

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 8th October 2021

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 97.1%

Attendance Year - 97.5%

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,

Our New Trim Trail!



As you will have seen, on the Lower Meadow the school has been having a new, fantastic Trim Trail and Adventure Play area, built for our wonderful pupils to use throughout the school day. The works were completed by Pro Play and were installed over a three-week period to replace our old and tired wooden play equipment, which was slowly rotting away.



It goes without saying that we are extremely excited, as this new apparatus will enable our pupils to have even more fun and to build up core skills and muscle strength both at playtimes and lunchtimes and also during lesson times! You can see some of our Year 6 pupils already trying out some of this equipment!

The Trim Trail will be in use daily from next week onwards.

Thanks to James and everyone at Pro Play! Just to keep you in the loop, we are also working through the last stages of planning for the installation of two new log cabins which will be built on the edges of the school field. These two log cabins will enable us to have a lovely new bespoke school library and further curriculum spaces. Watch this space!

Our new Trim Trail apparatus



Our old Trim Trail apparatus



Parent & Carer Consultations



Just a quick reminder of the dates for the upcoming Parent/Carer Consultations, which will be taking place on **Tuesday 2nd November** and **Thursday 4th November** (which is the very first week after the October half term).

As part of our mission to welcome parents and carers and friends of the school back into St Mary's, for these first Parents/Carers Evening sessions of this academic year, we are going to host these **in the school hall (and not online)**. After all of the many COVID guidelines and restrictions over the last two years we are desperate to see all of your friendly faces once again, – and we also want to give you the opportunity to physically meet with the class teachers face-to-face – rather than by video link, which is always so impersonal.

For the next set of Parent/Carer Consultations (in February) we are going to **give you the choice** of either coming into school to meet with the class teacher, or meeting online via the Parent Evening system (which we used earlier on last year).

Please remember that appointments will **start at 3.30pm**, and **finish at 6.30pm** and parents and carers will need to book into this system from early next week. Please watch out for the email which will be sent on Monday which will tell you how to book in.

Finally, please don't forget to make sure you are on time to avoid delays for all – as 10 minutes goes very quickly!

New...Look At My Work Sessions:

The upcoming Parents & Carers Consultations will be focussed on giving parents/carers and the class teacher the opportunity to talk about how their child is settling into their new class, as well as class teachers sharing a range of academic and social targets.



As we like to try out new things and as a change to our normal arrangements, in addition we are now going to offer parents and carers a separate opportunity to come into school to have a longer look at their children's work. These two sessions will be a brilliant opportunity for children to share work and then if you have any questions these can be discussed with the class teacher at the upcoming Parents/Carers Consultations sessions after half term.

These two new Look At My Work Sessions will take place **on Friday 22nd October**. The first will be between **8.30am and 9.30am** and the second will be between **3.15pm and 4pm**. Keep an eye out in your child's book bag next week for the special invitations.

We very much look forwards to seeing how these new sessions work.

Harvest



Thank you for all the amazing harvest donations which have come into school for Jimmy's Night Shelter. All of these kind donations are really appreciated. To celebrate Harvest in school this week, each class has produced offerings. This has included arts and crafts, poetry and songs! On Tuesday, we enjoyed a lovely Harvest assembly in the school hall, led by Matt Williamson from St Mary's Church and it was lovely to be able to have the whole school together to celebrate such an important event.

Census Day!

Firstly, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all of the parents and carers as we managed to total **152 meals!**



As I am sure you all know, each school receives a **large proportion of its funding each Census Day** – and there are two which record the numbers of our pupils enjoying a healthy and delicious cooked school meal. The first is always in October and the second takes place in January. Yesterday's impressive school meal numbers means that this term the school will receive a higher amount of funding – which will be used towards every single pupil at St Mary's. Well done Riina (our Kitchen Manager) and Xenia (our Office Administrator) and our Midday team for all of your hard work in making the day go so smoothly!

Thank you, once again, for your continued support of the school.

Regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's

HARVEST FESTIVAL



The children celebrated Harvest Festival in school on Tuesday with the help of Matt from the church. We discussed why we celebrate at Harvest and the importance of sharing what we have and ensuring that we help others. The children shared their offering which they had created in class including, harvest wreaths, crowns, baskets, corn and poems and prayers written by our UKS2. A **massive thank you to everyone who donated food** for Jimmy's Night Shelter too. They are very grateful for our donations!

Reminder - Parents E-Safety Training - The '2 Johns'

We would encourage all parents to join the E-Safety webinar by the '2 Johns' on

Tuesday 12 October 2021 from 8pm

Link to access the virtual event : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87179453791>



E-Safety Training for KS2 Pupils



The '2 Johns' will also be giving **E-Safety Training** to our **KS2 pupils** on **Monday 11th October**. This training will be done virtually in school.

By Jo Crocker, Welfare Support Officer



Football Tournament



Wednesday 6th October at Katherine Semar Primary School



Year 5 & 6 Girls Team



Year 6 Boys Team



Reception Class Update

Well done Butterflies for another busy week

Butterflies have been exploring different textures to write initial sounds and letters in, such as foam, rice and sand. Butterflies then had to match pictures of items to the sounds s, a, t, p in their new books.

We had two visitors this week—we met **Thomas**, the persona doll to help us talk about our feelings and thinking about managing our behaviour in PSED. Butterflies then met **Bertie**, the wise owl, who will helping to us to learn about different religions and cultures in RE. This week we learnt that the special person to Christians is called Jesus.



Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to come to our **Read with your child** morning last week and join in with our activities and reading with the children. All of the children loved seeing grown ups in class and demonstrating how they are learning to read—the tricky words using songs and the phonic Phase 2 sounds with songs, actions and pictures. To demonstrate how we teach children to read we had several activities including splat the word, playdough sounds & letters, match the objects/ pictures to the sound, magnetic letters, word puzzles and a range of reading and story books. We really hope that you enjoyed it too. Look out for dates for our next morning soon! Please have a look at the Phonic page on the website to see our Phonics songs, flash cards and letter sound mats.



Butterflies, keep on sharing your reading books with your adults at home and reading your tricky words. Soon you will get your first reading books with words.

Have a lovely weekend. **Mrs Jeewan & EYFS team**

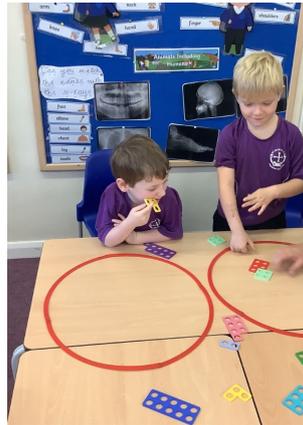


Ladybirds

Year 1 Update

This week we have started learning about 'parts' and 'wholes' in maths. We have been splitting objects into two groups as well as finding two parts of a whole number. We found lots of different ways to make ten using two parts. In English we have started reading a new book called 'Supermarket Zoo'. We have designed front covers and also used new vocabulary from the book. In music, we enjoyed playing musical notes on the glockenspiels and in RE we looked at the different ways that humans treat the world (good and bad).

Miss Nicholson & Mrs Potter



Year 2 Update

In maths this week, we have been securing number bonds to 10 then 20 and some have started learning their number bonds to 100. In English, we have been creative writing using a book called Doodleday where Harvey draws on Doodleday causing all his doodles to come to life! We reviewed the book identifying adjectives, nouns and verbs used in the story and spoke about key parts of the story. Today we went into the playground and drew our own doodles on the playground using chalk. We are going to use these next week to write descriptive, action based sentences. In art, we looked around our school for different natural materials and created creatures using leaves, sticks, seeds, stones etc.... The class' creative skills are developing each week and the effort they are putting into each activity is progressing well. We shared the Autumn wreaths we made last week in Harvest Festival. In geography, we received a postcard from The Very Hungry Caterpillar from Cairns in Australia. He described how hot it is there and all the fish he had seen in the clear, blue waters. Using this and lots of images of Cairns, we compared Saffron Walden to Cairns.



You are doing great Caterpillars! Mr Pike

A reminder that homework is due in next Friday (15th).

New spellings will be coming home today stuck in their reading record, please practise with your child, we will be having a spelling test next Friday.

Mr Pike & Y2 Team



Year 3 Update



This week in maths, Year 3 have been doing a fantastic job with learning how to use column addition and subtraction. They have also been applying this knowledge to solving word problems. In English this week, we have been writing playscripts based on The Egyptian Cinderella which the children have then acted out. Each group did a great job of writing their playscripts and organising and directing their scenes. The class have also been using some fantastic descriptive language to describe Rhodopis and have been collecting their ideas together ready to write a character description.

In topic this week, we learnt about the gruesome mummification process (which included removing the brain through the nostrils using a hook!). We even carried out the mummification process on one of the members of the class. Don't worry though—we left the brains in tact! In science this week, the class used their knowledge about magnets and magnetism to create their very own magnet based games. We also enjoyed sharing the Harvest baskets during the Harvest Festival on Tuesday morning!



Miss Allin & Year 3 Team

Year 4 Update



Well done on another fantastic week of learning!

This week in Maths, we have focused on rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. The children have worked incredibly hard to learn this tricky topic and I have been very impressed.

In our English lessons, we have learned some of the SPaG rules we need to know in Year Four. Next week, the children will have an opportunity to implement these rules in their writing in our next English unit.

During our Science lessons, we conducted an experiment involving sound. The pupils made their instruments involving straws. The straws were cut to different lengths and this helped us explore the different sounds each one created. After that, we used our scientific vocabulary to create explanations involving vocabulary such as vibrations, high and low pitch and volume.

Finally, today the children participated in a multi-sports event. It was lovely to see the class at an event again and completing tasks based on balance and coordination.

Thank you for all of your hard work this week,

Have a great weekend, **Mr Brown & Year 4 Team**





Year 5 Update

It was wonderful that everyone could be together for our Harvest Festival at the start of the week. Thank you so much for all of your kind donations of food which will be gratefully received by Jimmy's in Cambridge. Year 5 did really well writing their own Harvest poems and some of them overcame their nerves to read them aloud in front of the whole school—super effort! Other highlights include the Year 5/6 football tournament where we were delighted to hear that the girls came second, fantastic work. We have also composed our own solar system themed music and investigated hydropower by making our own water wheels—another very busy week!

Mrs McInnes, Mrs Robinson & Year 5 Team



Year 6 Update

Dragonflies took the next step on their journeys of Mayan mask creation—actually layering their masks! The children activated the plaster with water and added it to a mask, which was used as a structure to build on top of. They then started adding decorations that they'd picked up from analysing actual Mayan masks!

The children also enjoyed more creative lessons in Maths, where they explored nets of different 3D shapes by not only making them but trying to work out whether a net would work too!

A big shout-out to the football teams that played in a tournament on Wednesday—particularly the girls, who came second and got silver medals. Well done!

Mr Clarke & Year 6 Team



Diary Dates



Mon 11th October	-	E-Safety – The 2 Johns - KS2 Pupils (virtual)
Tue 12th October	-	E-Safety - The 2 Johns - Parents (virtual)
Thu 14th October	-	Individual Photos - Kittle
Fri 16th October	-	Fireworks Assembly
Fri 22nd October	-	Look At My Work Sessions (8.30am and 3.15pm)
Fri 22nd October	-	Last Day of Term Non Uniform Day for £1 for PTA
Mon 25th - Fri 29th October	-	Half-term
Mon 1st November	-	INSET - Non Pupil Day
Tue 2nd November	-	Pupils Return to school
Tue 2nd November	-	Parent Consultations from 3.30pm to 6.30pm
Thu 4th November	-	Parent Consultations from 3.30pm to 6.30pm
Thu 11th November	-	Remembrance Service
Fri 12th November	-	Children In Need Day
Wed 17th November	-	Open Morning (New Reception 2022 intake)
Tue 30th November	-	KS1 Film Night (PTA Event)
Fri 3rd December	-	KS2 Disco (PTA Event)
Fri 10th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
Mon 13th December (TBC)	-	Christmas Lunch
Wed 15th December	-	Nativity in the church - 6pm
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



St. Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School
Castle Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1BQ

*Our vision: We aspire for our pupils to be the best they can be,
in an inclusive Christian learning environment*

If you have a child starting school in September 2022
please come and join us for our...

OPEN MORNING

Come and visit our wonderful school, situated in beautiful Saffron Walden, where you will have the opportunity to meet some of our wonderful staff and pupils and find out more about what we provide

Wednesday 17th November 2021
9.30am

[DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 15th JANUARY 2022](#)

To book a place please contact the school office on:

Tel: 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

