

Trinity St Mary's C of E VA Primary School



Friday 9th January 2026



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 **Tobi** in **Tiger** class, for demonstrating our Christian Values. Well done!

House Points

Fenn	6
Shaw	17
Tabrums	13
Marsh	24



Kindness Star of the Week

Well done to:

Hedgehog – Max

Eagle – Emelia S

Axolotl – Blanca

Rabbit – Darcey

Tiger – Tobi

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.



Attendance

Congratulations to Hedgehog class who have the highest attendance this week, with an attendance of **99.19%**. Whole school attendance is **95.23%**.

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.

Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers this term to read with the children, if any parents/carers/grandparents are interested please contact the office.

Clubs

Most clubs will re-start next week, to be sure of exact start dates please click on the link;

<https://trinitystmarys.ovw1.juniperwebsites.co.uk/spring-term-1>

Letters Emailed Home

PE Days
Choir Cancellation 19/1
Tiger – Swimming & Road Safety Reminder
NCMP Year 6 & Reception
Hedgehog Teaching Arrangements
CPR Training Year 5 & 6
Social Media Letter Year 6
Lego & No Cook Cook Club Cancellation 22/1
Census Day Special Menu KS1 15/1

Collective Worship

Tuesday - Miss Hoy focused on the theme of Epiphany. We followed the story of the birth of Jesus and the time after this. We looked at the 3 wise men who were not actually numbered in the Bible! But as there were 3 gifts, we assume there were 3 wise men. Epiphany is also called
Three Kings Day!

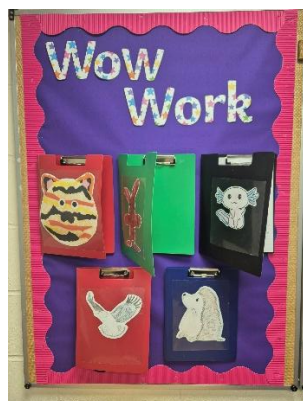
Wednesday - Open the Book represented the story of the three wise men who were guided by God through a bright star. They followed this all the way to King Herod who showed anger at the idea of a new king. They then followed the star to Bethlehem to gift Jesus their frankincense, gold and myrrh.

Thursday - Miss Mason spoke to us about The Parable of the Good Shepherd. It taught us that we are like sheep within the Kingdom of God and he tries to keep us all safe. He sent Jesus to be our shepherd to guide us and to help us. We then spoke about real life scenarios we have had to portray this.

Headteacher Summary

Happy new year to you all!

The children have come back beautifully and have impressed me with their manners and respect. I have really enjoyed conversations with many children, sitting with different children at lunch and seeing them learning in the classroom. One new thing that I have introduced this term is a 'Wow Work' display board in my office. It is always lovely to see the children when they come to show me work and describe what they have been learning. Now if the work has blown me away I will not only give the child a headteacher sticker but also photocopy their work for my board.



Lydia came to me with a beautifully presented piece of work about Egyptians earlier in the week. She enthusiastically told me about the new topic and wowed me with fascinating facts so her work was the first piece on my board – well done Lydia.



This week Year 1 & 2 have benefited from a BrightBites Session. BrightBites is a fun and engaging oral health education programme. The BrightBites package comes with a range of resources including toothbrushing charts, stickers, recipes and healthy teeth leaflets.



Miss Hume and Miss Cosgrove accompanied our team to the Dodgeball SSP Final. It was fantastic to hear that our team had made the final. The team played well and came 3rd – this is a great achievement and you should all be very proud of yourselves – well done to Ferdinand, Thomas H, Hareem, Jesse, Lexi, Maxwell, Preston, Theo, Emily and Otis.

Have a fantastic weekend.

Miss Hoy

TSM Key Dates 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.

Spring Term	
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
2 nd February 2026	NCMP Reception & Year 6
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
23 rd February 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
2 nd March 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
5 th March 2026	World Book Day
9 th March 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
10 th March 2026	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Year 6 Online Safety Session
17 th March 2026	Rocksteady Music Easter Concert
20 th March 2026	Essex Kids Camp – Frisbee Golf
21 st March 2026	Rotary Swimathon
23 rd – 25 th March 2026	Year 6 Residential
30 th March – 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays

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