



# Trinity St Mary's C of E VA Primary School



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 **Maddie** in Hedgehog class, for demonstrating our Christian Values. Well done!

### House Points

Fenn	23
Shaw	22
Tabrums	24
Marsh	29



## Kindness Star of the Week

Well done to:

**Hedgehog – Jesse**

**Eagle – Oliver**

**Axolotl – Charlie**

**Rabbit – Ava**

**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 Rabbit class.

### Rabbit Class Summary

We have had an excellent week here in Rabbit class! In English this week, we have used adjectives and adverbs to make descriptions. We thought about how our senses and emotions might be affected by different animals and images. We are slowly building ourselves up to creating our own imaginary creature, who will feature in our stories, and choosing exciting vocabulary to describe them. The children have been suggesting some fantastic vocabulary this week and we have even learned how to use the classroom thesaurus to expand our vocabulary even further.

In our topic work, we have been learning how castles have changed over time. We created our own timeline to show how they have changed and adapted to become even safer and more resistant to enemies. We will have to think very hard about these changes when we start to design our own castles in the coming weeks.

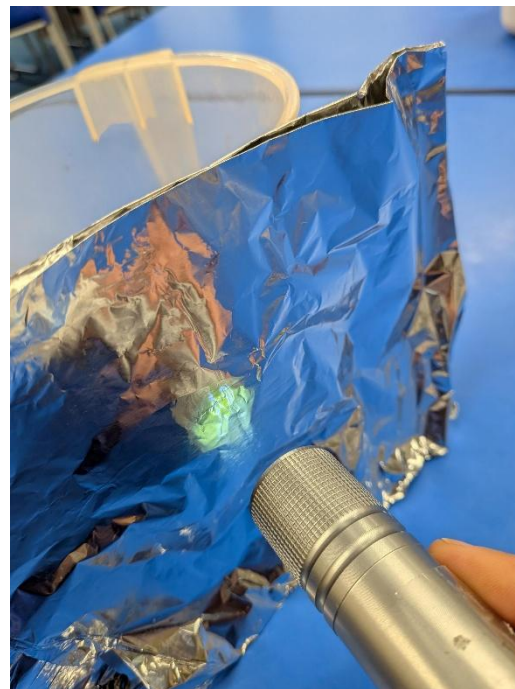
On Wednesday, we experimented on different objects as part of our science topic on everyday materials. We explored whether different objects were transparent or opaque by shining a torch at them. We were all surprised to learn that not everything that is see-through can be labelled as transparent – it has to let all the light through to be transparent. We also experimented to find out which objects were absorbent and which were waterproof. Rabbit class found it very funny to discover that fabric is absorbent and Mrs O'Brien would have to go home with one very wet sock!

Test materials to see if they are **absorbent** or not. Complete the table below with your results.

What is the object and/or material?	Is the material absorbent?	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
cardboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
bowl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
sock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
bag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
lid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
foil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Test materials to see if they are **transparent** or **opaque**. Complete the table below with your results by ticking 'transparent' or 'opaque'.

What is the object and/or material?	Is the material transparent or opaque?	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transparent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> opaque
lid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
rug	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cardboard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
bag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
clots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
foil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## Road Safety

This week, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 5 pupils took part in engaging road safety sessions delivered by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership.

### Reception & Year 1 Highlights:

Reception & Year 1 pupils with their parents and carers, enjoyed a practical activity using a large-scale road and pavement mat. This helped them learn:

- We must hold hands with a grown-up near roads.
- The importance of staying safe around traffic learning to Stop, Look, Listen, Think!

### Year 5 Highlights:

Year 5 pupils participated in a hands-on session designed to build confidence and promote safe, independent travel. They explored:

- The Green Cross Code: Stop, Look, Listen, Think!
- The dangers of distractions like phones, headphones and friends.
- How to identify safer places to cross.

With guidance from trained road safety officers, they practiced real-life road crossing skills.

### How You Can Help at Home:

You can support these lessons by:

- Modelling safe habits when walking near roads.
- Holding hands with younger children.
- Talking about road safety in everyday situations.

Together, we can help keep our children safe on the roads. For more information and free resources, visit: [www.saferessexroads.org](http://www.saferessexroads.org)



## Attendance

Congratulations to Hedgehog class who have the highest attendance this week, with an attendance of **96.77%**. Whole school attendance is **92.58%**.

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

### Volunteers

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

## Letters Emailed Home

Author Visit  
Tigers – Road Safety Leaflet  
Safer Internet Day – Parent/Carer Webinar

## Collective Worship

Monday - We had collective worship in class, introducing the theme of parable about prayer and humility.

As well as, Martin Luther King Day – how his legacy has helped to promote the Christian value of love and sharing: everyone having the best they can.

Tuesday - Forgiveness – The sort of Peter:

We looked at the story of Jesus' arrest and how Peter betrayed Jesus. However, he also redeemed himself after Jesus resurrection. This teaches us that we can be forgiven as well as forgive others who may have done wrong.

Wednesday - The Open the Book story was about:

Jesus had just been born and his parents took him to the temple. A man told them that Jesus would be our saviour. An old lady told them the exact same thing!

They then returned back to their home Nazareth, by **Maddie, Grace** and **Darcey**.

Thursday - Collective worship was by Miss Frith and as we entered the song 'treat people with kindness' was playing.

We thought about kindness and what it means to us (sharing, being nice and being respectful). We then shared ways we had shown kindness recently, by checking if someone's ok, or making our beds at home!

We then watched the story of the Good Samaritan and that the message is to always help each other and be kind, by **Grace** and **Maddie**.

## Headteacher Summary



It was great to see so many parents of reception and year 1 children at the Road Safety session on Monday – I hope you all found the session valuable. Well done to the children in reception, year 1 and year 5 who participated in the road safety activities.

Just before Christmas children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 completed a practice multiplication check with me. This week I have started to repeat the practice checks and have begun with Eagle class. I am so pleased that nearly every child's score has improved. The children have clearly been practicing the times tables – keep up the good work!



I taught in Axolotl class on Tuesday morning. The class were impressing me with their skills of being able to multiply by 10 and 100. Well done Axolotl class – keep up the good maths work.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Miss Hoy

## Road Safety Starts with You

As parents and carers, you play the most important role in helping children learn how to stay safe. Young children copy what they see - so the way you cross the road, drive, or use your phone near traffic teaches them lifelong habits.

Helping your child stay safe near roads

Here are **three ways** to help keep your child safe:

### 1. Hold hands

Always hold your child's hand when walking near roads- young children can be unpredictable - holding hands keeps them close and safe. Always position children on the side of the path that is furthest from the road.

### 2. Teach the Green Cross Code

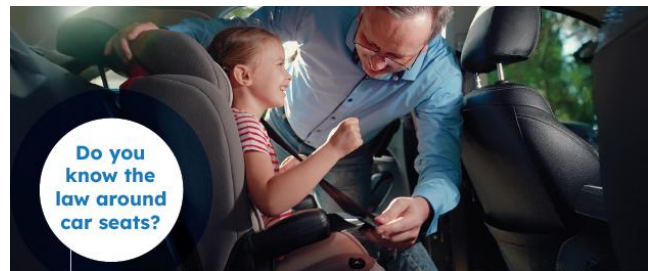
Start practising this with your child early, even if they're still small. It builds confidence and awareness. Talk to them about why you:

- **Stop** at the edge of the pavement.
- **Look** all around for traffic.
- **Listen** carefully for approaching vehicles.
- **Think** - is it safe to cross?

### 3. Be a great role model

But your actions speak louder than words. Children learn by watching how you:

- Use crossings and wait for the green man.
- Avoid distractions like mobile phones when walking or driving.
- Park safely and legally, not on pavements or near junctions.
- Wear seatbelts and use car seats correctly.



Do you know the law around car seats?

**Children under 12 or 135cm tall must use a car seat by law.** Check if your child's car seat meets safety standards on our parent and child site.

**Find out more:**

Visit [www.saferessexroads.org/parents-and-children](http://www.saferessexroads.org/parents-and-children) and select the car seat section or scan the QR code.



**Thinking of buying your child or yourself an e-scooter?**

They may look fun, but privately owned e-scooters are illegal to use on public roads or pavements.

**Find out more at:** [www.saferessexroads.org/e-scooters](http://www.saferessexroads.org/e-scooters)

**Want to do more?**

- Take the Vision Zero Pledge to show your commitment to safer roads by visiting: [www.saferessexroads.org/visionzero/pledge/](http://www.saferessexroads.org/visionzero/pledge/)
- Find more road safety tips, car seat information, advice on school journeys and much more: [www.saferessexroads.org/parents-and-children/](http://www.saferessexroads.org/parents-and-children/)



Let's work together to make Essex roads safer for your family

VISION ZERO  
NO ROAD DEATHS

SAFERESSEX  
roads partnership

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## 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	
26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Kindness Ambassadors Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	FOTSMS Cuppa & Coffee Morning
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	TSM & National Story Telling Week
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	FOTSMS Coin Challenge
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026	NCMP Reception & Year 6
4 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Author Visit
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Essex Kids Camp – Curling
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Dental Beauty Reception & Year 3 Visit
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Year 6 Respect Session
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	FOTSMS World Book Day Sale
12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 5 & 6 Gambling Workshop
16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Half Term
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	FOTSMS World Book Day Sale
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	WDF Science Lesson – Eagle Class
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	FOTSMS World Book Day Sale
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	WDF Science Lesson – Hedgehog Class
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	World Book Day
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 5 & 6 Climate Workshop
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Year 6 Online Safety Session
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	SATS Info Session
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Rocksteady Music Easter Concert
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Essex Kids Camp – Frisbee Golf
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	Rotary Swimathon
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 6 Residential
30 <sup>th</sup> March – 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Easter Holidays



Environment and  
Climate Action

# Help the planet and our school

to win a sustainability kit!

Carbon Cutting Essex is inviting schools to reduce their carbon footprint and support school environmental projects across Essex.

We're inviting family and friends of the school to take part in fun activities designed to help reduce carbon footprints, for which they'll earn points that can then be **donated to our school**. The more points our school receives, the higher our chances of winning a kit!

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 or head to [carboncuttingessex.com/schools](https://carboncuttingessex.com/schools)

