

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 22nd May 2026

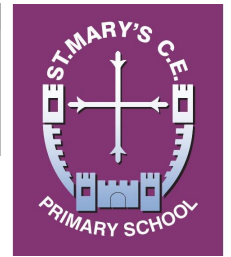
Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



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,

Ascension Day Assembly

On Tuesday, we gathered together to celebrate Ascension Day, which was led by Reverend Hilary Walker. The service was a thoughtful and uplifting occasion as we reflected on Christ's ascension into heaven and the hope and promise it brings to Christians around the world.

Reverend Hilary Walker shared an inspiring message, encouraging us to consider how the Ascension continues to shape our faith and daily lives. The service was warmly attended and provided a meaningful opportunity for prayer, worship, and fellowship together as a church community.



Grow 15 Celebrations

In Friday's Collective Worship, we held our weekly Celebration Assembly. During this assembly, we presented special certificates and prizes to some of our pupils for their sterling efforts towards the recent Grow15 Fundraising Campaign.

Two pupils (Sydney and Teddy in Y6) were presented with special certificates and prizes for either being extra-specially entrepreneurial or had raised a particularly significant level of fundraising. Please read on to find out what they did!

Sydney (from Y6) had originally set out to raise money for the school with her Dad's help by challenging herself to swim 2.5 miles and asking for sponsorship. She then increased this to 3 miles when she saw the support increasing beyond her dreams and ended up completing 3.25 miles in March (a whopping 216 laps in all with 52 laps completed on just one Saturday!) The early Saturday mornings and the endless lengths were not easy but Sydney pushed herself to finish her goal and push past her original target to raise as much money as possible. The best part is she has found in herself the capability to take on and achieve something she set her mind to and to make a **real** difference.



The school and her family are incredibly proud of her, and overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends, family and many neighbours who supported her campaign. **Altogether, Sydney raised a staggering £743.75 (which is over 10% of the school's whole fundraising total of £7000!)**

For his Grow15 fundraising, Teddy wrote and hand drew his own unique, creative comic book and then sold them to pupils and their families. Teddy worked incredibly hard on the storyline, made up new characters and plotted out the beginning and end before thinking of the middle of the story. He drew the whole of the comic himself and added his own dialogue and narrative. Each copy of the comic cost £1 and came with a free sweet. (Teddy did 3.5hrs of heavy garden labour, to earn the money to be able to include a sweet for each reader, because a class friend suggested it might help sell the comic). Teddy even offered to sign a copy for an extra £1. Finally, he raffled off his original manuscript with raffle tickets costing £1. **Altogether, Teddy raised an amazing £96.**



Finally, in our Celebration Assembly, all those who raised above £100 received a special certificate and bar of chocolate to thank them and their families for their efforts.

Once again a **HUGE thank you** to everyone who contributed towards our Grow15 Fundraising Campaign. We ended up receiving £7000 in donations. In our next newsletter.

Steel from Gladiators (Zack George)

On Thursday, the children of St Mary's were treated to a truly inspiring visit from Zack George - better known to many as Steel from BBC1 series Gladiators! Thanks to the incredible support of our parents, carers and friends of the school through non-uniform days, events and fundraising, FOSM were able to arrange this exciting workshop for the children.



Zack spoke about what it takes to become a Gladiator, focusing on important messages around health and wellbeing, confidence, perseverance, hydration and mindfulness. The children were completely engaged throughout and asked some fantastic questions. Steel even amazed everyone by walking backwards and forwards on his hands for a full 30 seconds (with his personal record being an incredible 3.5 minutes!). To reinforce the importance of hydration, every child also received a bottle of water from Zack to take away with them.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling, excited faces - from both the children and staff alike! The visit created a buzz in the atmosphere! Hopefully this morning added a little extra "Glimmer" for our children!

- Effy said, "I loved the handstand, he held it for the whole world!"
- Bertie said, "I want to grow up big and strong like Steel and I loved the handstand."
- Ernie said, "I am going to try and smile and try again when things don't go right."
- Percy said "I need to drink as much water as Steel to be big and strong".
- Gemma (parent) said "They were absolutely thrilled with it! Thanks for organising! They love Gladiators!"
- Sydney said "I loved getting a high five from Steel!"
- Lily said "he gave us his autograph and he was nice and looked nice too"

I really hope the children took something positive from his visit and hope that there'll be more exciting things to come in the future!

Thanks again for all the support, as always.

Jess - FOSM

Steel Visit—Glimmer Pad

Following Zack George's (Steel the Gladiator) inspiring visit to St Mary's yesterday, we are excited to let you know that Zack's wonderful *Glimmer Pad* is now available to purchase through the FOSM Shop!



The *Glimmer Pad* has been designed to encourage positivity, confidence, mindfulness and emotional wellbeing in children - helping them to recognise their own "glimmers"; the small moments in life that bring happiness, calm and joy.

Many of the children thoroughly enjoyed Zack's visit and hearing his important message about kindness, resilience and mental wellbeing, so we are delighted to be able to offer families the opportunity to purchase a *Glimmer Pad* if they wish to continue those conversations at home.



The cost through FOSM is **£19.99 each** (normal retail price **£24.99**) and, even better, **£3 from every purchase goes directly to FOSM** to help support the children of St Mary's!*

Zack will be signing each and every one for us!

You can purchase yours here:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/the-friends-of-st-marys-parent-teacher-associations-shop>

Thank you, as always, for supporting FOSM and the children of St Mary's. Warm wishes,
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

**a minimum of 25 'Glimmer Pad' purchases are required in order to benefit from this amazing price!*

Stars of the Week

Joseph—for his focus and creativity in art.

Timmy—for some wonderful poetic contributions in English this week.

Emily—for an evident effort to develop her writing and use of vocabulary.

Butterfly Class—for all their hard work and effort this term!

Louella—for her happy disposition and effort in writing.

Maya—for consistently showing all of our school values and being an excellent role model.

Ladybird class—for all their hard work this half term, particularly in Phonics.

Jackson—for working hard to focus in lessons.

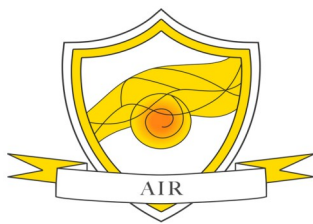
Alfie—for making the right choices in the playground.

Charlie—for working so hard with times tables practice every morning.



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 105 points was Air House; in joint 2nd place with 100 points were Fire and Water Houses; and in 3rd place with 95 points was Earth House. Well done everyone!



**1st place
(105 points)**



**2nd place
(100 points)**



**3rd place
(100 points)**



**4th place
(95 points)**

Have a great half term break and I look forwards to welcoming you all back to St Mary's **on Monday 1st June!**

Mr C. D. Jarman

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



230 children inspired ❤️



STEEL





WORLD CUP

2026

Thursday 11th June

MAINS

ALL AMERICAN WORLD CUP BURGER BAR
(MEAT & VEGGIE BURGERS WITH CHOICE OF CHEESE, SALAD & SAUCE)

BACK OF THE NETTY SPAGHETTI & FOOTBALLS

WITH COALIE'S GARLIC BREAD

RONALDO'S 'IT'S A WRAP'
(INCLUDING CHAMPION CHICKEN FILLING)

SIDES

FRENCH FRIES

GOLDEN BOOT BAKED BEANS

SUPERSTAR SLAW OR SUBSTITUTE SALAD

DESSERT

ETON MESSI ICE CREAM BAR
+ (ICE CREAM, MERINGUE, SPRINKLES, SAUCE)

HALF TIME ORANGES

KICK OFF COOKIE

dolce

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!

pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

The poster features a vibrant, colorful background with a blue sky, white clouds, a bright yellow sun with rays, and a string of multi-colored triangular bunting flags at the top. In the bottom right corner, there is a red and white striped circus tent. A pink balloon with the text 'BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!' is tied to the tent. A signpost on the left lists activities: 'GAMES', 'TOMBOLA', 'INFLATABLES', 'STALLS', and 'AND LOTS MORE!'. A pink ice cream cone is also visible. The main title 'SUMMER FETE' is in large, colorful, stylized letters. The date 'JULY 4TH' and time '11AM - 2PM' are in a blue banner. A 'SAVE the DATE!' sign is in the bottom center, and a chalkboard sign is on the right.

ST MARY'S

— PRIMARY SCHOOL —
SAFFRON WALDEN

**BIGGER
AND
BETTER
THAN
EVER!**

SUMMER FETE

JULY 4TH

11AM – 2PM

**SAVE
the
DATE!**

**FUN FOR
EVERYONE!**

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



STRIKE ACADEMY

JOIN US THIS MAY HALF TERM FREE!

FREE
CAMP

MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP!

★ Fun, inclusive holiday activities for all abilities

YOU CAN EXPECT:

-  Multi-Sports
-  Challenges
-  Prizes & awards
-  Free hot meal
-  Inflatable day
-  Arts & crafts
-  AND MORE +

CAMP INFO:

-  **Week 1:**
Tuesday 26th May -
Friday 29th May
-  9am-3pm
-  **Newport Recreation
Ground, Frambury Ln,
Newport, Saffron Walden,
CB11 3PU**

Registration will take place inside
the pavilion and outdoor activities
in the astro turf MUGA.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?



Suitable
footwear
(preferably
astro boots
or trainers)



Suitable
clothing for
the weather



Lunch and
snacks
(strict no
nut policy)



Drink bottle
(can be
refilled with
water)



Any
medication
needed



A big
smile!



SCAN TO BOOK



BOOK ONLINE:

strikeacademy.saffronwalden.gov.uk



10am-3pm

Market Place
Saffron Walden
CB10 1HR



10am

11am

12pm

1:15pm

2:15pm

10am-3pm



GET INTO GEAR AT OUR **FREE** HALF TERM

WORLD BIKE DAY

THURSDAY 28 MAY

Join us in the Market Place for some World Bike Day fun with lots of activities. Everyone welcome!

Face painting Smoothie bike Essex Library Service Games
Anti-theft bike marking Safer cycling help Colouring
Lord Butler Leisure Centre Active lifestyle advice

Learn to ride sessions **L**

For children of all ages who have never learnt to ride a bike, need to build their confidence or ride a bike without stabilisers. **Register for FREE**



Dr Bike workshop sessions

Is your bike in need of some TLC? Our bike doctors will give it a **FREE bike health check** and make any minor repairs, such as brakes, gears, chain or tyres. Book a place between 10am and 3pm and bring your bike to the Market Place for our mechanics to give it up to 30-minutes of support in their pop-up workshop.



1Life
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Essex County Council

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/clean-air-events

Stay, Play and Learn: The Selfish Crocodile

Tooth care is important and so is friendship. Come along and join us for the story of The Selfish Crocodile, read the story and take part in fun activities to support good oral health - for families with children aged 0-5 years.

Time: 10-11am

Date: Tuesday, 26th May 2026

Location: Carver Barracks, Wimbish, Saffron Walden, CB10 2YA

w: essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk



Commissioned by

Stay, Play and Learn

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

Join us for a fun story following the tiny seed's exciting journey until it grows into a beautiful flower.

- Storytime
- Arts, crafts & activities
- For children aged 2–4 years
- A playful session to enjoy, explore, and create together.

We will officially be opening our new sensory garden area, made possible with the kind support and funding from Stansted Parish Council. The garden will provide a calm, inclusive outdoor space for families to play, explore and learn together.

Time: 1:30-3pm

Date: Friday, 5th June 2026

Location: Spangles Family Hub, St.John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP

To book your place please call 0300 247 0122

w: essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

Commissioned by



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