

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 19th November 2021

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 97.5%

Attendance Year - 96.7%

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,

Anti-Bullying Week

This week at St Mary's we have been marking the importance of Anti-Bullying Week. The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying Week was named '**One Kind Word**'.

The week's Anti-Bullying theme began with an assembly on Monday, led by myself, Mr Jarmain, and I talked to the children about the signs of bullying, how bullying can affect people, and how we can report bullying and support each other if we suspect that someone is being bullied at St Mary's, as well as outside of the school. We also talked about the difference between bullying and having a disagreement with friend or another pupil at the school—and how to tell the difference. The children were very engaged and responsive and gave some really good answers and suggestions. Throughout the week classes have been exploring the theme of Anti-Bullying and today (Friday) the children have finished off the week by going off into different areas around the school to complete a range of fun activities with an anti-bullying theme.



Relaxing Readathon

On Friday 12th November, the PTA organised a fun, non-stop, 7-hour Relaxing Readathon for all the pupils at St Mary's to take part.

At the start of the day the children came to school with a onesie, a pillow and even their favourite teddy to take some precious time to read a book (or two) on their own, or with a friend. A cosy corner was set up in the school hall the evening before, with comfy bean bags, colourful cushions and spongey gym-

mats, pictures, posters and lots of fun props and equipment to make the day even more relaxed and enjoyable – there was even some relaxing music piped through the speakers in the school hall, so that pupils and staff could sit back and enjoy a text or two. To make the event even better, a large (and rather impressive) reading chair was brought in for teachers to sit on and read stories to their classes. Each class visited the hall for just under an hour and each class shared stories and made some time in their busy day to prioritise time for reading.

Parents and carers were able to sponsor their child or children online, or by sending in cash on the day. The PTA asked for a minimum of £1 sponsorship per child. If you ticked the gift aid box, it indicated that – as a charity – the PTA could claim another 25p per £1 raised from the government, which really helps the pounds and pennies to go even further. At the end of the day we were astounded to find out that the PTA and all of the incredibly generous donations from all our parents, carers and friends of the school had raised just **over £1800** towards further contributions and events at the school. Wow!

All the proceeds and sponsorship money raised from this Readathon will go towards some festive treats, a return of the amazing Christmas Panto, the HUGE Christmas tree and, of course, the Christmas Crackers to accompany the Christmas Dinner at the end of term. Just to top it all off, the PTA had also already spent an incredible £1000 towards a wonderful selection of reading books which have already been circulated to each class in the school and are being read and enjoyed by our lovely pupils as we write.

The school and the PTA (led by the fabulous Gemma and Ruth) would like to thank you 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

Year 5 Road Safety lesson:

On Wednesday 10th November, Busybee's class were visited by a lady called Elfrieda, who taught all of the Year 5 children how to be safe on the road. First, she told us about the Green Cross Code (which would help keep us safe and tell us the basics of crossing the road safely) and we watched an informative video of a girl who wasn't looking where she was going when she was on a road. Then she told us about the simple but



dangerous distractions around us when we are out near roads and streets, in addition to some of the important road signs – so that we know what comes next when we are on or by a road. At the end she gave us some reflective yellow bags to keep and use when coming to and from school and then, finally, we went outside of the school (onto the pavement by Castle Street) to find out what we should and shouldn't do when crossing a road or street – carrying our new fluorescent bags with us.

The class absolutely loved it and all of us really enjoyed taking in the information that Elfrieda told us about – in fact we would love to learn more! Thank you Elfrieda!

Article by Grace and Amelia (Year 5, Busybee's class)

Open Day:

On Wednesday this week, St Mary's hosted their annual Open Day for prospective Reception parents and carers. This year we had a really high turnout – with 37 parents and carers joining us for this important event.

The morning started promptly at 9.30am where I welcomed and addressed all of our special visitors – telling them about our wonderful school community, our creative curriculum, our fantastic school grounds, about our school values and generally about how wonderful St Mary's is!

Mrs Jeewan Head of Early Years and Key Stage 1, followed straight after by speaking to our visitors about the Reception class and how the school day is structured, the new amazing outdoor area (and Continuous Provision), Tapestry, Forest School and lots of other interesting and important information. Gemma and Ruth from the PTA kindly joined us to provide teas, coffees and tasty biscuits and spoke to our visitors from the heart about their positive experiences of the school. Emma North, Inclusion Leader and SENDCo at St Mary's, followed up with an interesting presentation about our Inclusive ethos as well as our SEN provision. Reverend Jeremy Trew also attended and talked warmly and knowledgeably about the church and school community and how school supports children, whatever their starting point. Mr Richard Peet, Chairman of Admissions at St Mary's, finished the Open Day with some valuable information about the Admissions process and stayed to answer questions at the end.

All in all it was a fantastic and well attended event. Thanks to everyone involved for their time and their support.

Warm regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's

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 22nd November to Thursday 9th December**, please bring in the suggested items from our list.

What?

Monday 22nd Nov - Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Potatoes or Tinned Soup.

Tuesday 23rd Nov - Long Life Fruit Juice, Coffee or Tea.

Wednesday 24th Nov - Custard, Jelly or Christmas Puddings.

Thursday 25th Nov - Cooking Sauces, Gravy or Stuffing.

Friday 26th Nov - Savoury Crackers or Crisps.

Monday 29th Nov - Christmas Cake or Yule log.

Tuesday 30th Nov -Boxes of Christmas chocolates or Boxes of Biscuits.

Wednesday 1st Dec - Mince pies or Rice Pudding.

Thursday 2nd Dec – Christmas Crackers.

Friday 3rd Dec – Part Baked Bread Rolls.

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

Tuesday 7th Dec – Jams and Spreads.

Wednesday 8th Dec – Tinned ham, salmon, sardines.

Thursday 9th 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 9th December 2021**. Children can bring their donations to their classroom to donate.

Thank you for your continued support for these important causes



Read -a- thon





CARERS RIGHTS DAY - 25th November

Whether you are a new carer or have been caring for someone for a while, CarersUK believe that it's important that you understand your rights and are able to access the support that is available to you as soon as you need it. Many people are taking on more caring responsibilities for their relatives and friends who are disabled, ill or older

and who need support. Each year, Carers Rights Day helps:

- ensure carers are aware of their rights
- let carers know where to get help and support

raise awareness of the needs of carers.

The pandemic has had a massive impact on the lives of carers, affecting access to services, the ability to juggle work and care and much more.

For further information please visit www.carersuk.org

For local support please visit

www.affc.org.uk Action for Family Carers who support both young carers and adult carers.

Mrs Jo Crocker, Welfare & Support Officer

Diary Dates



Tue 23rd November	-	Flu Immunisations
Tue 30th November	-	KS1 Film Night (PTA Event)
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)
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