Trinity St Mary's C of E VA Primary School

Friday 20th November 2026



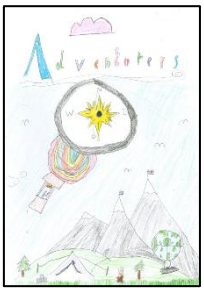
Our Core Christian Values

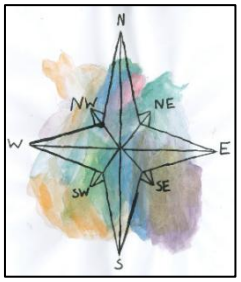
School Hours

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 **Marnie** in Adventurers Class. Well done!

House Points

Fenn	41
Shaw	30
Tabrums	46
Marsh	45

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 – Austin Ba, Fiona

Adventurers – Ellyn, Louis, Marnie

Pioneers – Charlie, Tori, Matilda, Gracie, Maddie, Felix, George, Isla

Innovators – Bella, Molly, Emi, Zachary, Casey



Kindness Star of the Week

Well done to:

Explorers – Lucy

Adventurers – Marnie

Pioneers – Maddie

Innovators – Gracie

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

https://schoolofkindness.org/kids-club

Adventurers – A Trip Back in Time!

In Adventurers, last Wednesday, we enjoyed a fantastic visit to Layer Marney Tower, where we discovered more about life in Ancient Greece and had the opportunity to explore some fascinating ancient artefacts.

One of the most memorable facts the children learnt was that, to make leather softer, people used to rub it with… poo! The children thought this was absolutely disgusting but, at the same time, hilarious! I think that is one fact they certainly won't be forgetting in a hurry!

We also had a go at grinding wheat into flour. It was much trickier than we expected and really helped us appreciate just how hard farmers had to work to provide food for their families.

After this, we took on some rather challenging tasks – quite frankly, some seemed almost impossible! We certainly had a few cheaters along the way, but there was plenty of laughter and determination. My group, in particular, seemed very determined to make sure I didn't succeed at a single task! We had to roll a six at exactly the same time, walk across stepping stones that mysteriously disappeared, throw a beanbag backwards into a hoop and complete lots of other little challenges. It was certainly harder than it looked!

We also had the opportunity to climb up the tower and discover more about how the Tudors lived. Another rather interesting (and slightly revolting!) fact we discovered was that they used urine to wash their clothes. I think we can all agree that we are very lucky to have washing machines today!

All in all, it was a fantastic day filled with fascinating facts, lots of laughter and some rather disgusting discoveries! A huge well done to all our Adventurers for getting involved and making it such a memorable trip.

Miss Frith





Eco-Committee Visit to the Community Garden

On Monday, the Eco-Committee teamed up with the Rangers from Chelmsford City Council for a fantastic morning improving the community garden at Saltcoats. Working together, the children planted a wide variety of wildflower seed plugs and crocus bulbs, helping to create a beautiful space that will support local wildlife for years to come.

The garden has been worked on incredibly hard and is becoming a wonderful environment for both wildlife and people to enjoy. It now features an amazing Reading Library, a welcoming seating area and a state-of-the-art bug hotel, all designed to encourage visitors to relax, explore and appreciate nature. The Rangers spoke to the children about how the garden has been planned with families in mind and how everyone is welcome to go and use this fabulous space after school or at the weekends.

Our Eco-Committee members worked exceptionally hard throughout the morning, showing enthusiasm, teamwork and determination. They had great fun getting involved and were a real credit to the school. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Graham, for joining and helping us for the morning.

I was extremely proud of all the children and the positive way they represented our school while helping to make such a valuable contribution to the local community. Well done everyone!

Mrs. Allan









TSM Christmas Events - Save the dates!

Choir @ Town Council Christmas Fayre – Saturday 21st November

RotaKids Christmas Project, Tree of Joy – collection day - Friday 27th November

Christmas Craft Morning – Tuesday 1st December 9.15am – 10am

Whole School Panto – Dick Whittington, children only – Thursday 3rd December

Rocksteady Christmas Concert – Tuesday 8th December
Parents/carers of band members only are invited in for a 10.30am start.

Children's Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 9th December

Rotary Christmas Sleigh Visit – Wednesday 9th December 5pm

Reception & KS1 Christmas Performance – Wednesday 9th December 2pm / Thursday 10th December 6.30pm. Performances in the hall. 2 tickets per family available per performance.

Choir @ Tylers Ride – Thursday 10th December

FOTSMS Christmas Coffee Morning – Friday 11th December

Carols by Candlelight in the church – Monday 14th December 5.30pm

Choir @ Town Carol Service – Wednesday 16th December 5.30pm

KS2 Christmas Performance – Wednesday 16th December 2pm / Thursday 17th December 6.30pm. Performances in the church. 2 tickets per family available per performance.

FOTSMS Wear Something Christmassy Day – Friday 18th December



Attendance

Congratulations to Pioneers Class who have the highest attendance this week, with an attendance of **98.95%.** Whole school attendance is **93.71%.**

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

Reception Admissions September 2027

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **9 November 2026**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2027.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2027**.

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

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2027-28 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Xmas4schools & Vancols Photography

All orders have been sent home with the children this week, thank you for taking part!

Letters Emailed Home

Pioneer & Innovator Athletics Event
Sketch & Story Cancellation 25/11
NCMP Reception & Year 6
School Survey
Choir – Christmas Fayre & RAH Information

Remembrance Day Service

On Sunday 8th November, Molly and Gracie represented TSM RotaKids by attending the Town Remembrance Service. It was a truly beautiful and moving occasion, made even more special by seeing so many children from TSM proudly representing their community through organisations such as Brownies, Guides, Rainbows, Beavers, Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade. It was heart-warming to see our pupils taking part with such maturity and respect. I was especially proud of Molly and Gracie, who represented TSM RotaKids so wonderfully throughout the service. They showed great empathy, dignity and respect as they laid their wreaths, carrying out this important role with such care and thoughtfulness. They were a credit to themselves, their families and our school, and I felt incredibly proud to see them honour those who gave so much for our country. Well done, Molly and Gracie - you were outstanding ambassadors for TSM RotaKids.

Mrs. Allan

Deputy Headteacher

Thank you for all your donations on Arbor, last Friday 13th November 2026 - World Kindness Day, you have helped raise money towards two great causes, the Children in Need appeal and 52 Lives charity.

On the night, the BBC Children in Need's 2026 appeal raised an amazing £38.7 million!

Our visit from Pudsey even made it, live on air… https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0033q1r (3:46:44 in)

Thank you to all the families that have donated gifts to our RotaKids Tree of Joy. The tree is situated in the foyer and will be there until Friday 27th November 2026. The RotaKids would be very grateful for any further donations to try and make a difference to disadvantaged children in our community.



Many thanks for your support.

Mrs. Allan

On behalf of the RotaKids



Headteacher Summary



As we move towards the festive season, it has been another busy and successful week at Trinity St Mary's, with many opportunities for our children to learn, contribute to the community and develop new skills.

I was particularly proud of our Eco-Committee, who worked alongside Chelmsford City Council to plant crocus bulbs in the community orchard. This was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to make a positive contribution to their local environment while helping to enhance a space that can be enjoyed by everyone. Mrs Allan returned from the planting session commenting on how beautiful the area looked. Chelmsford City Council is encouraging more residents to make use of this special outdoor space, and we look forward to seeing the orchard burst into colour in the spring.



This week, children in Reception and Year 3 also took part in dental health checks. These provide an important opportunity to identify any potential concerns early and reinforce positive oral health habits. Good dental health plays a significant role in children's overall wellbeing, confidence and readiness to learn, and we are grateful to the dental team at Dental Beauty Woodham for supporting this valuable preventative work.



Our pupils in Innovator and Pioneer Classes have been benefiting from specialist coaching sessions delivered by Chelsea FC Foundation coaches. The sessions have provided a fantastic opportunity for children to develop key football skills, including ball control, dribbling and teamwork, while building confidence and resilience through sport. Mrs O'Brien was impressed by the enthusiasm, effort and progress demonstrated.



I am very much looking forward to joining many of you at the Town Council Christmas Fayre this weekend. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community and the many donations received for the tombola stall, which will be run by Mrs Simmons. A huge well done to our choir, who have been working hard to prepare for the event and will have the honour of performing first at the Christmas light switch-on at 4.30pm. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and know they will represent the school brilliantly.

It has also been heartwarming to see so many families supporting the RotaKids Tree of Joy project, helping to make Christmas a little brighter for children in need. Your kindness and generosity truly reflect the caring values of our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a wonderful 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	
Saturday 21st November 2026	Town Council Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 24th November 2026	Choir Royal Albert Hall Concert
Wednesday 25th November 2026	Innovators Duxford Trip
Friday 27th November 2026	Tree of Joy Collection
Monday 30th November 2026	Reception Parents Phonics Workshop TBC
Tuesday 1st December 2026	Parents Christmas Craft Session
Thursday 3rd December 2026	FOTSMS Panto – Dick Whittington
Friday 4th December 2026	Explorers Class Trip – Call of the Wild
Monday 7th December 2026	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service – Year 5/6 Cyber Bullying Session
Monday 7th December 2026	Year 1 Parents Phonics Workshop TBC
Tuesday 8th December 2026	Rocksteady Christmas Concert
Wednesday 9th December 2026	Children's Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 9th December 2026	Simply the Nativity – R, 1, 2 Performance – 2pm
Wednesday 9th December 2026	Rotary Christmas Sleigh Visit 5pm
Thursday 10th December 2026	Choir visiting Tylers Ride
Thursday 10th December 2026	Simply the Nativity – R, 1, 2 Performance – 6.30pm
Friday 11th December 2026	FOTSMS Christmas Coffee Morning
Monday 14th December 2026	Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 15th December 2026	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Winter Safety Assembly
Wednesday 16th December 2026	KS2 Magical Musical Performance 2pm
Wednesday 16th December 2026	Town Carol Service
Thursday 17th December 2026	KS2 Magical Musical Performance 6.30pm
Friday 18th December 2026	FOTSMS Wear Something Christmassy
Monday 21st December 2026	Christmas Holidays

TSM Rota Kids – Christmas Project

Dear TSM families,

For our first fundraising project this year, we have chosen to support the **'Tree of Joy'**.

This amazing project, aims to provide a new toy or book to a disadvantaged child who, otherwise would have very little to look forward to at Christmas. We thought how sad it must be to have a Christmas without a present to unwrap and we really wanted to do something to help.

How it works:
We will be having our own 'Tree of Joy' in our school. The tree carries tags that will be added to the present. This tag shows if the present is for a girl or a boy and also shows the age range that it is suitable for. These are:0-1; 2-3; 4-5; 6-8; 9-10; or 11-12 years of age. The presents **do not** have to be wrapped, just brought into your classroom or the front office. They can then have their tag added and the present can then be placed under the tree.
All the presents will be collected on Friday 27th November by Rotary to allow time for the charities to wrap all the presents and distribute them to the children in good time for Christmas.

We think it would be a wonderful thing to bring some happiness to a child who might not be as lucky as us and would be very grateful if you would support us with this project. We are looking forward to seeing how many presents we can get.

If you have any questions about our 'Tree of Joy' project, please speak to any of our Rota Kid members, or to Mrs. Allan.

Thank you for all your help with making a child's Christmas special.

Molly (President) Gracie (Vice President) Pixie (Secretary) Oscar (Treasurer)

On behalf of the Rota Kids Committee


Dodgeball
Afterschool Club
Trinity St. Mary's
Primary School
Tuesdays
in term time
3:30 - 4:15pm
Years 3-6
Contact info
07958 371468
Facebook - Jack Martin Fitcamp
Your First Session Free!



Thank you for your support

Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit **rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal**

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

To TRINITY ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Thank You for helping to raise £182-60p

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Registered charity number: 219279

DS4475