

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 8th May 2026

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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 95.6%

Attendance Year 96%

*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,

## Thank You for Supporting Our Grow15 Fundraising Campaign

A huge thank you to all of our parents, carers, families, and friends who supported our recent Grow15 fundraising campaign. Thanks to your incredible generosity and enthusiasm, we are delighted to share that the school community raised an amazing **£7,048.17**.

The campaign was a fantastic example of teamwork, determination, and community spirit across every year group. Pupils embraced the challenge with energy and creativity, and it was wonderful to see so many families encouraging and supporting them throughout the event.

A special well done goes to **Year 3**, who finished in first place and were crowned our **Grow15 champions** and will be enjoying their special Pizza Party on **Friday 22nd May**. I am also delighted to announce that every class will also enjoy some cakes, biscuits and softy drinks on that day to celebrate their hard work and creativity.

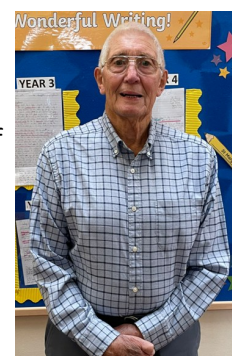
Every contribution, no matter the size, has helped make a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for the support shown by our wider school community. The funds raised will help support opportunities and resources that benefit all of our pupils. Most importantly, the campaign highlighted the kindness, enthusiasm, and strong community spirit that make our school so special. Thank you once again for helping make Grow15 such a tremendous success.

Grow 15 Leaderboard (Final Result)		
<small>(as of 05/05/2026)</small>		
Position	Class	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> place	Year 3	£1,412.80
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Year 6	£1,343.35
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Year 5	£1,022.40
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Year 2	£1,008.65
5 <sup>th</sup> place	Reception	£941.50
6 <sup>th</sup> place	Year 4	£817.46
7 <sup>th</sup> place	Year 1	£502.01
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>£7,048.17</b>

## Sad news;

St Mary's Church of England Primary School staff, pupils, parents, and governors are mourning the loss of one of our governors - Alan Palmer - who passed away last weekend.

Alan served as a governor at St Mary's for the last four years, offering his time, wisdom, and unwavering support to both staff and students. Known for his thoughtful nature and genuine care for the wellbeing of every child, he played an important role in helping guide the school through periods of growth and change. Those who worked alongside him remember Alan as dependable, kind, and deeply committed to the values of the school. Whether attending meetings, supporting school events, or offering encouragement behind the scenes, he brought warmth and integrity to every aspect of his role. Staff and governors have spoken of his calm presence and ability to listen carefully before offering measured advice. Parents often appreciated the sincere interest he took in the life of the school and the wider community in Saffron Walden.



Beyond his role as a governor, Alan will be remembered as a family man and a valued friend to many. His contribution to St Mary's extended far beyond governance; he helped foster a sense of community, compassion, and stability that will continue to be felt for years to come.

Alan's dedication and quiet leadership will leave a lasting mark on our school community. The thoughts of everyone at St Mary's are with Alan's family and loved ones during this difficult time. His legacy at the school will not be forgotten.

## Rapid Fire Cricket

This week our wonderful Year 4 class put their cricket skills to the test and competed in a local school's tournament. We all thoroughly enjoyed the morning with so many positive moments. Every pupil represented the school perfectly and Jackie Coleman was delighted with their performance. We had three teams at the event and our shining stars have managed to secure a place at the Finals. Well done Year 4 we are extremely proud of you.



## Stars of the Week

**Addalynn**—for amazing artwork and attention to detail

**Brogan-Grace**—for excellent effort in Maths

**Harry**—for pushing himself to improve his writing

**Kayden**—for being a kind and supportive friend

**Millie**—for always showing safe, respect effort

**Lavinia**—for her fantastic participation in PSHCE—healthy eating

**Angelina**—for a great first week in Year 3!

**Zachary**—for his effort in Maths

**Margot**—for always being a role model and showing effort, safe, respect

**Daya**—for persevering in our revision sessions and always working hard

**Mbali**—for being a hard-working, responsible member of the St Mary's community

**Oscar**—for showing resilience and perseverance across all areas of learning

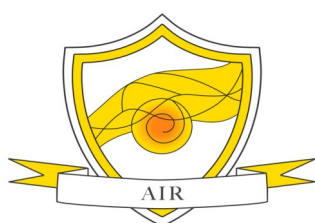
**Edmund**—for demonstrating excellent Maths skills and explaining clearly to his class

**James**—for making excellent progress in writing



## House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in joint 1st place with 60 points were Air and Earth Houses; in joint 2nd place with 50 points were Fire House and Water Houses. Well done everyone!



**1st place  
(60 points)**



**2nd place  
(60 points)**



**3rd place  
(50 points)**



**4th place  
(50 points)**

## Amazing achievement

Penny and Libby from Year 5 play for a team called Trailblazers which Penny's Dad has created which consists of 5 girls from Saffron Walden and two girls from other clubs. The team played 8 matches at the Norwich City Summer Cup held at Cambridge City and scored 25 goals and conceded 2 throughout the tournament. They won the final 4-0. All the girls played brilliantly. Libby's dad helped with the coaching and it was a great day for all involved, players and parents.

The girls have earned the chance to compete in the Norwich City Champions Cup in July where they will play against winners/ finalists from other tournaments.



## FOSM—Legoland trip

Because St Mary's is lucky enough to have such an active PTA, some of our families were able to take advantage of a fantastic reduced-rate ticket offer to LEGOLAND.

What a day it was! The sun was shining, the rides weren't too busy(!), and smiles were everywhere. From splashing on the water rides (yes, even the grown-ups got soaked!) to enjoying far too many ice creams, it's safe to say that wonderful memories were made all round. See page 3 of the newsletter for some amazing photos!

A huge amount of time and effort went into organising this trip behind the scenes, and seeing so many children (and adults!) having such a brilliant time made it all completely worthwhile. That's exactly why we do what we do - to create special moments and lasting memories for the children of St Mary's.

Next up... our Summer Fete on **Friday 4th July, 11am–2pm** - bigger and better than ever! We'd absolutely love to be able to offer more/different opportunities like this in the future, and events like the fete help make that possible. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

If you'd like to be part of our "making memories" mission - whether that's helping on a stall or getting involved in any way - we'd love to hear from you: [fosm@st-marys.essex.sch.uk](mailto:fosm@st-marys.essex.sch.uk).

Next up... The SOLD-OUT FOSM Quiz Night!



*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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



# BEND THE RULES DAY!

FRIDAY 22ND MAY  
(LAST DAY OF TERM!)



For **ONE DAY ONLY**, St Mary's children can bend a few school rules in exchange for a donation for the **Summer Fete Bottle Tombola!**



## BRING A BOTTLE (OR TWO!) AND YOU CAN...



**1** Wear non-uniform



**2** Have colourful hair



**3** Wear painted nails



**4** Bring a teddy or cuddly toy



**5** Wear trainers instead of school shoes



**6** Have a sweet treat in your lunchbox

## BOTTLE DONATIONS

ANYTHING IN A BOTTLE IS WELCOME!

### IDEAS INCLUDE:

- ★ Bubble bath
- ★ Juice
- ★ Squash
- ★ Fizzy drinks
- ★ Sauce
- ★ Shampoo
- ★ Wine/beer/prosecco
- ★ Kids' drinks



All donations will go towards our Bottle Tombola at the St Mary's Summer Fete on **SATURDAY 4TH JULY**.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S!

# SUMMER FETE

## SATURDAY 4TH JULY

11AM - 2PM

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

# 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**

— PRIMARY SCHOOL —  
**SAFFRON WALDEN**

**BIGGER  
AND  
BETTER  
THAN  
EVER!**

# SUMMER FETE

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**11AM – 2PM**

**SAVE  
the  
DATE!**

**GAMES**

**TOMBOLA**

**INFLATABLES**

**STALLS**

**AND LOTS  
MORE!**

**FUN FOR  
EVERYONE!**

— ♥ —  
**COME AND  
SUPPORT OUR  
WONDERFUL  
SCHOOL!**



# SPONSORS WANTED!

SUPPORT ST. MARY'S SUMMER FETE!

Promote your business  
& support our community event!

Looking for Local Businesses  
to Sponsor!

*Get in Touch!*

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

# STIEHL



Is coming to St Mary's...



Thursday, 21st May 2026



# Diary Dates

## Key Dates for the Summer Term

Tuesday 5th May	-	Yr4 Lee Valley Visit
Tuesday 5th May	-	Reception and Yr 6 Health Checks
Thursday 7th May	-	Year 4 Rapid Fire Tournament
Sunday 10th May	-	FOSM Quiz Night—6.00pm at Chaters
11th May—14th May	-	Y6 SATs
18th May	-	Y6 Residential meeting parents/carers 5.00pm
19th May	-	Music Concert 5pm
Thursday 21st May	-	FOSM Gladiator Steel Visit
Friday 22nd May	-	FOSM Bend the Rules Day
Wednesday 3rd June	-	R26 Parent Information Meeting (9.30am School Hall)
Thursday 4th June	-	Multi sports afternoon
Tuesday 9th June	-	Y3 Hatfield Forest Visit
Wednesday 10th June	-	Class Photos
15th June—19th June	-	Y6 Residential Visit
Friday 19th June	-	Yr 1 Linton Zoo 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

