



Trinity St Mary's C of E VA Primary School



Friday 12th December 2025



DEDICATION



Our Core Christian Values

School Hours

Gates open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am for all children.

The school day finishes at 3.25pm for all children.



Lunchtime Cup

This week the Lunchtime Cup is awarded to **Maya** in **Tiger** class, for demonstrating our Christian Values. Well done!

House Points

Fenn	29
Shaw	68
Tabrums	71
Marsh	52



Kindness Star of the Week

Well done to:

Hedgehog – Preston

Eagle – Evelyn R

Axolotl – Lacey

Rabbit – Donovan

Tiger – Rosie

As we are now recognised as a kindness school we are sent a certificate every term to award to a pupil who has demonstrated an outstanding act of kindness. Staff are always looking for children who have demonstrated kindness in school. We now have kindness stickers to acknowledge this. **If you want to nominate a child, whether it be your own or another child in the school, for an outstanding kindness award for an act of kindness outside of school then please email the office.** Senior leaders of the school will then consider all nominations before awarding the certificate at the end of the term.

Class Summary

Each week we will be highlighting what one class has been up to in school.

This week we share an insight into Hedgehog class.

Hedgehog Class Summary

Wow! What a fantastic week in Hedgehog class! The children have, as always, blown us away with their hard work and determination over the past few weeks. We have been learning some really tricky concepts in maths and delving deeper into analytical work in English, all whilst juggling SATs practice as well! All the while, the children come in and never cease to make us smile every day.

On Monday, we started looking at finding fractions of different amounts. We then tried our own creative writing whilst trying to convey tension. The children had used a huge range of language techniques that we have covered this term and the children were very proud of their fantastic work! We could have read them out loud all day! It was lovely to see everyone so proud of their work as they always should be!

On Tuesday, we started the day with a KS2 rehearsal for the Christmas show. The children were amazing with their song and really had shown huge improvement. We then had the Rock Steady concert where we got to celebrate other children's bravery and ambition when playing instruments. After many requests, Miss Hume even showcased her talent on the drums (reviews are mixed...). We then had another creative writing session where we wrote our very own narrative independently. Again, they really are amazing and the children were very proud of their work.

Adventures of the official office elfer Derek Elfison – he's back!



Tiger Class Trip to Colchester Zoo

On Wednesday, Tiger class had a very exciting day at Colchester Zoo learning about different habitats & how animals adapt to different climates.

In the morning the children saw leopards, monkeys, meerkats, elephants, giraffes, zebras, rhinos, hyenas, goats & pigs to name but a few. The huge lion seemed very interested in all the children too!



After a much-needed lunch, the children carried on their adventure visiting the sealions, tropical fish & orangutans! We were then met by a very special Elf called Boots who had been sent by Father Christmas all the way from the North Pole to learn how to look after reindeer. Boots had lots to learn and with all the children's help, together they found out some fabulous facts, including that reindeer love to eat a special plant called 'reindeer lichen' (as well as carrots on Christmas Eve obviously!), that they grow and lose their antlers every year and that their hooves are really big like snow shoes to help them walk easily over the deep snow without sinking in it. We then all got to meet three beautiful reindeer called, North, Alaska and Winter, who Boots said were in training to help Father Christmas. Boots then told the children that she had another challenge for them. Sadly, she had lost all the magic bells off the reindeer's harness (meaning that they wouldn't be able to fly on Christmas Eve....oh no!)



Luckily the amazing children from Tiger class managed to find all the magic bells, phew! As if that wasn't exciting enough, the children then got to meet Father Christmas himself! He was very impressed with their knowledge about reindeer and that they had managed to find all the magic bells. This put them firmly on the 'good list' and as a special treat, Father Christmas gave all the children an early Christmas present of their own cuddly reindeer to remind them of their day!



A fun day was certainly had by all. I was very impressed by the superb behaviour from all the children. You were a credit to TSM and I am very proud of you all. Thank you, Tiger class for making the trip so wonderful. My thanks also go to my team of staff and to Mrs. Munro and Mrs. Graham for all their help and support.

Well done again Tiger class, I am so relieved that due to your fabulous help the reindeers will be able to fly as usual on Christmas Eve!

Mrs. Allan



Attendance

Congratulations to Hedgehog class who have the highest attendance this week, with an attendance of **98.71%**. Whole school attendance is **96.27%**.

If your child is absent then please remember to report this before 8.30am either by telephone or via Studybugs stating the reason for your child's absence. **We do not accept emails for reporting absence.** Thank you.

Get the app or register now <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Please also be aware that if you plan on taking your child out of school then a leave of absence form must be completed or a copy of the appointment letter must be shown prior to the absence. Please be reminded that absences need to be reported daily. Therefore if your child is off for more than one day, updates must be provided to the school via Studybugs or voicemail.

In August 2024 the Department for Education issued "Working together to improve school attendance" which is statutory guidance that as a school we must follow. From the 2024/25 academic year schools now have a responsibility to submit a sickness return to the local authority for any child who will miss 15 days consecutively or cumulatively because of sickness.

We will be rewarding attendance every half term this year. A class receives the attendance cup each week. The class that receives the cup the greatest number of times will receive a treat in the last week of that half term.

Lateness

Please be reminded that the gates close at **08:55** for all children. Any child arriving after this time through the office will be given a late mark and you may be called in to discuss this. All late arrivals must give a satisfactory reason.

New Absence Reporting Option - Arbor Parent Portal

We're pleased to announce that from January, parents will have an additional way to report their child's absence from school.

Starting in January, you'll be able to log your child's absence directly through the Arbor Parent Portal and Arbor App. This is a new option that we're trialling to make reporting absences more convenient for you.

You can continue to report absences using: Studybugs & Telephone.

The Arbor Parent Portal and App will simply be an additional option for you to use. Please remember that we do not accept emails for reporting absence.

If you'd like to try this new method, you can find step-by-step instructions on how to log an absence here: [Logging absences on the Parent Portal and Arbor App](#)

If you have any questions about reporting absences, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Rocksteady Christmas Concert

Well done to **Riley, Bobby, Alfie, Pixie, Matilda J, Oliver CM, Otis, Sofia C, Donovan, Emi, Zachary, Maxwell & Charlie JD** for an amazing concert.

With thanks to Miss Hume on drums & Miss Mason on keyboard, stepping up to be a member of The Red Dragons for the morning and a big thank you as always to our band leader Billy.



Choir Clements Court

Well done to **Donovan, Molly, Scarlett, Georgie-Rae, Darcey, Isla-May, Emi, Maddie B, Lydia, Grace B, Gracie G** and Mrs Allan who visited Clements Court on Tuesday.

We had a phone call the next day to say how the residents said the choir were absolutely fantastic and have been non-stop talking about our visit, they forgot all their troubles and were in awe of the children. They mentioned they would be a hard act to follow as they were outstanding and that they were a credit to our school. Well done everyone.

General Reminders

Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2026

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 10 November 2025**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026 - even if your child already has a sibling at the school, you will need to apply.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. All of the application information is available on the website above.

Letters Emailed Home

Forest School – Hedgehog Class
KS2 Christmas Jumper Reminder
Dodgeball Final – Selected Pupils
Rabbit Class Teacher Introductory Session

Collective Worship

Monday - Miss Hoy went through the story of Christmas and why it is so important for Christians. We looked at lots of different traditions at Christmas time and their significance. We finished off with a re-enactment of the nativity story.

Wednesday - Miss Mason told us about the meaning of Advent and what it signifies. We thought about some of the best presents we have ever received and looked at the love behind these rather than just the item. We then compared this to God's gift of Jesus his son to us and what this means.

Thursday - Miss Cosgrove spoke to us about the deeper meaning of Christmas relating to the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. We looked at how we all have different ideas about Christmas but what remains at the center is a celebration of Jesus' life!

Headteacher Summary

It has been a very Christmassy week here at TSM. I thoroughly enjoyed Christmas Lunch with the children. I was smiling as I saw the children walk into the hall wearing their elf hats. Thank you to FOTSMS for providing these.

It was a magical evening last night as we gathered for Carols by Candlelight in the church. Thank you to the Worship Warriors for leading the service – you all did a fantastic job. Thank you to Mrs Munro and Reverend Jacqui for speaking during the service and to Mrs Allan for preparing for this event.

Thank you to FOTSMS for organising Cuppa & Company this morning. We hope that those of you that attended enjoyed the opportunity to chat with other parents and possibly meet new faces.



Our children have been busy practising for the Christmas performances next week. We hope to see many of you here for the last week of our school festivities.

Have a wonderful weekend.
Miss Hoy

TSM Key Dates 2025/2026

Please find a list of our key dates below. The list will constantly be updated throughout the school year, so please keep an eye out for any changes. Further information will also be sent home, as usual, closer to the dates if needed.

Autumn Term 2025/2026	
15 th December 2025	Reception & KS1 Dress Rehearsal to KS2
15 th December 2025	KS2 Christmas Performance 2pm & 6.30pm - Church
16 th December 2025	Reception & KS1 Christmas Performance 2pm & 6.30pm – Hall
17 th December 2025	Rotary Father Christmas Sleigh Visit 4pm- 5pm
18 th December 2025	Choir Town Council Carol Service
19 th December 2025	Wear Something Christmassy
22 nd December 2025 – 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays
Spring Term	
5 th January 2026	Inset Day
12 th January 2026	Year 5 & 6 CPR Session
14 th January 2026	Boccia County Final
19 th January 2026	Road Safety – Reception, Year 1 & Year 5
2 nd – 6 th February 2026	TSM & National Story Telling Week
4 th February 2026	Author Visit
6 th February 2026	Essex Kids Camp
9 th February 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
10 th February 2026	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Year 6 Respect Session
12 th February 2026	Year 5 & 6 Gambling Workshop
16 th – 20 th February 2026	Half Term

Christmas Services 2025

Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers

Sunday 7th December at 3pm

Nine Lessons & Carols

Thursday 18th December at 5:30pm

Town Carol Service

Sunday 21st December at 3pm

Crib service

Christmas Eve

7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

8:45 Christmas Day Mass

10:15 Christmas Morning Worship



The Crib Service on Sunday 21st December 2025 at 3pm in Trinity St Mary's Church is a family-friendly child-focused Crib Service with a C of E, Methodist and Catholic combined congregation - everybody of any age is welcome. This service is suitable for the first-ever visit to the Church.

Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



10 January
to 22 February
2026

Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: libraries.essex.gov.uk



This is to certify that
Trinity St Mary's
2nd Place

In the William de Ferrers Family
Year 5/6 Dodgeball Final

Congratulations

K. Jaggard
School Games Organiser



Funded by
UK Government



BIG FAMILY WINTER PARTY

Join us for our Christmas Family Party FREE for all the family.

Our family event, themed 'Living Well this Winter' will give you the opportunity to have fun and explore the wealth of support within your local community. Join us for activities, including Virtual Reality Games, Christmas activities and lots of family fun.



Maldon & Tiptree Football Club,
Park Drive, Maldon, CM9 5JQ.



Tuesday 23rd December



11am-2pm

No need to book,
just turn up on the
day.

