Trinity St Mary's C of E VA Primary School

Friday 16th October 2026



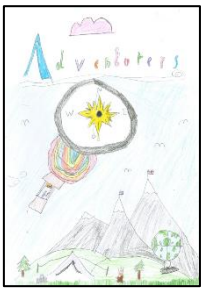
Our Core Christian Values

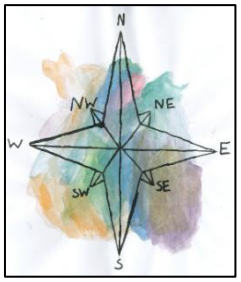
School Hours

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 **Charlotte** in Explorers Class. Well done!

House Points

Fenn	53
Shaw	40
Tabrums	38
Marsh	54

Our Christian Values Book

The following children have demonstrated one or all of our Christian Values: love, honesty, sharing, dedication and forgiveness.

Well done to:

Explorers – Charlotte

Adventurers – Hope, Hudson, Tobi

Pioneers – Archie, Matilda, Tori, Isla, Maddie, Frankie

Innovators – Emi, Emelia, Charlie

Kindness Star of the Week

Well done to:

Explorers – Nancy

Adventurers – Frankie

Pioneers – Eleni

Innovators – Emelia

Please visit the School of Kindness website to register and join up to their kids' club:

https://schoolofkindness.org/kids-club

A Fantastic Maths Morning at Elmwood School

A group of eight children (**Riley, Kieran, Scarlett, George, Lucy, Donovan, Olivia, Frankie**) enjoyed a fantastic maths morning at Elmwood School, exploring a variety of engaging games designed to develop their mathematical thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

The morning began with Mrs Edwards from Elmwood leading a Place Value Battle, where the children explored the value and position of digits, comparing and ordering numbers. Next, Mrs Burton from Collingwood Primary School led an exciting game of Countdown. The only thing missing was the iconic Countdown clock! The children used their mental calculation skills, number facts and problem-solving strategies to reach target numbers.

I then led Dice Duel, where the children rolled a six- or ten-sided dice to create four-digit numbers, aiming for the greatest or smallest possible number. The *nasty version* added a twist, allowing children to keep their digit or give it to their partner and decide where it should go! This sparked plenty of controversy and strategic thinking. The game developed their understanding of place value, probability, number magnitude and the impact of each digit's position.

It was a super morning, full of mathematical reasoning, collaboration and laughter. The children participated enthusiastically and represented our school beautifully through their excellent behaviour. A huge thank you to Elmwood School and everyone involved for such a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the fun of maths!

Miss Frith

TSM Maths Lead









The Children's Parliament

Yesterday, Molly and Bella made history by participating in the first ever Children's Parliament at the House of Commons in London.

On arrival at Westminster Hall, we were met by our local MP Sir John Whittingdale who kindly accompanied us to the committee room, whilst sharing lots of fascinating facts about the Houses of Parliament as we were shown the way.

Along with 98 other Child MPs from around the county, Molly and Bella led a motion for debate for Parliament to consider how schools can better hear and respond to the voices of children with disabilities. Following some very moving speeches made by all the Child MP's, a vote was taken & the motion was carried, with The Speaker announcing that the 'yes's' had it. After the success of the motion, further speeches were given in memory of Sir David Amess who was the initial driving force & founder of the Children's Parliament.

It was a very special and memorable day & Molly & Bella represented TSM brilliantly. I wonder if we have two future politicians in our midst!

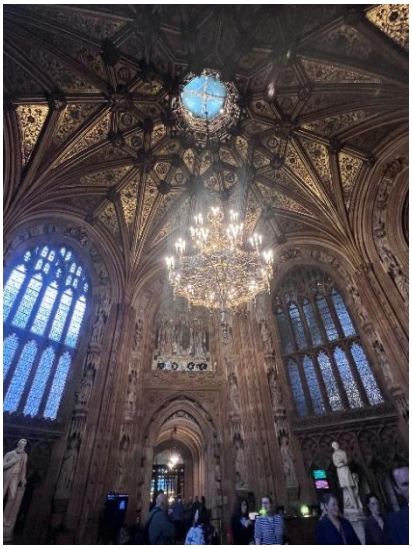
Well done girls, you were a credit to our school. I was exceptionally proud of you both.

Mrs. Allan













Attendance

Congratulations to Adventurers Class who have the highest attendance this week, with an attendance of **97%.** Whole school attendance is **93.87%.**

If your child is absent then please remember to report this before 8.30am either by telephone or the Arbor Parent Portal/Arbor App stating the reason for your child's absence. **We do not accept emails for reporting absence.** Thank you.
Logging absences on the Parent Portal and Arbor App

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 Arbor 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.

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.

General Reminders

Year 6 to 7 secondary admission round for September 2027

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened recently, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

Donations

If anybody has any spring bulbs or wintering flower plants that they would kindly like to donate, they would be gratefully received. Many thanks.

Could Your Child Be Eligible for Free School Meals?

From September 2026, free school meals eligibility has expanded to all pupils from households receiving Universal Credit.

Your child may now be eligible if your household receives:

- Universal Credit (regardless of your income level)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Registering for free school meals helps us secure additional funding to support your child's education. Even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and already receives a universal free meal, you can still apply for benefits-based FSM.

If you think you might be eligible and haven't already registered, please contact the school office and we'll provide you with an application form.

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Poppy Appeal 2026

We will be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and children will have the opportunity to buy merchandise such as snap wrist bands, clip on poppies and ribbon bracelets. We have a limited number of these items and suggest a minimum donation of £1 for these goods.

If your child would like any of these items, please send them in with their donation after half term and they will be able to purchase their items from our Head Pupils/Official Helpers, who will be visiting each class in the afternoons during the week.

Letters Emailed Home

Check Clothing - Adventurers / School Photos Uniform – Adventurers & Pioneers
Dental Beauty Re-Scheduled – Reception & Y3

Headteacher Summary

It has been another busy and positive week at TSM, with lots to celebrate!

Yesterday marked a very special moment for TSM as Molly and Bella participated in the first-ever Children's Parliament at the House of Commons. Alongside fellow Child MPs, they contributed to an important debate about ensuring that schools listen and respond effectively to the voices of children with disabilities. It was a memorable occasion and a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience democracy in action. Molly and Bella represented TSM with great confidence and maturity, and I was exceptionally proud of them both. Congratulations, girls. You were outstanding ambassadors for our school and a real credit to TSM.



Riley, Kieran, Scarlett, George, Lucy, Donovan, Olivia and Frankie enjoyed a fantastic maths morning at Elmwood School. Through fun games and challenges, they developed their reasoning, problem-solving and number skills, showing just how important and enjoyable maths can be.

A big thank you to Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, who visited Years 5 and 6 to deliver an important assembly about hate crime. The session helped our children to understand what hate crime means, why it is so important to challenge prejudice and unkindness, and how each of us has a responsibility to treat others with respect, kindness and understanding. The children listened thoughtfully and were encouraged to think carefully about the positive choices they can make both in school and within the wider community.

Our RotaKids also held their committee meeting this week and are already busy looking ahead at events that are coming up. It is always wonderful to see our children taking such an active role in helping others and thinking beyond our own school community. Well done to everyone involved for your enthusiasm, commitment and determination to make a positive difference.

I was also incredibly impressed with all the children who had their flu immunisation this week. They showed real maturity, conducting themselves calmly and sensibly throughout. We know that medical appointments can sometimes feel a little daunting, so we were particularly proud of how well the children supported one another. Well done, everyone!

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service returned today to deliver a Fireworks Safety Assembly to the whole school. With Bonfire Night approaching, this was a timely reminder about how we can enjoy fireworks and celebrations safely. The children listened carefully to the important messages about staying safe around fireworks and bonfires and understanding the role we can all play in making celebrations both enjoyable and safe.

Congratulations to our netball team: Lydia, Matilda J, Pixie, Bella, Molly, Gracie G and Hattie. Miss Frith and Mrs Graham accompanied the team to WdF to compete and were incredibly proud of the perseverance, teamwork and wonderful team spirit the girls demonstrated. Representing TSM is about so much more than the result, and the way the girls supported one another and represented our school made us extremely proud. Well done, girls!



Another week that has demonstrated so many of the qualities we value at TSM: kindness, respect, responsibility, perseverance and teamwork. Thank you, as always, to our children, staff and families for everything you do to support our school community.

Have a fabulous and restful weekend!



Miss Hoy

TSM Key Dates 2026/2027

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 2026/2027	
Monday 19th October 2026	Individual & Sibling Photos – School Uniform Required
Tuesday 20th October 2026	Parents Evening
Wednesday 21st October 2026	Rotary Stop Polio Campaign - Planting
Thursday 22nd October 2026	Parents Evening
Friday 23rd October 2026	Inset Day
Monday 26th October 2026	Half Term
Monday 2nd November – Thursday 5th November 2026	FOTSMS Clothing Collection
Tuesday 3rd November 2026	New to Reception 2027 Open Day
Friday 6th November 2026	Rocksteady Impact Assembly – Pupils Only
Sunday 8th November 2026	Remembrance Day Service
Monday 9th November 2026	Reception & Year 5 Road Safety Session
Wednesday 11th November 2026	Adventurers Layer Marney Trip
Friday 13th November 2026	Year 3 Home Safety Session
Friday 13th November 2026	Children in Need Day
Monday 16th November 2026	Eco-Committee Crocus Planting
Tuesday 17th November 2026	RotaKids Committee Meeting
Thursday 19th November 2026	Reception & Year 3 Dental Check
Saturday 21st November 2026	Town Council Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 24th November 2026	Choir Royal Albert Hall Concert
Wednesday 25th November 2026	Innovators Duxford Trip

South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre will be running a range of Holiday Activities during the October Half term Holidays:

Monday 26 October-Thursday 29 October

City Camps Full day (6-12 year olds) 9am-5pm

Mini Camps ½ day (4-6 year olds) 8.30am-12.30pm

Whole and half day Mini and City Camps offer a huge range of sporting activities, games, arts and crafts, plus swimming and pool inflatable for the over 8's competent swimmers.

Activate- For Children who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals

Full day (6-12 year olds) 9am-5pm

½ day (4-6 year olds) 8.30am-12.30pm

Click for more information and to request a place Essex Activate - Half Term | Active Essex

They are also running:

Pool Inflatable for Over 8 competent swimmers. Need to swim 25m unaided. Thursday 29 October 14:00-15:00 and Saturday 31 October 16:45-17:45

Halloween Family Fun Sessions Monday 26 October 13:45-15:15 and Saturday 31 October 15:15-16-15

All details of the courses can be found here: Kids holiday courses (chelmsford.gov.uk)

They offer a £5 (full day) or £2.50 (half day) sibling discount when you book two siblings onto the City or Mini Camps at the same time.

They also accept Childcare vouchers.

October Half-Term

at

The Book Nut

24 Heralds Way, SWF

Sat 24th Oct — **The Green Child Storytime and Craft Activities with Hollie Hughes** Free to attend

Sun 25th Oct — **Storytime with the Glass Slipper Princess - 11am & 2pm**
Book your tickets on our website

Fri 30th Oct — **Witchy Boo Storytime with Arden Jones** Free to attend

For more information and to book tickets, visit our events page at wwww.thebooknut.co.uk