



Trinity St Mary's C of E VA Primary School



Friday 19th December 2025



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 **Lexi** in **Hedgehog** class, for demonstrating our Christian Values. Well done!

House Points

Fenn	18
Shaw	47
Tabrums	17
Marsh	39



Kindness Star of the Week

Well done to:

Hedgehog – Luke

Eagle – Emelia

Axolotl – Archie

Rabbit – Henry

Tiger – Mina

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 Eagle class.

Eagle Class Summary

This week has been a busy and festive one for Eagle class, filled with exciting learning opportunities and celebrations. On Monday, the children took part in the Christmas musical performance. They worked extremely hard to learn song lyrics and actions, performing confidently together as a choir. Several pupils also remembered lines to read aloud, and everyone showed great focus and teamwork. We also enjoyed watching the Key Stage 1 performance and seeing the children dressed in their fantastic costumes.

In English, our learning has been inspired by a Christmassy advert about a robin who makes a perilous journey home for Christmas. The advert explored the theme of love. We mapped the robin's journey and identified powerful verbs and adjectives to describe each stage of his adventure. The children explored a range of engaging sentence starters, including similes, metaphors and fronted adverbials, before revisiting the key features of a diary entry. They then wrote diary entries in the first person, capturing the robin's thoughts and emotions across different days of his journey.

In maths, we completed the first part of our multiplication unit. The children used key vocabulary such as *factors* and *product*, explored squared and cubed numbers, and identified patterns within multiplication to help develop efficient and confident mathematical thinking.

In science, we investigated burning reactions. The children learned about the fire triangle and discussed why burning is an irreversible change. They also carried out a practical investigation to explore how the size of a cup can affect how quickly a flame is put out, making predictions and observations.

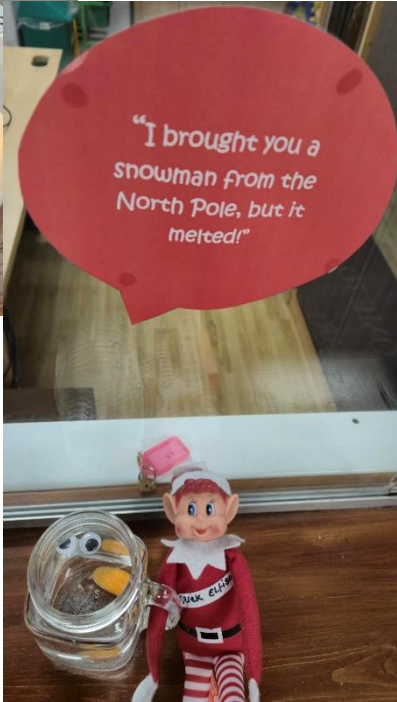
In design and technology, many children were excited to finish their CAM mechanism toys. They demonstrated a strong understanding of how CAM mechanisms work, using accurate vocabulary such as *cam*, *follower* and *axle*. The children worked carefully to measure, saw and join wood securely, using triangle reinforcers to strengthen their structures. Their final designs were highly creative, with spinning and moving models including ballerinas, penguins and tornadoes.

We ended the week with a festive Christmas afternoon, where the children voted for a Christmas film, enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows and biscuits, and took part in fun team-building games before breaking up for the holidays.

It has been a wonderful final week, and the children should be very proud of all they have achieved this term.



Adventures of the official office elfer Derek Elfison!



Rotary Father Christmas Sleigh Visit



Attendance

Congratulations to **Axolotl** class who have the highest attendance this week, with an attendance of **96.33%**. Whole school attendance is **94.73%**.

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.

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.

Free Winter Events

Looking for free things to do with the kids this winter?

The Free Family-Friendly Winter Events in Mid Essex guide is packed with activities across Braintree, Chelmsford, and Maldon.

Explore the full list online:  [Free Winter Events in Mid Essex - Guide](#)

Letters Emailed Home

Parent Pay
After School Clubs – Spring Term
Tiger Swimming Lessons

Collective Worship

Monday - On Monday, Miss Hoy walked us through the Christmas Story and what this means to us today. We looked at the deeper meaning behind the story and were asked how this could bring Christian's hope. We also thought about the message behind the story, and that the journey may not always be easy, but God will always find a way to support us.

Wednesday - Miss Frith linked her collective worship to the idea of Hope during Christmas. She explained the turmoil's that were in Mary and Joseph's way during the story, and how they prevailed and were blessed by God for their faith. This was the same for the shepherds, who faced their troubles and persevered to find Jesus.

Thursday - Reverend Jacqui opened the collective worship with a Christmas cracker! At first, we thought it was just a Christmas cracker, until she explained how this can represent the Christmas Story of Jesus' birth. Rev. Jacqui explained that when we are surprised with a cracker, it symbolises the surprise that Mary had when giving birth to Jesus. We sang some traditional Christmas carols and some of our nativity songs which was great fun!



Headteacher Summary

What a wonderful week it has been! I am so proud of all of the children for performing in our Christmas performances this week. Thank you to all of our staff working so hard with our children to prepare for these occasions. It was fantastic to see the Rotary Father Christmas sleigh on Wednesday. I hope our children enjoyed the chance of seeing Father Christmas who parked his sleigh on our playground after school. Well done to our choir for singing in the Town Council Carol Service last night and a big thank you to Mrs Graham who accompanied the children on the piano. Our week has finished by everyone wearing something Christmassy. Thank you to FOTSMS who have organised this event. All of these events make this time of year magical in school.

I hope you have a really lovely Christmas and great start to the New Year.



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	
22 nd December 2025 – 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays
Spring Term	
5 th January 2026	Inset Day
7 th January 2026	Dodgeball SSP Final
8 th January 2026	Year 1 & 2 BrightBites Session
12 th January 2026	Year 5 & 6 CPR Session
14 th January 2026	Boccia County Final
16 th January 2026	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Winter Safety Assembly
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 – Curling
6 th February 2026	Dental Beauty Reception & Year 3 Visit
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.



Environment and
Climate Action



Help the planet and our school

to win a sustainability kit!

Carbon Cutting Essex is involving our school's community to reduce carbon footprints and support school environmental projects across Essex.

Take part in fun activities designed to help you reduce your carbon footprint, for which you'll earn points that can then be **donated to our school**. The more points our school receives, the more chance of winning!

Winning a **sustainability kit** will make a huge difference and help towards greener learning for the children - Please register today!



Simply scan the QR code to register and donate points to our school





Derek Elfison, Nicola & Emma wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!