

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 1st October 2021

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 95.9%

Attendance Year - 97.4%

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,

Head's Lines

Reading Morning

We were absolutely blown away with the huge number of parents, carers and friends of the school who attended our **Read with Your Child Session** this morning. I am delighted to report that we had **57 adults** attend this half hour session and it was so lovely to be able to welcome so many friendly faces back into the school, following all of the restrictions that had to be put in place at the start of the pandemic (which as we all know first took hold in March 2020). In fact, we are very aware that this was the first time that parents/carers have been able to come into school for a long time and it was so lovely and welcome to see you all.



The main purpose of this session was to show our visitors how we teach and practise reading in our school and some of the activities that we use to do this. The children loved showing their adults around their class too! Throughout this school year we aim to hold a number of these welcome and 'taster' events so that our parents and carers get to come into our lovely school, see our children in action and see how we structure our St Mary's Curriculum. Please keep an eye out in our weekly Friday Newsletter to see when the next Parents/Carers welcome event will be. We are looking at holding more sessions during the year such as Maths, Phonics, Writing, Forest School and support with homework. Watch this space! Thank you to Mrs Mrs Jeewan EYFS/KS1 Lead for organising this and for the support of the staff members in KS1.

Some lovely feedback we have already received from some of the parents/carers who attended:

'Brilliant! So glad to finally be able to see the classroom and my child was very excited to show me herself. What a wonderful classroom and teacher.'

'It was lovely to see her so happy and understand her learning.'

'Session was very enjoyable. Discovered how well our daughter is progressing and how interactive the learning is.'

'Enjoyed this session very much, the range of opportunities open to the children. Very grateful for the opportunity.'

Reading 'Champions' reminder!

As part of our mission over the next few years (which is to push the importance of reading at St Mary's) we have asked for any volunteers from our school community to join us in being our new **Reading Champions**. Currently we have 24 volunteers who are soon going to be coming into school on a weekly basis to hear our children read.



On 6th October (either at 9.30am or 3.30pm) we will be hosting a training event.

Please remember to let us know by emailing the school office on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk which of the two sessions you will be attending. Each session will last for approximately one hour. Please don't worry if you cannot make either of these events – we will get in touch with you to ensure that you have all of the information that you need.

We are always on the hunt for more parents to join us so if you are interested and you have some availability please email the school office on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk Ideally, we would like to have at least 3 helpers per class – from Reception to Year 6. If you have any time in the week that you would be willing to spare and join us as a 'Reading Champion' then please email Xenia (on the above email address) at the school office.

Please note that for safeguarding reasons you will need to have had a DBS check completed by the school or already have a transferable DBS.

Thank you so much in advance for your help, we really appreciate your time.

Open Morning

On Friday 22nd October, which is the last day before the half term break, the school is going to be hosting a new event for each class. **Between 8.30am and 9.30am** and then **between 3pm and 4pm** we are going to invite all of our parents and carers to come into school to have a look at their children's work. During these sessions, our pupils will be able to share examples of work, topics and projects that they have been working on in class whilst also giving our pupils the opportunity to explain to their adults what they are particularly proud of.



We are very excited to be able to welcome you all in for these sessions.

The 2 John's E-Safety and Online Safety session:



During the next two weeks we have arranged for the (now famous) 2 Johns to deliver a number of sessions to our children about the importance of online/e-safety. If you haven't heard of them before, The 2 Johns are two ex-policemen who have spent a great deal of time developing an expertise in online gaming, apps, computers, as well as social media and the dangers that these can pose to our children and young adults. They are both extremely engaging, hilariously funny, but they also deliver an incredibly important online safety message.

The sessions for our St Mary's pupils will include all of our children's favourite apps and games and will also look at the dangers they face not only from predatory (bad) people but also how they are being groomed in games which ranges from receiving gifts for the younger player and being groomed on servers for the older children.

Following this, on **Tuesday 12th October**, The 2 Johns will be delivering a workshop for the parents and carers of pupils at St Mary's. The session will take place **between 8pm and 9.30pm** (when all of our young people will be tucked up in bed, fast asleep). **Please note that this session is not appropriate for the children to take part in and is geared at adults only.** This parent/carer workshop will look at the online world and how our young people are using it; how they are navigating around restrictions and how they are often using the internet without their parent/carer's knowledge.

The 2 Johns sessions are very up to date and as such often change on a monthly basis (if not sooner) to reflect the changing risks face by children and parents face in 2021 (both pre and post COVID) and take into consideration the increased online activity by our young people and how they have adapted to the online world - something parents/carers are still struggling with. They will also look at how our young people are being influenced online and forming ideologies, which can also give them a skewed view of the world. We also look how influencers work, which can lead our children to conduct dangerous challenges. They will also look at solutions that parents/carers can adopt to help keep their children safe which again this ranges from settings on apps to safe use of games and how parents should approach the online arena. They take the Stranger Danger message that parents are familiar with and make it ready for 2021.

We would strongly urge that all of our parents/carers join in with the **E-Safety/Online Safety session on Tuesday 12th October between 8pm 9.30pm** – having watched them four times now I can confidently say that they are worth their weight in gold!

Please keep an eye out for the flier which has been sent home in your child's bookbag, as well as a separate email which has also been sent home with information about this session. There is a zoom link which has been sent to you, which you will need to access to take part in this event.

The Listening Post



We are really pleased to welcome Stort Valley Schools Trust (SVST) into school every Mondays during term time. SVST is a Christian organisation working with several local Primary and Secondary Schools. They are aware that many children and young people have suffered and struggled with losses over lockdown and have ongoing anxieties and worries about returning to school, friends, and family. They provide a listening service to support local schools and address the needs of their students.

The Trust is made up of professional and experienced ex teachers and youth workers, with many years of pastoral care and mentoring. They offer a non-judgmental, caring, and sensitive support service along with a friendly, kind and listening ear. We are extremely blessed to have KT Haynes come into our school every Monday to listen and support our pupils at St Mary's.

Nut Free School/Healthy Snacks

Just a quick reminder that we are a **Healthy School** and also a **nut-free school**. We have a number of our pupils who have an extreme or life-threatening allergy to nuts or products which contain nuts. Please could we ask you all to be extremely vigilant in ensuring that the snack that your child brings into school for breaktimes or lunchtimes is healthy – we find that fruit is the best snack – but also does not contain any nuts (or related) ingredients. We are finding that some cereal bars that children are bringing in often have nuts (or traces of nuts in), so please do check those ingredients very carefully.



School Uniform and P.E Kit

As you will know, St Mary's is well-known for its smart pupils and purple, white and grey school uniform. Please help us by ensuring that your child or children are wearing the correct uniform at all times. In regards to footwear the children should wear black shoes, not trainers. It is also important that the children shirts are tucked in, especially as they arrive at school and leave at the end of the day. Children should also wear a purple jumper or cardigan.

On days when the children arrive in school in their P.E kit, please can we ensure that the children are dressed smartly and are wearing their purple P.E top and (as the weather is getting colder) either their purple school jumper/cardigan or a black jumper or hoodie **and does not have a logo on**. Children can also wear black shorts or black jogging bottoms/leggings (again without logos please). May I also remind all parents/carers that nail polish or varnish should also not be worn during the school week.

Thank you for your help and support in this matter!

Old P.E tops



If anyone has any P.E tops that no longer fit their child, then we would welcome them. Please drop any in to the school office.

Have a lovely weekend.

Regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's

Parents E-Safety Training - The 2 Johns

Last week the school my daughter attends sent out an email about the 2 Johns e-safety parental webinar and suggested we join. I wasn't really sure I needed to, as far as I was concerned we have parental locks on digital devices, we have a 'switch' which we play on occasionally but we haven't really found an interest in online gaming (yet) and I think I'm pretty clued up on e-safety.

However, at 8pm last Tuesday I logged on to watch the webinar – As participants we could see and hear both of the John's but they couldn't see or hear us. It was far more informative than I expected and also a little frightening. I thought I was pretty knowledgeable about online grooming, games and apps and what's popular now with children but quite quickly it became apparent that I had some learning to do!!

In the words of Angela Ahrendts (former VP of Apple)

I grew up in a physical world, and I speak English. The next generation is growing up in a digital world, and they speak social.



I would encourage you to join the webinar on offer 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





Harvest Festival Donations

We will be celebrating Harvest with a **Harvest Festival Service** in school on **Tuesday 5th October 2021**. As well as the children creating artwork, poems and prayers to share, as part of this Harvest Festival Service, we will be collecting donations for Jimmy's Night Shelter. Jimmy's has been providing care to those experiencing homelessness for 25 years and work with local communities to provide 24/7 care. Any dried and tinned **food donations** would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



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



Reception Class Update



Well done Butterflies for another busy week. The children have been busy showing us their mark making and counting skills. We are enjoying singing along to number and alphabet songs everyday.

As part of our Topic **Marvellous Me** we have been talking about what makes us special and how we are all different. Butterflies painted their own portraits and thought about what colour hair, eyes and shape face they have. None of their pictures were the same, however, we observed that we do all have the same features. Butterflies have been talking about their families and people who are special to them.

In **Phonics**, the children have been learning the first **Phase 2 phonemes, 's', 'a' and 't'**. They are also learning their first 6 'tricky words', and they have copies of these words in their Reading Records. Ask your child if they remember any of the Phonic songs, and don't forget to have a look on the school website and watch myself and Miss Hunter in action singing our Phase 2 Phonic songs!

Well done Butterflies, have a super weekend.

Mrs Jeewan & Miss Hunter

Year 1 Update



Ladybirds

This week Ladybirds have been working hard in all areas. In maths, we have been ordering numbers, talking about 'greatest' and 'smallest' and using number lines. In English, we have been describing the characters in our book and writing sentences using adjectives and verbs. We looked at shops from the past in Topic and ordered different shops from the 1930s to today using a timeline. In Science, we have begun learning about our senses and focussed on our sense of sight. In Art we are finishing off our self-portraits using wax pastels and water colours.

Miss Nicholson & Mrs Potter





Year 2 Update

In maths this week, we have been using place value to estimate where numbers would go on a blank 0-100 number-line. We have also been looking at visual representations of numbers and writing their value. In English, we have been creative writing using another Literacy Shed video called 'Catch It' where a group of meerkats battle an eagle for the last beautiful fruit. We wrote sentences using all the different verbs we could see happening within the video; then we used our senses to imagine what we would see, hear, smell, taste and feel if we were the meerkats. The basic punctuation needed for each sentence is becoming more consistent and the children are varying their use of vocabulary more.

In science, we began looking at different habitats and how different animals and plants have adapted to survive in these different and sometimes harsh environments. For Harvest Festival we have created Autumn wreaths using paint and handprints. We then drew all the different foods that have been harvested that we are thankful for. In art, we made butterflies using collage, we looked at symmetry and colour to make them as eye-catching as possible.

Keep up the good work Caterpillars! Mr Pike

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, Grasshoppers have finished their place value unit and have done a fantastic job at their end of unit quiz. They were able to identify, order and represent 3-digit numbers really well. We have started our addition and subtraction unit and Year 3 have been doing a great job of practising their column addition to add 3-digit numbers. In English, the children finished writing their non-chronological reports using the facts that they researched and collected last week. They have also started looking at 'The Egyptian Cinderella' and have been comparing it to the version of Cinderella that they know as well as answering comprehension questions based around the text.

The children have been practising their water colour skills in topic lessons and have created some beautiful water colour sunset scenes of Ancient Egypt. They have included pyramids, palm trees and camel within their paintings! In science, we have been investigating magnetic poles and how magnets can attract and repel each other. In groups, the children then also created their own compasses using magnets!

Miss Allin & Year 3 Team



Year 4 Update



Fireflies, Well done on another fantastic week of learning!

This week in Maths, we have continued to look at Place Value. More specifically, we looked at negative numbers and the importance of knowing the numbers after zero. The children tackled this tricky subject so well and they are improving their knowledge of place value.

In our English/Topic lessons, the children have finished their non-chronological reports and used the knowledge they have gathered through research. They all worked very hard on their reports and have used the time to edit and improve their work this week.

In our French lessons this week, the children have learnt a song involving greetings in French. At first, they found it quite tricky, as the words were very fast, but they persevered and were excellent by the end.

Finally, during PE, the children have enjoyed learning about tag rugby. We have progressed through different skills this term, including running with the ball, passing, moving and strategies to use in games.

Thank you for all of your hard work this week,

Have a great weekend,

Mr Brown & Year 4 Team





Year 5 Update

This week Year 5 have worked hard on their space descriptions by editing, improving and varying their sentence openers. The work is brilliant and we will pick a few extra special ones to go on our working wall. We have also been impressed by the effort going in to reading. Many children have managed to get 100% on their recent quizzes: Lily, Grace, Buddy, Angelina, Isoa, Barney, Rose and Elsie. Well done to you and to the class as a whole—keep it up! Space continues to inspire the children in science and this week they explored how/why we have night and day and used evidence from their own sun dials to help them.

The football festival last week was so much fun that we decided to practise more this week in PE, using skills and games that they learnt there—the four corners challenge was especially good fun! We look forward to see how Y5/6 get on next week in the tournament. The week ended on a high note (literally!) with our trip to Saffron Hall to participate in a Nicola Benedetti workshop. We enjoyed singing in rounds and inventing our own soundscapes. Add in an author visit and our first swimming lesson and it was a jam packed week! **Mrs McInnes, Mrs Robinson & Year 5 Team**



Year 6 Update

Dragonflies have been ramping up to making their masks for our Mayan Topic, and have been practising with Plaster of Paris. They practised making a range of shapes that will be included in their final piece. They were very sensible and I was very impressed with how they handled the materials (hopefully there wasn't too much on their clothing!)



They have also finished their non-chronological reports, which are not only written extremely well, but also are very informative—ask your child about the Mayan culture, religion, writing or even their number system!

Mr Clarke & Year 6 Team

Diary Dates



Monday 4th October (week)	-	Black History Month
Wed 6th October	-	Football Tournament @Katherine Semar
Fri 8th October	-	Multi Skills @Katherine Semar (Y3&4)
Thu 7th October	-	CENSUS Day - Special Lunch
Fri 8th October	-	Yare 2 Learn to Ride
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	-	Open Morning (before and after school)
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 (timings TBC)
Thu 4th November	-	Parent Consultations (timings TBC)
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