

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 19th June 2026

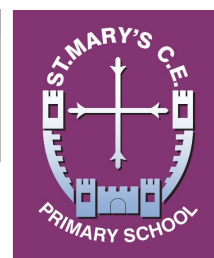
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APPROVED TRAVEL PLAN 2025



Attendance Weekly 94.9%

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,

Welcome to this week's newsletter and I am delighted that the weather is getting warmer and warmer! Read on to find out about next year's class teachers, Carers' Week 2026, our Shining Stars of the Week, our House Champions of the week and our free school pianos! There are also posters reminding parents/carers of some key events, including: the FOSM Sweet Treat Tombola Non-Uniform Day on 26th June, the FOSM Summer Fete Bake Off, a FOSM Summer Fete reminder (Saturday 4th July) and our ever-important Diary Dates (at the very end of the newsletter).

Next year's classes! New Class teachers for September:

In this week's newsletter I am sharing the new class staffing teams for each of our classes for the next academic year (2026 to 2027). Please take a look at the table below to see which teachers will be teaching your child/ren from September. We are all very excited about the upcoming academic year and I know that each of our staff teams are excited to be working with their new class and welcoming them back to school in September.

Name of class:	Year Group:	Class teacher:
Butterfly class	Reception	Miss Nicholson, EYFS Lead
Ladybird class	Year 1	Mrs Holmes
Caterpillar class	Year 2	Mr Clarke, EYFS & Key Stage 1 Leader
Grasshopper class	Year 3	Mrs Potter
Firefly class	Year 4	Mrs Tagg
BusyBees class	Year 5	Mr Brown, Key Stage 2 Leader
Dragonfly class	Year 6	Mr Pike, Deputy Headteacher

Carers Week 2026

This week we are recognising Carers Week 2026 and celebrating the amazing contribution that carers make every day. We would like to raise awareness of young carers and sibling carers—children who help care for a family member with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or additional need. If you think your child may be a young carer or sibling carer, please let the school know so that we can ensure they receive the appropriate support and opportunities available to them.



Stars of the Week

Theo—for his progress in reading

Nkosi—for his range of sentence structures in his setting description this week

Alycia—for effort and enthusiasm in English

Rose—for her wonderful setting description in English

Paloma—for her fantastic attention to detail and creative flair

Finley—for always working hard and being respectful

Andrea—for her effort across all subjects

Alfie—for showing resilience, honesty and a consistently kind nature in class

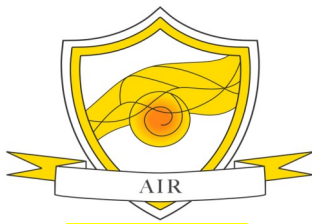
Teddy—for his clear, articulate answers on the capet

Ela—for always being a wonderful role model, working hard and being honest and truthful



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 100 points was Air House; in 2nd place with 90 points was Earth House in 3rd place with 85 points was Water House and in 4th place with 80 points was Fire House. Well done everyone!



**1st place
(100 points)**



**2nd place
(90 points)**



**3rd place
(85 points)**



**4th place
(80 points)**

Free School Pianos Available to Families

We are pleased to announce that our school has two pianos available for donation to families in our school community. As part of an update to our music facilities, these pianos are no longer needed by the school and we would love to see them continue to be enjoyed in a home where they can support a child's musical development and creativity. Learning and practicing music can be a wonderful way for children to build confidence, discipline, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts. If your family has been considering a piano but has not yet had the opportunity to acquire one, this may be a perfect chance.



The pianos are being offered free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Families who are interested should be aware that they will be responsible for arranging and covering the cost of transportation from the school to their home. If you are interested in receiving one of the pianos or would like additional information, please contact the school office.

We look forward to finding these instruments a new home where they can continue to inspire music-making for years to come.

Gardening Club Continues to Flourish

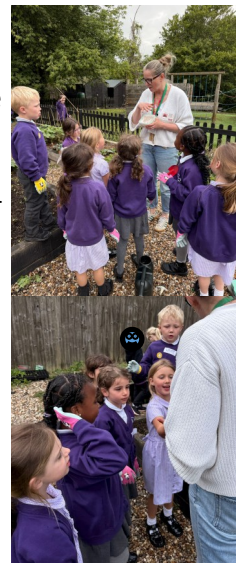
The Gardening Club enjoyed another successful session this week, although Sal was unfortunately unable to attend. Volunteers were delighted to see how much the children have learned about careful weeding. Their efforts to keep on top of the bindweed have been particularly impressive, demonstrating both attentiveness and a growing understanding of gardening techniques. A group of children worked diligently to remove weeds from amongst the lettuce seedlings, helping to ensure the plants continue to thrive. The Little Gem lettuces are now almost ready for harvest, which should provide an exciting opportunity for the children at the next session.

The group also experimented with a natural method of pest control by placing eggshells around the plants to help deter snails. The children enthusiastically embraced the task, using up the available supply very quickly! Unfortunately, some of the kale plants had been completely eaten and needed to be removed, but plans are already in place to re-sow them. Meanwhile, the sunflowers, nasturtiums, cosmos, courgettes, beetroot and pumpkins are all growing exceptionally well. The bed planted during the previous session is now filled with healthy chard and lettuce seedlings, which will need thinning out next time to give the strongest plants room to grow.

One of the highlights of the session was seeing children working together in the garden beds, happily chatting while they weeded and sharing the experience as a team. As always, the children were polite, enthusiastic and fully engaged in the activities. The Key Stage 1 children were particularly disappointed when the session came to an end, a clear sign of how much they enjoy their time in the garden.

It was also encouraging to see some of the younger children take responsibility for watering the plants in the absence of the Year 6 pupils, demonstrating growing confidence and independence.

Overall, it was another highly successful Gardening Club session, and everyone is looking forward to returning on 29th June to see how the garden continues to develop.



Have a great weekend and enjoy the lovely Summer weather. Make sure you remember to wear suncream, stay in the shade when you can and keep hydrated.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

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

NON UNIFORM DAY!

ON
FRIDAY 26TH JUNE

IN EXCHANGE FOR A
SWEET TREAT!

(NOT FRESH, THANKS!)

For example:

a packet of biscuits, a pack of sweets etc.



ALL DONATIONS GO TO THE
SWEET TREAT TOMBOLA

AT THE SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 11AM – 2PM





St Mary's BAKE OFF

at the Summer Fete!



Take part in St Mary's very first Great Summer Bake-Off! All St Mary's children, parents, carers and friends of the school are invited to enter our annual Bake-Off cake decorating competition at the Summer Fete on **Saturday 4th July**.

As it's our first bake-off, we have

★ **NO THEME** ★

— we want to see what the St Mary community has to offer!

Our very special guest judges will have the delicious job of awarding points for taste, creativity and presentation. There will be prizes for the top bakers, and entries will be assessed either as whole cakes or smaller baked items, e.g., cupcakes or biscuits. Once the winners have been announced, all cakes entered will be sold at our **St Mary's Bake-Off cake sale**, giving us all the chance to take home something yummy!



★ **SATURDAY 4TH JULY** ★ **11:00AM – 2:00PM**

HOW TO ENTER:

Get baking! ♥

Label your cake carefully with the following information:

- Name
- Class at St Mary's (if applicable)
- Mobile number
- A brief description of your cake and a list of ingredients (for allergies – **NO NUTS, PLEASE**)



Please bring all cakes to the Cake Stall by 10.20 am on the day of the fete. Judging will begin shortly after 10.30 am (Judges will need to arrive then, please).



Judges will pick a 1st, 2nd and 3rd winner, with the first prize being a voucher worth **£110** (2 adults and 2 children) for afternoon tea at *Poppy's Barn!*



STRICTLY NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY (SORRY!)



PLEASE EMAIL

fosm@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

to enter the bake-off and judging competition.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A

★ **'VERY SPECIAL JUDGE'?** ★

We are looking for one child from St Mary's to represent the school by becoming a very special judge!

- 🏠 Do you live for cake?
- 🏠 Do you think you have a good eye for decorating, icing swirls and soggy bottoms?
- 🏠 Are you the next Prue Leith or Paul Hollywood?



We need you! All you need to do is write a short paragraph as to why you'd like to be a judge of our St Mary's Bake-Off competition. Mr Jarman will read all entries and decide on our winner!



PLEASE HAVE BOTH ENTRIES IN BY MONDAY 22ND JUNE

We can't wait to hear from you!

Good luck to all our bakers and to the children entering our judging competition!



ST MARY'S

— PRIMARY SCHOOL —
SAFFRON WALDEN

**BIGGER
AND
BETTER
THAN
EVER!**

SUMMER FETE

JULY 4TH

11AM – 2PM

GAMES

TOMBOLA

INFLATABLES

STALLS

**AND LOTS
MORE!**

SAVE
the
DATE!

**FUN FOR
EVERYONE!**

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



Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Summer Term

Mon 15th June—Fri 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