

St Mary's Newsletter

Summer Term – Friday 10th September 2021

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 98.4%

Attendance Year - 98.4%

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Head's Lines

Welcome to our new Reception children and new pupils at St Mary's!

A very warm welcome to our new Reception cohort and all of the new pupils who have joined us this term, as well as during the Summer term. I would also like to welcome all of new parents and carers. I would like to reassure you all that despite the undoubted butterflies in their tummies they have all settled in so beautifully and they all look like they have been at St Mary's for a lot longer than they actually have!

Mrs Jeewan (our wonderful Butterfly class Teacher as well as Head of EYFS and Key Stage 1) and Mrs Hunter (our lovely Butterfly's class Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Willis (our Learning Assistant for Key Stage 1) have already told me how brilliantly their new starters are already doing and how happy they all are and how hard they are working. Very well done!

May I also take this opportunity to say thank you to the Early Years team.

School Uniform and P.E Kit start of school year reminder:

As you will know, St Mary's is well-known for its smart school uniform, which as you will know is purple, white and grey/black.

To start off the school year with the highest standards, the school is having another close look at the children's school uniform; so please help us by ensuring that your child or children are wearing the correct uniform. In regards to footwear the children should wear **black shoes, not trainers** (unless it is a PE day). 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.

When the children arrive in school in their P.E kit, please can we ask the children to wear their **purple P.E top and either their purple school jumper/cardigan or a jumper/hoodie that is black** and does **not have a logo on**.

We currently have a large amount of kindly donated school uniform which is in excellent condition. If you would like help with any school uniform please contact our Welfare and Support Officer, Jo Crocker, on joCrocker@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

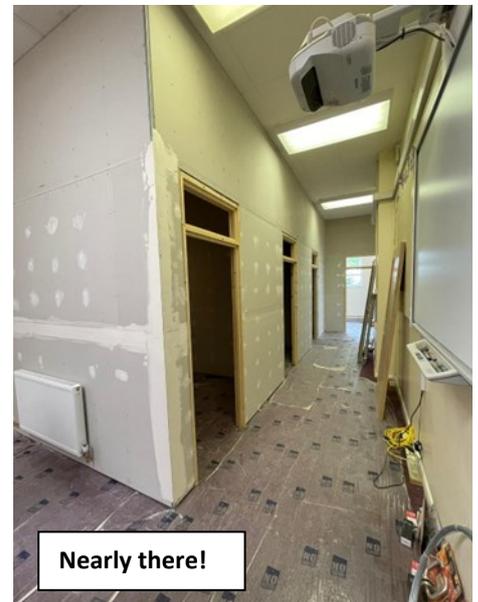
New Developments!

As many of you may be aware, there have been a number of very exciting developments to the school site over the Summer holiday. In today's newsletter I am going to share some of these with you.

New Decking area for our Reception (Butterfly) Class: As you will see from the photographs below, the school has extended the decking area to cover the previously awkward and poorly used space leading down to our old boiler room. This area is also adjacent to the steps leading down to the meadow (on the school field). Although it has been constructed of new materials, this new decking area matches the existing design and adds a whopping 25m² to the EYFS decking area. Understandably, Mrs Jeewan and Mrs Hunter are absolutely delighted to have this new space and have already spent a great deal of time preparing and kitting it out for our new Reception pupils!



New intervention, SEN support, music and meeting rooms: Inside the school our builders have also been hard at work over the Summer. Taking approximately four weeks, the building team, lead by Gary, stripped the old library area and have created a bespoke area with four meeting and multi-use rooms as well as a temporary library area. Everyone at the school cannot believe how well the rooms have been set out and we are already using these spaces on a daily basis – we don't know how we survived without them before!

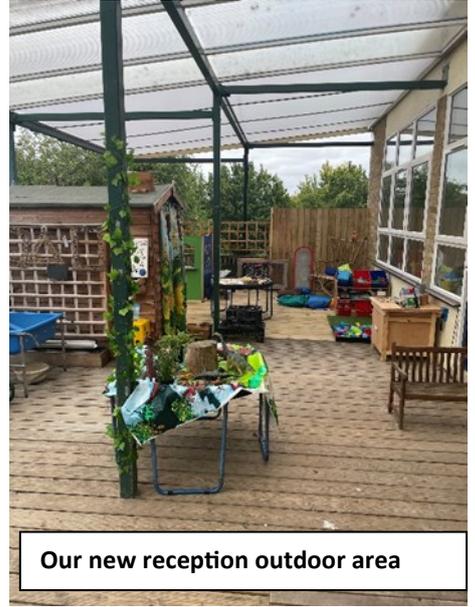




The finished article!



One of our new group rooms



Our new reception outdoor area



Post 1 (near Castle Street)

New basketball posts on our playground: The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that we have also installed **four new high-spec basketball posts** to our school playground. The work for this started in the summer term but has now been completed over the summer.

Each class is going to receive some brand new basketballs or bouncy balls so that we get some really good use out of this fab new resource!

The children tell me that they are so excited to be able to use these new basketball posts!



Post 2 (near the Meadow)

Future works!

Over the next few weeks we will completing some further exciting developments!

Over the next two weeks, on the lower meadow of the school field, the school is having some new Trim Trail/Adventure play equipment installed which will replace our old, tired play equipment. This new apparatus will enable our children to have even more fun at playtimes and lunchtimes!

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 which will enable us to have a lovely new bespoke school library and further curriculum spaces.

Watch this space!



Our old Trim Trail apparatus



Butterfly class enjoying the new decking area...



Reception Class Update



WOW! What a wonderful start to school Butterflies! Well done for settling in so well during your first week of school at St Mary's. We are very proud of our new class. We hope that you are looking forward to staying to lunch on Monday and meeting your Year 6 Buddies. Parents, thank you for all of your support this week too, your children have come into school ready to learn and to make new friends. We have also really enjoyed using our decking area that is now double the size with more creative activities. Have a look at our photos on the next page. Here are some of the class enjoying a healthy snack and using their listening skills sitting on the carpet...



Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Jeewan, Miss Hunter & Miss Willis

Year 1 Update



Ladybirds

What a busy week we have had! Ladybirds have had a great week and have been working very hard. We have been sorting and counting objects, going on word hunts and exploring our new classroom. We also enjoyed our first Forest School session with Mrs McInnes. We have launched our new topic 'Me and My Town' where we will be looking at how shops and shopping have changed in living memory, as well as learning all about ourselves and our bodies in Science.

The children have really impressed us with how well they have returned to school and got used to all the new Year 1 routines!

Reading books and records are going home this week. Please can you ensure that they come into school every day with your child.

***Miss Nicholson and
Mrs Potter & the Year
1 Team***



Year 2 Update



Welcome to Caterpillar's class! What a busy week we have had. The children have all settled in so well and I am really pleased to see the effort they are already putting into developing their learning. They are also adapting to the new routines and rules of Y2 well. Well done everyone :) .

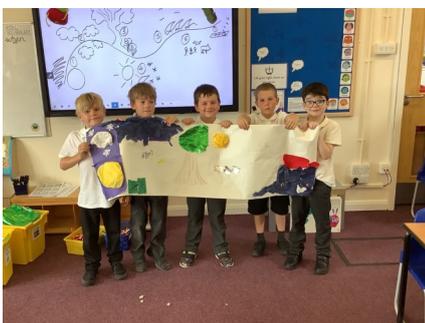
In maths, we have been looking at place value, partitioning numbers into tens and ones. In English, we have been looking at The Very Hungry Caterpillar story, drawing story-maps, learning about nouns and thinking what we would like to eat.

In science, we have been learning about things that are alive, things that were once alive and things that have never been alive. It is an interesting concept for the children and one some of them find tricky to fully understand. In R.E we learnt about the Creation story and created collages showing what happened on each day. In geography, we looked at a map of Saffron Walden and found key places around our town such as: our school, the church, the common, Bridge End Gardens....

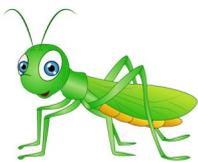
Keep up the good work Caterpillars!

Spellings will be coming home today, please practise with your child, we will be having a spelling test next Friday.

Mr Pike & Year 2 Team



Year 3 Update



The Grasshoppers have made a fantastic start in Year 3! I have really enjoyed getting to know the children more over the last week and a half and seeing their enthusiasm for learning. The children had a brilliant time becoming archaeologists so that they could search for Ancient Egyptian artefacts and discover more about their new topic for this term. They came up with some very carefully thought through questions that could help them discover more about this period of time. They also enjoyed getting very messy as we created our very own mummies using tin foil, kitchen roll and glue! Year 3 have now started to create their own instructions so that everyone can create mummies like theirs! It has been a fantastic start to Year 3 and I hope the rest of the Grasshoppers are looking forward to the year as much as I am!

Miss Allin & Year 3 Team



Year 4 Update



Fireflies,

What a busy first week! Firstly, I would like to say I am very proud of the entire class this week for all of their effort.

This week in Maths, we have looked at Place Value. We have started by learning the important place value columns and ordering and comparing number.

In Literacy we have started to look at Non-chronological reports. During our lessons we have looked at the key features and have conducted research to help us eventually write our own on the Ancient Greeks!

During our PSHE lessons, we looked at the zones of regulation and continued to think about our emotions and how we can come up with strategies to help us.

Also, this week, in Science, we have started our sound unit. The pupils conducted an experiment to see the link between vibrations and sound. I was very impressed by the maturity the children showed and how they created fantastic answers to their observations.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Brown & Year 4 Team





Year 5 Update

Year 5 have really impressed us at the start of this new school year with their enthusiasm to learn, energy and focus. We had lots of fun kicking off our new topic for Science about Earth and Space. The children really enjoyed sharing their knowledge of this mind blowing subject, coming up with questions about what they want to learn and doing some research. Lucky for us, we have managed to borrow a copy of 'Living in the Universe' a recently screened film at Saffron Screen and will be meeting the director Shaun Fergus Fields in a couple of weeks. We have also enjoyed making our own 'Boast Poems' and challenged Mr Jarman to a battle of words! It has been a great start to Year 5 and we are very much looking forward to the rest of the term

Mrs McInnes, Mrs Robinson & Year 5 Team

Year 6 Update

It has been great to see the Dragonflies back in school (though we're not sure how much the feeling is reciprocated—especially as they've had to hit the ground running and pick up straight from where they left off last year!).

The class launched our Mayan topic by using maps to locate the area that the Mayan civilisation ruled over—ask your children to see if they can remember the modern-day countries!

They also researched the Mayan religion, learning about the way Mayan priests controlled the people's lives and the practice of blood-letting! They looked at some of the different gods and even created one of their own.

In Science, the class began looking at how to classify different animals, using a dichotomous key to help them. They were very imaginative with their questions to help them in classifying!

The class had their first Samba lesson too!

Mr Clarke & Year 6 Team

E-Safety - Inappropriate Content

Over the summer holidays, as ever, some of our children have had a lot of freedom and spent a lot more time on their computer devices. Undoubtedly, devices are an excellent way for children to learn and gain essential IT skills. However, it has come to our attention that some children in both KS1 & KS2 classes have been able to access some very adult themed content on their devices, including horror films and computer games of a violent nature - some of these being rated at 15 or even 18 years of age. Whilst these children may not have fully understood the concept of the games or watched the whole movie, they will have been exposed to inappropriate content and we are finding that they are openly talking about it with their peers and in some instances acting out what they have witnessed as 'games' in the playground. We try our very best to intervene when we can and remind the children that these films and games are not suitable for children to watch and that they must tell their parent or trusted adult if they have seen something that worries them.



If you would like some further support, the NSPCC has advice on how to talk to your child if they have seen inappropriate content and what to do, please visit www.nspcc.org.uk. There is also an excellent website that can provide further support to families about e-safety, please visit the 2 John's site at www.esafetytraining.org

Secondary school places for September 2022

If your child is in year 6, you can apply for a secondary school (year 7) place between 10 September 2021 and 31 October 2021.

You must submit an application by the national **closing date of 31 October 2021**. Applications received after this date will be considered late and you may reduce your chance of being offered a place at your preferred school.

For more information and to apply online, please click on the link below:

[Secondary school places - Essex County Council](#)