

## What our parents say

“Starting school can often feel daunting for a young child moving from nursery or preschool. Mine was especially apprehensive. However, having the opportunity to meet the reception teacher and assisting team soon gave me full peace of mind. Everyone was so welcoming and reassuring and had a clear structure of how the year would be as an introduction into full time education. This was so important for both myself and my husband as well as my child.

The constant interaction with the teacher and my child’s learning is fantastic. Not only do the teachers upload pictures and information for you to see how your child is doing, but you also have the opportunity to show all the wonderful things and learning your child is doing outside of school also – thus creating a 360 degree view of your child’s growth and development.

The teaching is outlined clearly with parents having a clear indication of what is expected from the children as well as what support is available to help the children achieve their potential.

The wonderful thing that does stand out is the school’s commitment to diversity and inclusion of everyone. It’s promotion of core values leaves me with peace of mind that my child and my other children already in the school will continue to receive the values that we as a family adhere to also.

I couldn’t recommend Dunmow St Mary’s enough.

Thank you for the continued support.”

Nikki A

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“As soon as my husband and I walked into Dunmow St Mary’s on one of their open evenings, we just knew it was the school for our twins, we had viewed a few schools previously, but we got a very special feeling as we were guided around the school and we got to meet the lovely head teacher Mrs Charter.

We remember meeting Mrs Burton and instantly saying we hope the twins have her as their teacher as she was so lovely and caring, we were very lucky as she became their reception teacher when they started and they both have the most wonderful relationship with her and also their support teachers.

The twins are now 10 months into their school journey and what a wonderful 10 months it has been, St Mary's is the most warm, friendly, nurturing school I could have ever hoped to send the twins to, from when they very first started with the excellent settling in sessions they did, which made both me and the twins feel completely at ease, they took to being in a school environment very easily and

I honestly believe this was down to the school's excellent processes and the attentive, caring teachers, to their excellent learning and development programme they have, the twins absolutely love going to school and are excited to put their uniform on every morning and look forward to the day ahead, they can't wait to tell me what they have learnt when they come out in the afternoon as well.

Reception has an amazing play area for the children, there is so much for them to do and the fact they learn through play is absolutely brilliant, Harry and Emily have developed and learnt so much since starting even when Covid hit and we went into lockdown and home-schooling the support we received from the school and teachers was incredible.

The tools we have as parents are also wonderful, we have tapestry which allows us to see what they children have been doing on a day-to-day basis and how much fun they are having while learning new things, we are also able to upload pictures for them to show their teachers and also for us to contact their teacher too.

We would highly recommend Dunmow St Mary's school to all prospective parents as it truly is a wonderful school."

Nikki O

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"We were really apprehensive about our son starting in Reception, he seemed far too young and little to be going to school. However, we needn't have worried, he settled in really well and he went into school every day happy and without a backwards glance.

The facilities in Dunmow St Mary's Reception are amazing from the fantastic outside space where playing and learning take place; to Bug Club; and the Tapestry Learning Journal. Tapestry is an amazing tool used in Reception were regular updates and photos of the activities your child takes part in are shared so you can see what your child's doing during the school day. This was a big help to us especially as we didn't drop off and pick up every day, so we missed that contact with the class teacher.

The few concerns we had with our son were addressed quickly which gave us the confidence that he was being well cared for. The teaching staff at Dunmow St Mary's are always happy to meet with you to discuss anything.

The opportunities and experiences our son was given during his time in Reception were wonderful and included class trips, Forest School, Christmas performances and assemblies. He was also encouraged to continue with his love of making things and came home most days with something he made. This is all outside the every day learning of maths and phonics. We have been really impressed with the level of these skills our son had developed during his time in Reception and is continuing to be built upon in Year 1."

Emma A

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I thought I would take a minute to give thanks to DSM, in particular the Year 6 teachers. Last night we attended our child's first secondary school parent evening. Our child is already expected to sit the higher GCSE maths paper and is currently in set 2. His maths teacher is extremely impressed with his knowledge and is confident he will be moved to the top set after some assessment next week.

We believe that the manner in which you organise the teaching of maths in Year 6 with a third specialist teacher has contributed to our child's confidence and learning ability which has enabled him to settle into secondary school maths so well.

After initial assessments in English, our child has the reading level of a 13 year old. His vocabulary is outstanding and for the first time this subject is no longer a struggle. Y6 and the teacher's passion for high quality texts, made all the difference to his approach to English.

Safe to say we are very proud and acknowledge the incredible start he had in education at Dunmow St Mary's.

Parent of Y6 leaver