



Extra-Curricular

At Shenfield St Mary's we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities designed to promote both excellence and social interaction. Please visit our 'clubs' page. These activities take place during the lunch hour and before and after school hours and are organised by staff, parents/carers and selected outside agencies.

Sporting Aims and Achievements

Our staff arrange a broad and rich variety of sporting activities for the children to participate in over the year within school time. Other opportunities arise through after school clubs and national competitions. Sporting opportunities include football, basketball, netball, cross country, swimming, athletics, rounders and cricket. At St Mary's we try to achieve a mix of 'sport for all' in addition to the competitive element that leagues and rallies offer. Added to this, all Year 3 children have weekly swimming lessons at Shenfield High School in the Summer term. Outward bound activities are encouraged through our residential field studies. Please visit our 'Sporting Successes' page.

Music and Performance

At St Mary's there is a strong tradition of music and performance. Pupils are offered a wide range of musical opportunities including a school choir, orchestra and recorder groups. Within school time a number of children undertake instruction in a variety of paid performance lessons: violin, keyboard, piano, guitar and voice. Regular concerts take place and pupils are encouraged to develop their creative talents. Please ask for more information about peripatetic teaching.

Creative Developments

Pupils are encouraged to take part in art and creative writing competitions from time to time and the school always gains a high level of participation in the Essex Library Summer Reading Programme. Our choir also performs regularly outside of the school and competes in competitions with great success.

We use Evolve, through Essex County Council, to help us ensure visits are safe and carefully planned. Sometimes it is more sensible to transport small groups of children in parents' cars. When this happens, we ask the drivers concerned to confirm that they have suitable insurance cover and seat belts and child seats are fitted for all children being transported.

Throughout the year, a variety of visitors are invited to the school for special "themed days". For instance, the school has been transformed into Ancient Greece, Egypt and Jerusalem in the days running up to the crucifixion. Pupils have also experienced a Diwali day or have been inspired by visiting authors or poets, for example.

Equality and Diversity

As part of our aim to educate children about the world around them, developing tolerance and an understanding of people with different cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds, in our local community, national community and global community.



Educational Visits

Pupils of all ages participate in field trips to support classroom topics and other extra-curricular visits such as theatre trips. We consider it is very important that children should visit places of interest as this furthers understanding. Recent visits have included the local nature reserve, historical sites of interest and Abberton Reservoir. Full details of all outings are sent to parents in advance, requesting written consent.

In addition, Year 5 pupils attend a three-day residential trip at Flatford Mill, to support their studies in geography and science. Year 6 pupils take part in a five-day outward bound activity residential trip. The activities undertaken include orienteering, abseiling and canoeing. Participation in such activities encourages personal growth as well as supporting the outward bound aspects of the National Curriculum Physical Education Programme of Study.

If you would like further information on the curriculum we teach, please contact the school directly.