

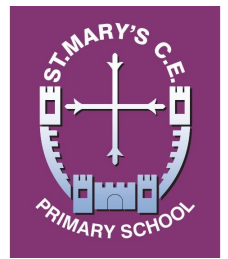
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 15th May 2026

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



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,

Gardening Club:

It was another fantastic gardening club session on Monday, and we were really pleased that so many children returned and great to see some new faces. We had some brilliant, enthusiastic and unprompted comments 'I love gardening club', 'I love digging and planting', 'I do some gardening at home, so this is fun' and 'I am the compost chief'!

It was lovely to see Bea take ownership of the garden plan, keeping us organised and that the year 6 girls were a great watering team as well as supporting the younger children. We had some fantastic weeding efforts and I think the photos show the joy and sense of achievement that the children had. It is great to see the positive impact the children made in the garden today.



They weeded all the beds struggling with bind weed, topped up the beds with compost (we will bring some more next time) and planted some carrots and beetroot as well as making sure the salads, sunflowers and cosmos planted at the last session were well watered. We are really looking forward to the next session and can't wait to see the progress of everything in the beds.



Inclusion Coffee Morning:



Last week we held a coffee morning which was a great opportunity for parents and carers to share knowledge and offer support. We will hold another next term and welcome anyone who would benefit from connecting with other parents who experience similar challenges - a date will be sent out shortly. In addition, below are a couple of events held in Saffron Walden that might be of interest. The sessions have a SEND focus, are free and available to all.

Saffron Walden Library—14 July, 10:30am – 1:00pm

Parent coffee meet-up at Zafferano Lounge 10:30am – 12:30pm Every third Thursday of the month Next meet-up: 21st May

Stars of the Week

Gray—for excellent effort and progress in writing tasks

Sabrina—for speaking confidently to adults around the school

Daneen—for effort and enthusiasm playing football in PE this week

Elijah—for strong will to always persevere and keep trying

Kiara— for working so hard in her morning work

Maddison—for working so hard in Art

Huxley—for inquisitive mind and being a kind and supportive friend

Kaan—for effort with writing this week and fantastic time telling skills

Esther—for consistently showing all of our school values

Fred—for excellent effort and improvement in English

Jasper—for effort in our debate lesson—producing a great argument

Tom—for a well written and presented argument in our debate lesson

Georgia—for perseverance during SATs

Year 6 students—for approaching their SATs with a fantastic attitude



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 113 points was Water House; in 2nd place with 86 points was Air House; in 3rd place with 76 points was Fire House and in 4th place with 67 points was Earth House. Well done everyone!



**1st place
(113 points)**



**2nd place
(86 points)**



**3rd place
(76 points)**



**4th place
(67 points)**

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Free May Half-Term Clubs with Essex ActivAte – Live to Book

May half term clubs with Essex ActivAte are live to book across Essex, with loads of free activity spaces available for school-aged children and young people.



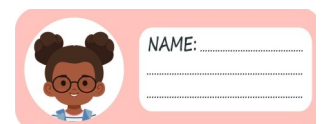
Families can choose from local clubs, offering a fantastic mix of fun activities, movement opportunities, and a free, nutritious meal each day.

The programme also provides reliable and supportive holiday childcare, helping families maintain routines, balance work, and support children's wellbeing throughout the school break. No voucher or referral is needed, and you access booking via the Active Essex website

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/>

Sick of lost jumpers never making their way home?!

If you're looking to order name labels for your child's school uniform, please consider using *My Nametags!*



Not only are they brilliant quality, but St Mary's receives 24% of your order value back.

What an easy way to help raise money for the children while sorting your uniform labels at the same time!

Lost property is a HUGE issue at St Mary's, with so many lovely branded jumpers and cardigans unable to find their owners because they aren't labelled.

We also have a uniform sale coming soon so keep an eye out for some fantastic discounted uniform... and don't forget to grab some labels to go with it!

Order here: <https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=32234>

Summertime Fiesta Special Menu Thursday 21st May



We will be celebrating our Census Day with a Summertime Fiesta themed lunch menu for all children.

Our catering team will be serving a fun and exciting menu designed to encourage as many children as possible to enjoy a school meal on the day. Every meal taken on Census Day helps to secure valuable funding for the school, which supports resources and opportunities for all pupils. If your child would normally bring a packed lunch, we would encourage them to try the special school meal on this day. Please make your order via School Grid.

SUMMERTIME FIESTA



THE DOLCE NACHO BAR

CARNIVAL CHICKEN TOPPED NACHOS
(WITH OPTIONAL CHEESE)

SUMMERTIME QUORN TOPPED NACHOS (V) (VG)
(WITH OPTIONAL CHEESE)

CHEESY MEXICAN BEAN CRUNCH WRAP (V)
FIESTA WRAP BAR WITH A CHOICE OF FILLINGS

SIDES

SUNSHINE RICE
TOMATO, CUCUMBER & CARROT CHUNKY SALSA
ROASTED CORN & COBS

DESSERT

CHURRO STYLE MINI DOUGHNUTS
& CHOCOLATE DRIZZLE (V)
RHUMBA RASPBERRY SORBET (VG)
FRESH FRUIT (VG) (GF)

dolce

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!

SUMMER DRAMA WORKSHOPS

Ages 9+

£35 a day
or £120 for
all four
sessions



Friends Meeting House
High Street
Saffron Walden
CB10 1AA

Mon 27th - Thurs
30th July
9:30-16:00

Sessions will be:

- Fun and creative workshops
- In a supportive environment
- Run by Laura Thomas and Rachel Harvey



Contact Laura or Rachel for a place.
Laura: 07784 066410 | thomaslaura@hotmail.com
Rachel: 07367 685665 |
rachel.harvey01@yahoo.co.uk



St Mary's
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SAFFRON WALDEN

TENNIS FOR CHILDREN!

SUMMER TERM

AFTER SCHOOL ON SITE



3.15 – 4.00pm
ON **MONDAYS**



AGES 5–12



FUN, ENGAGING,
BUILDS CONFIDENCE
AND LEARN A NEW SKILL



NO EQUIPMENT
NEEDED!

★
3
SPOTS
LEFT!



07581087325

LIMITED SPACES – BOOK NOW!

Viral Trend Risks Causing Severe Burns to Children



Microwaving NEEDOH Toys and Squishies

Parents and Carers Guide

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A viral trend is encouraging children to microwave squishy silicone toys, known as NEEDOH toys or squishies, among other names (Jelly Cubes, Nice Cubes) in order to make them softer and more pliable. Often, the packaging warns against this, but children are ignoring it because online videos and trends on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube encourage them to do the opposite. The toy feels cool to the touch after microwaving, but bursts when squeezed, spraying boiling material on hands, neck and face. A child in Bristol was seriously hurt on 4th May 2026 and children in America have experienced significant burns and injuries. This has happened to children as young as seven.

Please note - Your child does not need to have searched for this. The algorithm shows it to children based on other content they have watched.



IF YOUR CHILD HAS ONE OF THESE TOYS

It is natural to feel concerned, but the most important thing is to remain calm. Children are far more likely to talk to you, now and in the future, if they know they will be met with a steady response rather than alarm.

This is also a valuable opportunity. What your child sees online, from friends or from trends, does not always show the full picture or the consequences. Safety conversations are not about restricting their fun, they are about making sure they understand how to protect themselves and others.



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

You do not need to be an expert. A relaxed, open and honest conversation is enough. A few things that can help:

- Use the toy as a natural conversation point rather than sitting them down for a formal talk.
- Tell them simply that children their age have been seriously hurt following this trend. Reality carries more weight than a rule.
- Avoid taking the toy away without explaining why as providing a reason builds trust. Removing it without understanding may lead a child to hide things from you.
- If the toy feels too firm, the manufacturer's recommendation to soften it is to knead it with your hands for a few minutes. Encourage them, or help them, to do this instead.
- If they have already seen the videos, remain calm. The algorithm does its job quietly. What matters is the conversation that follows.



KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS...

You do not need to be an expert. A relaxed, open and honest conversation is enough. A few things that can help:

- The toy looks and feels completely normal after microwaving, the outside stays cool to the touch. But inside, it has reached temperatures as hot as boiling water so when squeezed, it bursts and dangerous hot liquid can explode.
- The injuries include severe burns, potential scarring and in some cases, a risk to eyesight. Some children have been hospitalised because of the trend.
- Remind them it could hurt anyone nearby - a friend, a sibling, whoever is in the room when it bursts.
- Online videos are designed to look like helpful tips, sometimes to get more followers. They do not always show what happens afterwards.
- If a friend suggests trying it, knowing and explaining the real danger makes it much easier for them to say no.
- If they have already tried it, or something has worried them, they are not in trouble. What matters is that they are safe.



If your child is worried or needs help, make sure they know they can always come to you first or an adult they trust. They can also:

- Talk to a trusted adult at school – their teacher, a youth worker or the school Safeguarding Lead or Child Protection Co-ordinator.
- Contact Childline, free, confidential and available any time
- If they have been hurt, seek medical attention straight away - call 999 immediately. Burns from this can continue to cause damage after the initial contact.

Please do not search for this on TikTok or Instagram yourself. Every search feeds the algorithm and makes this content more visible to others. For news coverage, use the links below and share this and our alert with friends and family to raise awareness.

For verified news coverage: [BBC News](#) | [The Independent](#)

If your child has seen these videos or even tried this trend, do not react with panic or anger. That is the response most likely to close the conversation down. Staying calm keeps the door open, and an open door to conversations with adults they can trust is what makes children safer.

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

Childline – free, confidential support for children and young people: 0800 1111 | www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline – support and advice for adults with concerns about a child: 0808 800 5000 | www.nspcc.org.uk



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 4TH

11AM — 2PM

**SAVE
the
DATE!**

GAMES

TOMBOLA

INFLATABLES

STALLS

**AND LOTS
MORE!**

**FUN FOR
EVERYONE!**

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

A vibrant, festive background featuring a blue sky with white clouds, colorful triangular bunting flags in red, yellow, green, and blue, and several balloons in red, blue, green, and yellow. The scene is set in a lush green field with sunflowers, white daisies, and a yellow rubber duck. In the background, there is a red and white striped circus tent and a colorful Ferris wheel.

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

STIEHL



Is coming to St Mary's...



Thursday, 21st May 2026



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Summer Term

18th May	-	Y6 Residential meeting parents/carers 5.00pm
19th May	-	Music Concert 5pm
Wednesday 20th May	-	Yr2 Bridge End Gardens Visit
Thursday 21st May	-	FOSM Gladiator Steel Visit
Thursday 21st May	-	Dolce census summer time fiesta menu
Friday 22nd May	-	FOSM Bend the Rules Day
Tuesday 2nd June	-	Yr 6 English Bridging Session with SWCHS (AM)
	-	Yr 6 JFan Bridging Session (PM)
Wednesday 3rd June	-	R26 Parent Information Meeting (9.30am School Hall)
Thursday 4th June	-	EYFS, KS1 and Yr 3 Multi sports afternoon
Tuesday 9th June	-	Y3 Hatfield Forest Visit
Wednesday 10th June	-	Class Photos
Thursday 11th June	-	Dolce World Cup special menu
15th June—19th June	-	Y6 Residential Visit
Friday 19th June	-	Yr 1 Linton Zoo Visit
Tuesday 23rd June	-	KS2 Athletics Competition
Wednesday 24th June	-	KS2 Panathlon Team Final
Thursday 25th June	-	Y6 Secondary School Visits at JFan and SWCHS
Wednesday 1st July	-	Sports Day
	-	Yrs 3 –6 (8.30am—11.45am)
	-	Whole School Parent/Carer Picnic 12.00pm—12.45pm
	-	R—Yr 2 (12.45—3.15pm)
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

