St Mary's C of E Primary School
"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Vale –Smith

Newsletter Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,
It has been another busy and exciting week of learning across the school! Huge congratulations to our fabulous Year 5 dodgeball team, who competed in the Pyramid Hadleigh High School competition. They represented our school brilliantly, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, and finished in 6th place — well done, everyone!

On Monday, Mrs Pope and I had the pleasure of announcing the roles and responsibilities for our Year 5 and 6 children for this academic year. The children had prepared presentations and written letters to explain to the teaching team why they should be considered for a particular role, and we were absolutely blown away by their maturity, ambition and confidence. It was wonderful to see how much pride they have in their school and how eager they are to make a positive contribution to our school community. A huge thank you to all the parents and family members who joined us for the assembly on Monday — it was a very special occasion, and we were delighted to have you there to share this moment with the children.

After school clubs

Watch this space for information about our upcoming after-school clubs and activities! We will be sharing all the details with you shortly via ClassDojo, our school newsletter and email, so please keep an eye out for further information.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Matt Vale-Smith,

Headteacher

Values: Generosity

Issue No : 1

Friday 25h September 2026

Diary Dates:

30/9—Happy Days Photography

1/10—6/10—Travelling Book Fair

19/10—21/10—Year 6 Residential

W/C 19/10—Learning Conferences

Term Dates—Autumn 2026

26/10—30/10—Half Term

2/11—PD Day—School Closed

18/12—Last day of Term

Weekly Attendance

to 25/9/26

Reception	97.8 ↓
Year 1	93% ↑
Year 2	95.2 % =
Year 3	94.1% ↓
Year 4	95.0% ↓
Year 5	95.7% ↓
Year 6	93.2% ↓

Office News

Happy Days Photography—In School on Wednesday 30th September for individual photos—All children MUST be in the correct school uniform, as mentioned in last week's newsletter.

Outstanding Debt—Please review your child's account in MCAS to check for any outstanding balances and ensure that all debts, including nursery provisions and other services provided, are settled promptly. If you need assistance with verifying the balance or making a payment, please contact the school's administrative office.

Year 6 Residential Trip—October 2026: We still have 4 payments to be received for the Hoodies please —MCAS/ Trips

Main Reception Gate: **It is imperative that the school gate is closed every time it is opened for you. We cannot stress this enough.**

Census Day—Thursday 1st October **Our School Caterer's Miquill, are offering all children regardless of year group, a free school meal on Census Day**.—please see poster overleaf

SENCo News

We are pleased to let parents and carers know that Learning Plan Meetings for the Autumn Term are now available to book through Bromcom for children on the SEN register. These meetings provide an opportunity for parents/ carers and school staff to work collaboratively to create and review your child's Learning Plan for the current term. Together, we will identify key areas of support and agree on targeted strategies to help your child make progress and achieve their individual goals. We encourage all parents and carers to book a meeting at their earliest convenience so that we can work together from the beginning of the term to ensure your child has the appropriate support in place. Please log in to Bromcom to select and book a convenient appointment. We look forward to working in partnership with you and supporting your child's learning and progress throughout the Autumn Term.

Talking Education In Adoption (TEA) - TEA groups are for adoptive parents. There's a topic every other session, along with time for discussion about educational related issues you may be experiencing as a family. All adopters are very welcome—parents who have pre-school aged children, school-aged children and college-aged young people all attend. TEA groups support children and young people in mainstream school, home education and specialist provision.

Community News

Applying for a secondary School Place—Year 7

Applications must be made between 12th September and 31st October 2026. All of the information you need to help you make your decision is available on the website at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions from 12 September 2026.

National Child Measurement Programme—Year 6

Following details sent out to Year 6 parents on 6th September, this is a reminder of your 14 day window if you wish your child to be opted out of the programme.

Reception Start September 2027—Open sessions

If you have a child or know someone whose child will be starting school in September 2027, we are holding 2 open sessions - Thursday 15th October between 10 and 11 am, and Saturday 17th October between 10 and 11am. Please contact the school office to add your name to the respective session you would like to attend.

Our School Caterer's Miquill, are offering

all children regardless of year group a free school meal on Census Day— Thursday 1st October

plus your child will be in with a chance to win a prize if they pick a lucky golden ticket.

Having a school provided meal on Census Day brings in much needed funds from the Government, please support by ordering your child a FREE meal

There will be NO pasta, sandwiches or jacket potatoes served on this day

TASTE

Menu

Mains

Chicken Nugget Sub

Crunchy Topped Mac n Cheese

Sides

Skinny Fries

BBQ Beans

Dessert

Yummy Chocolate Pizza



School Council

Our School Council have already had 2 meetings this school year. During our meeting we discussed St Mary's Primary School Rules, and decided that we needed a revamp of the rules so that all of our school community know what they are and what they mean.

These are our new school rules:

Work Hard Be Safe Be Respectful

I think the school council have done a brilliant job of finding relevant and easy to remember rules





Beatrix Potter—Nursery & Reception

This week Potter Class have been thinking about what makes them Incredible ! They have explored their imaginations during their Drawing Club sessions and practiced their letter formations. In our music lesson this week we discussed how singing or speaking a song can change the way it makes us feel ; Potter Class showed their Incredible ! dance moves to a happy tune - encouraging each other to have a go.

Ed Sheeran—Years 1 & 2

Sheeran Class have continued their English work on Puffin Peter with some retelling of the story. They started with acting it out in groups and then mind-mapping. In PSHE, we are learning about family and how our family makes us feel. The children discussed what they like to do with their families.





Little Beethoven's

This week in Little Beethoven's we have been practising the nursery rhyme "10 little sausages sitting in a pan".

The children have been putting the numbers 1—10 in order with great success.

We have also been doing more creative sessions—making crabs for our "under the sea" display in our classroom.

We have explored the weather, which we will continue next week.

All in all it has been another fun filled week in Beethoven's!

Chris Packham —Years 3 & 4



What a great week in Packham Class!

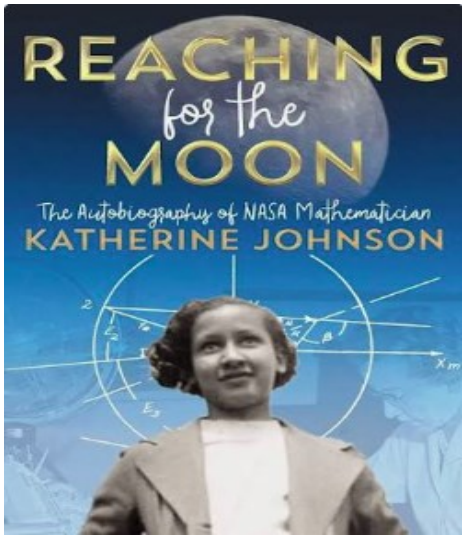
We have finished our first narrative story based on *The Adventures of Mini Rabbit*. Today, we will be editing our stories before illustrating them in Art, creating our very own books!

The children have also enjoyed creating clay pots inspired by Ancient Greek pottery.

A big well done to everyone working hard on their times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars. Some children will be bringing certificates home today!



Katherine Johnson—Year 5



It has been an action-packed few weeks for Year 5 as we launched into our exciting science topic: **Earth and Space**! The children have shown incredible enthusiasm, diving into the mysteries of the universe with endless curiosity, brilliant questions, and a genuine passion for discovery.

The children worked together to create a scale model of the solar system using different-sized fruit and vegetables to represent each planet! From a tiny peppercorn for Mercury to a large melon for Jupiter, it was a fantastic way to visualise the dramatic size differences between planets!







Aaron Fotheringham —Year 6



In Fotheringham class this week, we have started to plan our own non-chronological reports about a planet. We have created our own planets with some fascinating environments and wonderful names.

In maths we finished our unit on number and place value and will start our new unit next week 'Addition, Subtraction, Division and Multiplication'. On a Friday we always focus on arithmetic and it is brilliant to see the progress year 6 are making with this.

Sporting News…

🏐 Team St Mary's Shines at Hadleigh High School Dodgeball!

Our Year 5 dodgeball team represented **St Mary's brilliantly** at the recent Hadleigh High School Dodgeball competition! They played several fast-paced games, coming together as a team with **fearless determination, fantastic teamwork and a positive attitude**. They played fairly and respectfully throughout, reflecting our school's values and ethos with every dodge, throw and move. Against many teams featuring older players, our team achieved an **excellent 6th place overall** — a fantastic accomplishment!

✵ Superb effort, Team St Mary's! We are incredibly proud of you!

Go Team St Mary's! 🏐👏









TEA Group

Talking Education In Adoption

Essex is in an extremely lucky & unique position to have an Educational Psychologist co-facilitating TEA group with a worker from the Post Adoption Team.

TEA groups are for adoptive parents. There's a topic every other session, along with time for discussion about educational related issues you may be experiencing as a family. All adopters are very welcome – parents who have pre-school aged children, school-aged children and college-aged young people all attend. TEA groups support children and young people in mainstream school, home education and specialist provision.

Upcoming Sessions - online from 10am to 11.30am:



THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - NO TOPIC

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER - ORDINARILY AVAILABLE & ONEPLAN INTRODUCTION

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER - NO TOPIC

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER - EHCP

THESE GROUPS ARE CONTINUINALLY UNDER REVIEW
- 'USE IT OR LOSE IT' -

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL ADOPTION.TRAINING@ESSEX.GOV.UK

Essex County Council

AdoptEast







Friends of St Marys School

Friends of St Marys – PTA

Together we make a difference

Last year we raised
£1956.25

What we've bought

- Transport for various trips
- New accelerated reading programme
- SATS Breakfast
- Y5 Trinity Park Trip
- Easter Eggs
- Christmas Pencils
- Contribution to Yr6 hoodies & leavers gifts

Every penny counts & makes a difference

We are always looking new members!

We are always looking for new members to help with planning, organising and volunteering at events.

Any little support, big or small, is a huge help!

If you are interested please drop us a message at fosm@stmaryshad.co.uk

Reasons to Join

- Support the school community
- Help with events and fundraising
- Be part of a friendly team
- Make a positive difference

Thank you everyone

A huge Thank You to everyone for your support over the last year! We couldn't have done it without you!!