

# St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 26th November 2021

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Website: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk)

Attendance Weekly - 94.1%

Attendance Year - 96.4%

*Let Your Light Shine... as You Grow Matthew 5: 15-16*

**Friendship**  
**Trust**

**Truthfulness**  
**Compassion**

**Perseverance**  
**Respect**

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

## COVID and Illness Advice:

Earlier this week I sent out some additional information in regards to COVID cases, and what parents/carers need to do if a child develops symptoms, or if a member of the school office contacts them during the school day.

Schools locally and nationally have found that over the past few weeks, numbers of suspected and confirmed COVID cases are rising and this has been backed up by national statistics which show that 5-9-year olds are the fastest growing group of positive cases.

Like all schools, we also have an increased number of staff members who are being affected by a variety of different Autumn/Winter term illnesses and currently we are able to manage the level of staff absence at current rates in school, but if this rises this could potentially cause issues around staffing and class cover. I am sure that you would agree that we need to do all that we can to make sure that we keep children with their own teachers.

Based on our experience over the past few weeks, we have reviewed our current procedures for dealing with potential COVID cases in school and ask all parents to please follow these:

- Get a PCR test for a child if they are displaying any of the following symptoms and remain at home whilst awaiting the results:
    - Headache
    - Tummy ache
    - High temperature (37.8+)
    - New continuous cough
    - A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
    - Sore throat
    - If symptoms start whilst the child is in school, we will monitor them for a while and call you to get your views on how they have been at home. If a child is clearly unwell, we will ask you to collect them as usual
  - If a sibling or parent/anyone else in the household tests positive for COVID, your child must have a PCR test. They do not need to isolate at home if they are not showing Covid symptoms. If the child's result is negative, they may come back to school, but we ask that daily lateral flow tests are carried out for a week.
  - If your child had a negative PCR result 1 or 2 weeks ago and new symptoms have started, we will ask for another PCR to be carried out
- Please conduct twice weekly lateral flow tests on your children if they are asymptomatic (this has resulted in some cases being identified)

We are absolutely working in partnership with you on this and fully recognise that there are a lot of coughs, colds and bugs about that have nothing to do with COVID. **Please be kind to the office or any member of school staff if they call or speak to you about this, we understand it is a tricky and emotional position for everyone.** Hopefully by following the steps above together we can make sure the rest of this term progresses smoothly, all classes stay open and we can look forward to Christmas celebrations. As a reminder, I am including our Parents/Respect Policy. <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stmaryschurchofengland/UploadedDocument/2133ab5b32674fd190110755e0e96adc/respect-parental-behaviour-policy-april-2021.pdf>

**Kindness Calendar:**



At St Mary's one of our 6 school Christian values is **Compassion** and we think that it is really important to teach our children to be kind and caring - which we think, especially at the moment, is really important.

Every December we encourage our pupils to take part in the **Kindness Calendar** initiative (as we did over the last two years). During each day in December (starting on Tuesday 1st December) our pupils should aim to complete a kind act, **every single day!** Sometimes these kind acts are for someone in their family or household, sometimes they are for a friend and neighbour and sometimes they may be for an adult or another child in school – someone that they may not have even spoken to before!

The Kindness Calendar activities will run throughout the whole of December (including over the upcoming Christmas holidays) and any pupil who completes all of the activities on the Kindness Calendar will receive a special Headteacher's certificate in a whole school assembly when the school returns in January. To receive their special certificate, we would ask that parents/carers put their signature on the date that their child completes a kindness activity.

Early next week we will be sending a printed out copy of the Kindness calendar (which you are welcome to print off and display somewhere visible at home) and also put a copy on the school website.

Please do actively encourage your child or children to take part as we think this is **very important**. Thank you and good luck! We can't wait to see how they do. I am sure you will agree that this initiative is very much worthwhile.

**Thanks to the PTA!**

This week I would like to pass on my thanks to the amazing PTA!

As you will have no doubt observed, Ruth and Gemma, and their incredibly creative team, have been hard at work organising lots of fun 'live' in-school events to support the school and raise money for important new initiatives. Already this term they have raised approaching £1800 from the Sponsored Readathon - with £1000 already being spent on over 200 impressive new books spread out between **every single class**. In fact, the new books that PTA funds bought were delivered in the week before the READATHON, and our children could choose from these for the event itself. Undoubtedly, they make a fantastic addition to our library and these wonderful texts continue to be read by our lovely children as we speak!



The school and PTA would like to thank you so very much for all your donations throughout the last few years. Your donations will pay for all the children to experience a Christmas Panto with all their friends, the Christmas tree & Christmas Crackers to go with the Christmas Dinner and they also give our children those extra fun school experiences that they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford. I would also like to say thank you to Gemma's husband, Bob, who has kindly put together some lovely winter hanging baskets for the front of school – which have certainly brightened up the front of school entrance! Thanks Bob!

Just a reminder that earlier this week letters came home in the children's bookbags with permission forms for two upcoming events:

- KS1 (Rec, Yr1 & Yr2) - Film Night (ARTHUR CHRISTMAS) Tuesday 30th November - after school until 5.15pm (**next week**)
- KS2 (Yrs 3-6) - Disco - Friday 10th December - 5pm until 6.30pm

For both events, there will be a snack & drink included in the £3.50 ticket price, and for the older children at the disco, there will be sweets & tattoos to buy on the day @50p each (cash only). Please return your forms ASAP to confirm your child's place and note the payment options available.

We hope to have as many children as possible along to the first Film night and Disco, for two years!! If any parents can come to chip in to help on these nights, please let us know, as help will definitely be needed. As Ruth and Gemma stated - totally unpaid but great fun! If you are interested please contact them on the email address below.

I am also reliably informed that the PTA are also planning a return of the 'Sweetie/Chocolate raffle' which will be held in school time. Gemma and Ruth will be in touch about this soon.

The school and the PTA would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. As always, if you can spend some time, or have ideas for future school PTA events Gemma and Ruth and all of the vital members of the PTA would love to hear from you. Their contact details are: [pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk)

### Happy birthday Mr Tait!

It was a lovely way to end the week with our lovely Caretaker, John Tait, celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

John was treated to some HUGE balloons, lots of colourful banners and a big card from all the staff at St Mary's.

John was also treated to £70 of John Lewis vouchers – which he thoroughly deserves for being such a great Caretaker.

Please have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

*Headteacher at St Mary's*



**schoolmoney**

### School Dinners Arrears Reminder

Please can we ask that all School Dinner Money accounts are topped up in advance and that any arrears are cleared as soon as possible.

If debts are incurred the school budget has to pay for them. This means that money which should be spent on children's education, is used to pay off debts.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to pay for your child/ren's school dinners, please contact the office in confidence on 01799 523384.



## Breakfast is important.

It is a great way to give the body the refueling it needs. Skipping breakfast can make children feel tired, restless, or irritable. In the morning, their bodies need to refuel for the day ahead. Their mood and energy can drop by mid-morning if they don't eat something for breakfast. It's important for children to have breakfast every day, but what they eat in the morning is important too. To boost nutrition, choose breakfast foods that are rich in whole grains, fruits or vegetables, and protein

while low in added sugar.

We know it can be hard to make a healthy breakfast happen when you're rushing to get yourself and the children ready in the morning. If they aren't hungry first thing when they wake in the morning try to encourage them to have a little something before you leave for school.

We have had a few children recently telling us they haven't had breakfast. We do have fruit available and some emergency cereal for these times, but we would encourage you to make breakfast part of your morning routine before school.

For helpful tips and ideas please visit: [www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)

Joanna Crocker

Welfare and Support Officer



Year 3 & 4 Archery



Year 5 & 6 Dodgeball



# Let Your Light Shine as You Grow Matthew 5:15-16

## Reverse Advent Calendar

Every year, Uttlesford Foodbank give out Christmas hampers full of both basics and Christmas treats to families and individuals living in isolation or poverty. The Reverse Advent Calendar is a way for our children and families to give to others and let their light shine, as well as enabling children to join in with the true spirit of Christmas. To ensure they receive the correct items they have provided us with information to help us. If you could donate some of the items, we would be really grateful.



### How?

From **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, please bring in the suggested items from our list.

### What?

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov - Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Potatoes or Tinned Soup.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov - Long Life Fruit Juice, Coffee or Tea.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov - Custard, Jelly or Christmas Puddings.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov - Cooking Sauces, Gravy or Stuffing.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov - Savoury Crackers or Crisps.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov - Christmas Cake or Yule log.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov -Boxes of Christmas chocolates or Boxes of Biscuits.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - Mince pies or Rice Pudding.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Christmas Crackers.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Part Baked Bread Rolls.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – Small Toiletry Items (shower gel, shampoo, hand sanitiser etc).

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Jams and Spreads.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Tinned ham, salmon, sardines.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Anything from the list

### Where?

Collective Worship, St Mary's C of E Primary School. Items will be collected during Collective Worship.

### When?

Please make sure all food is with us **by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**. Children can bring their donations to their classroom to donate.

*Thank you for your continued support for these important causes*

# Diary Dates



<b>Mon 29th November</b>	-	<b>Y4 Ancient Greek Workshop (Dress Up)</b>
Tue 30th November	-	KS1 Film Night (PTA Event) - Finish at 5.15pm
<b>Wed 1st December</b>	-	<b>Y4 Dodgeball Tournament @ Lord Butler</b>
Thu 2nd December	-	Y5 Natural History Museum
Sat 4th December	-	Spirit of Christmas @ St. Mary's Church
Mon 6th December	-	Y6 Harry Potter World
Wed 8th December	-	Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime (KS1-9.15am & KS2-10.30am)
<b>Thu 9th December</b>	-	<b>Y3 Egyptian Day (Dress Up)</b>
Fri 10th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 10th December	-	KS2 Disco (PTA Event)
Wed 15th December	-	Nativity in the church - 6pm
Thu 16th December	-	Christmas Lunch
Thu 16th December	-	Carol Service in the Church - 2pm
Fri 17th December	-	End of Term - school finishes at 1.30pm
Mon 20th Dec - 3rd Jan	-	Christmas Holidays
Tue 4th January 2022	-	INSET Non Pupil Day
Wed 5th January	-	First day of Spring Term - Pupils Return

