

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 24th September 2021

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 97.3%

Attendance Year - 97.9%

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Head's Lines



A big well done!

I must say that I am really impressed with how well all of our pupils have settled into this new school year and I am delighted with how happy, calm and mature the children have been at the start of this Autumn/Winter term; our new starters, including our Butterfly Reception pupils, as well as our other new pupils in classes around the school, are doing so well and they all look like they

have been here for a lot longer than they actually have! Staff have remarked to me about how impressed they have been with those pupils who have come into their classrooms independently, bringing in their book-bags, snacks, water bottles and coats on their own. **Very well done!**

Can I just take this opportunity to say thank you to the Early Years team, which comprises Mrs Jeewan (the Head of Early Years and Key Stage 1), as well as Mrs Hunter and Mrs Willis, who have all been working so hard over these first few weeks to ensure that the new pupils have had a positive start to their school life. Keep it up everyone!

If I haven't had the opportunity to say hello to you please do feel free to come and speak to me on the school gate (I try to alternate between the Main School Entrance and the Caton's Lane Entrance each day). I will do my very best to answer any questions that you may have.

PE Kit



Just a quick reminder that if your child has a PE lesson or a Sports Club at school that we are allowing our pupils to come in, in the morning, in their School PE Kit. This saves a lot of time lost whilst the children change backwards and forwards into their School Uniform and their PE clothes (for younger pupils, as we are very well aware) this takes quite a considerable time and our current arrangements allow us to spend much more time on precious learning in PE and other curriculum lessons.

Please remember to support the school's uniform policy (available on our school website) by ensuring that your child/ren wear our school purple PE top and a simple black jumper/hoodie and black jogging bottoms/leggings and shorts (without logos please). Thank you for your continued 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.

Earrings and Jewellery

Just a quick reminder about earrings and jewellery. Essex guidelines (and our school policy) state that children should not wear earrings and items of jewellery during PE lessons and during sports clubs held during the school day. This is due to the Health and Safety risk that they pose. We therefore recommend that children do not wear these items at all on these days, unless they are able to take them out and put them back in independently, as members of staff are not permitted to do it for them. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Helmets!

Please do remember to ensure that your child wears a helmet when they are riding a scooter or bike backwards or forwards to school. We obviously want to keep all of our pupils as safe as we possibly can, and although children do not always want to wear them, they are – without a doubt – the best way to ensure that the head is protected in the case of an unfortunate accident!

Reading 'Champions'

Thank you to all of the parents, carers and friends of the school who have kindly volunteered to come into St Mary's on a weekly basis to hear our children read. Prior to the national pandemic and subsequent lockdowns this is something that has proven hugely successful, as the children enjoy nothing more than sharing a book with a friendly place- plus, it helps us to ensure that children are progressing as fluent readers. Thank you so much to the parents who have already volunteered. We currently have approximately 25 eager and willing helpers who will be attending our Reading Champions training sessions on 6th October (either at 9.30am or 3.30pm). Please remember to let us know which of the two sessions you will be attending.



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 in the school office.

Please note that you will need to have had a DBS check done by the school or already have a transferable DBS. Thank you so much in advance for your help, we really appreciate your time.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's

It's just not your child that you have to look after.....

An important part of being a parent is looking after yourself too 😊

Parenting is a demanding job and takes a lot of physical and emotional energy, especially after the intense year we have had and the recent summer holidays.

It can be easy to lose sight of the importance of looking after yourself. If you're tired, stressed or exhausted, it's difficult to be the parent that you are striving to be.

When you feel happy and well you're better able to cope with stress, maintain relationships and enjoy parenthood.

For information and tips on wellbeing please visit:

www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing



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lives**

We build better family lives together



**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



Y5 & 6 Girls Football Festival



“Year 5 and 6 girls went to a Football Festival. We participated in lots of different events to practice our football skills like dribbling the ball. We used our skills in 3 mini matches. It was a really fun event and we all enjoyed it!!” *written by Daisy, Y5*



Reception Class Update



Well done Butterflies for another busy week, which included the following:

The children really enjoyed investigating and exploring outside during their first Forest School session.

The children loved listening to author and illustrator James Campbell tell his funny stories and they were inspired to make their own colourful interpretation of the 'Umbrella Tree'.

All About Me boxes—we have enjoyed finding out about each other and the children have made some amazing boxes



Also we have been getting to know another new friend in Butterfly Class—Welcome to St Mary's school Lennon, you have settled in really well and have made some friends already, well done!

Have a lovely weekend everyone,

Mrs Jeewan & Miss Hunter

Year 1 Update



Ladybirds

This week we have been working hard on using the language "greater than", "less than" and "equal to" in Maths. We have started a new book in English called

The Elephant and the Bad Baby and we have enjoyed joining in with the story language and coming up with actions to help us retell the story. In RE, we have been learning more about The Creation Story and we have been looking at shops from the 1930s in Topic. In Science, we have continued learning about our bodies and thought hard about which parts of our bodies we use to do different actions. In PHSCE circle time we talked about what to do when we have a worry and introduced the class to the worry monster. Another fantastic week Ladybirds, keep up all the hard work and effort!

Miss Nicholson & Mrs Potter





Year 2 Update

In maths, we have been identifying the larger number using the greater/less than symbol ($<$ $>$) and counting on and back in tens from given numbers. In English, we have been creative writing using a Literacy Shed video called 'Something Fishy' when a young girl enters her washing machine and meets many clothes creatures such as a t-shirt jelly fish and jeans shark! We then wrote descriptive sentences and created our own clothes creatures. The children are working hard to form accurate sentences and use their phonics skills to spell new words correctly. They have also been working really hard on their letter formation in handwriting and I am so impressed by the progress I have seen already!

In science, we went on a habitat walk around the school exploring and identifying if/where each environment had water, food and shelter. We found that the meadow and the forest school areas provided the best habitat for multiple minibeasts and animals.

We were lucky enough to have a visit from popular children's writer James Campbell on Wednesday. He spent an hour with the children telling funny, silly stories as well as reading from his new book, *The Funny Life of Pets*. The children thoroughly enjoyed his visit and were eager to read and write after the session.

Keep up the good work Caterpillars!

Mr Pike & Y2 Team

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.



Year 3 Update



Grasshoppers have had a very busy week this week with visitors and trips out and about!

In maths this week, we have continued to look at place value within 3-digit numbers and the children have persevered with solving word problems based around. They have also made a brilliant start to their non-chronological reports all about Ancient Egypt and have been discovering some very gruesome facts about mummification!

On Wednesday, Year 3 loved their visit from James Campbell. The class were in hysterics listening to his stories about writing and hearing pages from his books. They asked some brilliant questions about life as an author too and listened carefully to the responses given.

The girls behaved impeccably during their football festival on Thursday morning and the adults who attended the event all commented on how well behaved and well mannered they all were. Well done, girls! We were also lucky enough to attend a Bernedetti session at Saffron Hall with the whole class.

In science this week, we investigated which materials were magnetic. The class concluded from their investigating that all magnetic materials they could find were metal, but not all metals were magnetic.

Miss Allin & Year 3 Team



Fireflies,

Year 4 Update

I have been so impressed with the attitude you have shown towards your learning this week, including during our author visit and sporting events.

This week in Maths, we have continued to look at Place Value. We started to look at reading different scales involving negative numbers. The children were fantastic at learning this tricky skill and we will continue to look at this next week.

In our English/Topic lessons, the children have started to write their non-chronological reports and use the knowledge they have gathered through research. We have written the first two sections and we also have been learning about how we edit and improve work. We have also been incredibly lucky to have James Campbell in to talk to the children about his books and give an insight into writing books!

Today, we also got the opportunity to go to the Saffron Hall for a music event. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and used their creative sides to make different types of music.

Thank you for all of your hard work this week,

Have a great weekend,

Mr Brown & Year 4 Team





Year 5 Update

What an exciting week for the Bees this week! There's been so much going on and the children continue to work hard in the classroom; we are very proud of them and their progress so far. Where to start...The children have been lucky to have the opportunity to improve their football skills at a local workshop run by USSP which should help prepare them for the tournament later in the month. We've also been happy to start swimming again and thoroughly enjoyed our visit from local film producer/director Shaun Fergus Fields who was blown away by all of the top quality questions that were fired at him! Author James Campbell impressed the children with extracts from his novels, Wednesday was National Skipping Day and we finished off the week with some wonderful musical insights during the Benedetti session at Saffron Hall. We bet they're exhausted! Enjoy your weekend, re-charging ready for next week.

Mrs McInnes, Mrs Robinson & Year 5 Team



Year 6 Update

St Mary's was very lucky to have a visit from a published author this week (a big thank you to Mr Brown for organising it!); Dragonflies had a great time when he came into our class to tell us about his books and to also let us know some tips on becoming a writer! The children asked some really insightful questions—perhaps they can return to the school when they've become best-selling authors themselves!

We need to give a big shout out this week: the girls competed in a football tournament, winning their games 3-0, 4-0 and 10-0! Well done girls—you did yourselves proud.

The class also had a great time learning about the Mayan number system and practising using plaster of Paris for their upcoming Mayan masks!

Mr Clarke & Year 6 Team



Diary Dates



Thu 30th September	-	Sports Ambassador Training (via zoom)
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)
Wed 13th October	-	NHS Flu Vaccinations (1st visit)
Thu 14th October	-	Individual Photos - Kittle
Fri 16th October	-	Fireworks Assembly
Fri 22nd October	-	Last Day of Term
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 23rd November	-	NHS Flu Vaccinations (2nd visit)
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