we are delighted to share with you all some of the amazing things our pupils have been up to over the last week. Please remember that we do not want to miss out on celebrating any of our pupils' achievements—so please do email in a sentence or two with some photos and we will gladly add them to our weekly newsletters. Please remember also that the **closing date for our Grow15 Campaign is Thursday 30th April at 5pm.**

Elsie from Year 2 raised a massive £51 selling homemade horse treats to local horse yards.

Eliza and **Margot** from Year 1 made and sold loom bands and made an incredible £17 and £15 respectively.

Matthew from Year 4 made and sold shopping lists from recycled paper and made a whopping £36.

Emily from Year 5 has been busy offering her time mowing lawns for friends and family. As a result, she has raised an amazing £30.00.

Lily has been working so very hard to raise money for school!! She held a bake sale outside the house on Sunday selling a variety of delicious treats, as well as selling her pocket hugs which are positive words written on stones and was very successful. She has also knocked around our street over the past few weeks selling these items too and had had multiple sales on vinted (with help from mum) for her pocket hugs and has so far raised a whopping £193.50 and still counting!! The school are super proud of her attitude and her hard work and determination to get that dominos pizza as a reward for year 3!!

Mabel in Reception has been busy baking, decorating and selling biscuits to her friends and family and she has made a fabulous £20.

Eddie and **Tom** from Year 5 did a litter pick on Saturday. They spent an enthusiastic afternoon around Saffron Walden picking up others rubbish. They even got a big 'well done!' from a member of the Walden Wombles and asked if they wanted to join them when they meet once a month as they were doing such a brilliant job!

Dani from Year 2—sold cakes after school on Monday and raised a huge £61.86

Freya from Year 4 sold wildflower seeds after school on Wednesday

Aoife and **Maisie** from Year 5 held a cake stall after school

Henry from Year 6 made and sold fidget toys after school

Addalyn from Year 5 made and sold cakes after school raising £12.50

Phoebe from Year 5 made and sold bracelets and raised a massive £136.00

Daneen from Year 1 helped with chores around the house and raised a marvellous £66.93

Grow15 Leaderboard:

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 'Grow15 sales' on our playground. **TOTAL RAISED SO FAR, INCLUDING CASH DONATIONS IS £3,126.38** Thanks for all of your amazing support with this vital fundraising initiative!



Grow 15 Leaderboard		
(as of 27/03/26)		
Position	Class	Total
1 st place	Year 3	£627.90
2 nd place	Year 6	£598.50
3 rd place	Year 4	£441.31
4 th place	Year 5	£403.41
5 th place	Reception	£399.25
6 th place	Year 2	£357.26
7 th place	Year 1	£298.75
Grand Total:		£3,126.38

Choir Event at SWCHS

On Tuesday, the school choir visited SWCHS to take part in an inaugural choir event alongside six other local schools. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to perform and develop their musical skills.



Each choir performed their chosen song twice—once in the morning and again in the afternoon to a packed auditorium. Our choir rose to the occasion and delivered their performances with confidence and enthusiasm.

During the day, the children were fortunate to take part in vocal coaching with Carrie Rawlings, which helped them refine their singing techniques. They also enjoyed watching performances from the SWCHS choirs and were inspired by a pupil currently studying Opera at the Royal Academy of Music, who spoke about their musical journey.

The entire day was a wonderful experience, and we are incredibly proud of how bravely and brilliantly the choir performed on stage.



Stars of the Week

Quentin—for an excellent trip to Duxford.

Marcel—for his contributions to class discussions

Maisie—for amazing focus, effort and progress in her writing.

Barney—for great focus and hardwork—progress in his reading.

Louis—for his fantastic Science skills in dissecting a flower.

Maddison—for listening attentively and joining in with singing and games

Lara—for excellent writing in English.

Kathryn—for showing good organisation skills with the librarians.

Ela—for always working hard and being a wonderful

Ladybird class—for their effort and perseverance this term and their incredible dancing at their dance festival.

Darcey—for showing resilience and perseverance in Maths!



House triumphs!

Congratulations to Water House who were this term's house champions. They received their special prize yesterday afternoon of an extra break and chocolate! Well done Water House!



Message from Dolce

Please ensure your account remains in credit and take some time over the Easter holidays to check for and clear any outstanding dinner money.

Please note that Dolce will only allow up to three unauthorised meals. After this, a stop will be placed on the account, and you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child until any outstanding balance has been cleared.

Have a lovely Easter break and I look forwards to seeing you all back at school ready for the Summer Term on Monday 13th April at 8.30am.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

Summer Term Clubs



The Summer Club timetable is now available to view on the school website. **To secure a place for your child, payment must be made via School Grid, which opens on Friday 27th March.**

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/clubs-2025-2026>

How to Book a Place

• External Provider Clubs

Tennis, Drama and Karate are delivered by external providers. These must be booked directly with the provider using the contact details listed on the timetable.

• School-Run Clubs

All other clubs should be booked via School Money. Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

• Pupil Premium Offer

Children eligible for Pupil Premium funding may access one free club, subject to availability, for clubs run by school staff. This offer does not apply to external provider clubs or Premier Sports. To secure a place for your child, please speak directly to a member of the school office.

Important Reminders

Please check the timetable carefully and make a note of the specific dates for your child's club, as start and end dates may vary. Some clubs may not run every week.



St Mary's: highest ever finish for Uttlesford team

ST MARY'S PRIMARY indoor athletics team embarked on a trip to the Essex County finals at Southend last week - a 'pipe dream' that has been in the making over the past four years. Said school PE co-ordinator Miss Driscoll: "To get the opportunity to attend this event was always going to be a wonderful and memorable experience. The competition was fierce, fast and strong but that didn't put our athletes off. Our team ran faster and stronger, making their presence be known on both the track and field.

"We had some outstanding runners - both the relay teams finished in first place making them the fastest in the county." "They had fast and furious starts in all of the events with last legs of races full of determination and fight to the finish line. Out of 12 teams St Mary's team finished in 3rd place, the highest finishing place Uttlesford has ever had at the County Finals. Months of hard work, training and chasing dreams has truly been a journey of pride for our team."



Well done St Mary's for your efforts in the Big Walk and Wheel challenge 2026. It was great to hear the children speak proudly about their active journeys into school and even better to hear that this is how many of you get into school every day, not just when we are partaking in a competition. Whilst we took part in the first week only and the competition is finishing today, Friday 27th, they take your 5 best days and our statistics were fabulous! Not as many as last year but still a huge 795 active journeys were recorded this year and a daily average score of 70%. Our best position was recorded as 97th out of 1072 medium sized primary schools around the country! Special shout out to Busybees class who got the overall leader, logging up a massive 137 journeys.





ST MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary school in Saffron Walden

GARDEN SUPPORT, SEED DONATION & HORTICULTURAL ADVICE ALLOWING THE SCHOOL TO MAINTAIN A THRIVING ECO GARDEN



Cultivating Change started working with St Mary's C of E Primary School in Saffron Walden, Essex after they had won a grant to improve their garden space. The school needed support to learn how to best maintain the garden to become a thriving space; used by multiple year groups, including the Forest School & wider parent community. Through the provision of seeds and awareness assemblies the school grew micro-greens, herbs and vegetables in classrooms and the garden. The produce has been shared with the school kitchen and the wider community. Harvested flowers such as sunflowers have been used in some national curriculum lessons including maths and art, and as sensory and learning activities for the younger children. The school garden is used by many & the children have been learning to care for themselves as they care for the garden, equipping them with practical & emotional skills for life. Food harvested this year has been shared with local restaurants and the wider Saffron Walden community.

What impact does spending time in the garden have on your pupils?

"When the children join me in the garden their behaviour calms & they instantly start to focus, listen to one another and work together"

Katie McInnes - Forest School Lead

Do you think gardening is good for your mental health?

"Yes, because it is fun & helps me concentrate"

Pupil - Forest School

How does spending time in the garden make you feel?

"Warm inside"

Pupil - Year 1

100% of pupils said gardening makes them feel happy

100% of pupils said gardening makes them feel more positive

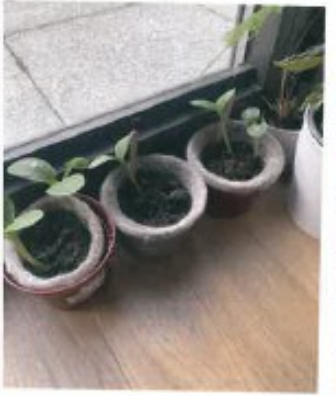
100% of the teachers said all pupils were more focused when spending time in the garden





ST MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

IN PHOTOS



Toby & Timmy's

GROW 15 SALE

- Handmade using recycled fabric -



Fabric-covered Notebooks • Upcycled Bunting • Handwoven Coasters



School Playground



Wednesday 15th April



3:15pm

Prices

- Large Notebooks £4 each or 2 for £7
- Small Notebooks £3 each or 2 for £5
- Bunting £6.50
- Coasters £3 each or 2 for £5

♥ All profits go towards Grow 15 ♥

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 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.

If you require extra tickets, please email 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

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!

ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TENNIS LESSONS

SUMMER TENNIS TERM
12 WEEK BLOCK
(STARTS 13TH 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



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring Term

March 2026

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
Wednesday 15th April	-	Grow 15 Stall—3.15pm
Thursday 16th April	-	R26 National Offer Day
Friday 17th April	-	First & 6 Swim
Wednesday 29th April	-	Yr2 Three Tees Cricket
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
Wednesday 3rd June	-	R26 Parent Information Meeting (9.30am School Hall)
Tuesday 9th June	-	Y3 Hatfield Forest Visit
15th June—19th June	-	Y6 Residential Visit
Tuesday 23rd June	-	KS2 Athletics Competition
Thursday 25th June	-	Y6 Secondary School Visits
Wednesday 1st July	-	Sports Day (Time tbc)
Saturday 4th July	-	FOSM Summer Fete
Friday 10th July	-	FOSM KS2 Leavers Disco (5.00pm—6.30pm)
Monday 13th July	-	Move Up Afternoon
Monday 13th July	-	Meet the Teacher (Yrs 1 & 2 3.15pm, Yr3 3.30pm)
Tuesday 14th July	-	Yrs 5/6 Performance—6.00pm
Tuesday 14th July	-	Meet the Teacher (Yrs 4&5 3.15pm, Yr6 3.30pm)
Wednesday 15th July	-	Leavers Lunch
Thursday 16th July	-	R26 Transition Morning (Group A—9.30-10.25, Group B—10.30-11.25)
Friday 17th July (20th July INSET Day)	-	Leavers Service at St Mary's Church (9.30am)
	-	Last day of term—1.30pm finish

