

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 17th June 2022

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Attendance Weekly - 96%

Attendance Year - 95%

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

**Friendship**

**Trust**

**Truthfulness**

**Compassion**

**Perseverance**

**Respect**

Dear parents and carers and friends of the school,

I must say that the weather this week has been absolutely glorious and everyone is starting to feel the Summer holidays inching ever closer. Lovely though this all is, today's sunshine was particularly intense - so much so that we decided to keep the children inside during lunchtime as the classrooms—especially those with air conditioning were so much cooler! Thank you so much for sending your children in with their sun cream applied, their caps on and their ever-so-important water bottles to keep the children hydrated throughout the day—which also helps their brains work more effectively!

This week the pupils have enjoyed a French Theatre visit (thank you to Miss Nicholson—our Modern Foreign Languages leader for organising this treat for the KS2 pupils), Bikeability lessons (organised by Miss Driscoll—our Sports Coach), a trip by the Butterfly class (Reception) to Boydells Farm—which I hear was a roaring success, and finally a Quick-Cricket tournament for 9 Year 4 pupils - which took place this morning at Saffron Walden Cricket Club—which all of the children really enjoyed; as ever their behaviour, manners and sports-person ship was excellent!

#### French Theatre visit:

This Thursday, we were very lucky to have a visit from the French theatre company '*théâtre sans frontières*'. They performed their new show *Ti-Jean et La Chèvre*, all about a storyteller and his goat who wander from village to village sharing tales from various French speaking countries. The children joined in with the songs and the action and were mesmerized by their amazing costumes and set changes. The actors were really impressed by how much they understood in French and how they joined in with the singing and chanting in French. On page 3 of this newsletter you will find some lovely photographs taken of this event.

#### Essex Year of Reading (message from Mr Brown, English Leader):

To mark the Essex Year of Reading 2022, Essex County Council has been working on a range of initiatives to inspire every child in Essex to become a confident reader and develop a lifelong love of reading. It also seeks to address the impact that Covid-19 has had on the children by providing activities and opportunities to help improve reading. Recently, the children in all classes have visited the library in Saffron Walden and they loved this experience. It would be fantastic if the children could access more books to help develop their reading skills.

To help achieve these goals the council are providing all primary school children with **their very own library card and bookmark**. Each card has its own unique bar code, so all the children need to do is bring this card along to any Essex Library to register it in their name and they can get started right away.

Once they have signed up for the library, children will be able to take part in this years' Summer Reading challenge which is a national initiative that encourages children to read throughout the summer holidays, collecting medals, stickers and certificates.

The location of all Essex libraries and more information can be found at [www.libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk)

If you have any questions, please feel to contact myself.

Kind Regards, Mr Brown

#### Year 4 Multiplication check:

On Wednesday this week, the Year 4 pupils took part in the annual Multiplication Tests—part of the suite of statutory tests which pupils have to take over the course of the academic year. Mr Brown has told me that he is very proud of all of his class and how hard they have worked to improve their times tables skills and how much quicker they are in being able to recall these very important facts. Thank you all for the time you spend in helping our pupils to learn and remember these facts.

**Member of staff leaving:**

At the end of next week, Miss Sam Dodd (one of our Learning Support Assistants) will be leaving St Mary's for a new position at a residential SEND school. Miss Dodd has been with us for nearly two years and has worked in both the Butterflies and Ladybirds classes. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her all the very best.

**E-Safety newsflash:**

Cyber bullying is a term used to describe all forms of bullying that happens online. As a school we have a robust and clear policy on bullying and are very clear in supporting children that are being bullied. We are also fully aware of how distressing cyber bullying can be on children and their families. If you suspect your child is either being cyber bullied, or if you are aware your child is upsetting other children online please speak to your class teacher immediately for support. For more information and advice on cyber bullying please visit <https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/>

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

Headteacher of St Mary's Church of England Primary school, Saffron Walden

**Peer on Peer Abuse and Bullying.**

It is important to recognise that abuse isn't always perpetrated by adults; children can abuse other children and it can happen both inside and outside of educational settings and online. This is referred to as 'peer on peer abuse'. Bullying is a type of behaviour, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group. If left unaddressed, bullying and/or peer on peer abuse can have a serious impact on a young person's mental health, self-esteem and ability to thrive in education.

At St. Mary's School we aim to create a caring environment in which our children feel safe and secure and in which they can appreciate the importance of developing good relationships with others. All bullying and/or peer on peer abuse, of any sort, is therefore unacceptable.

Parent and Carers can help by:

- Discussing with their child's teacher any concerns that their child may be experiencing bullying and/or abuse or if they are unhappy in some other way.
- Supporting our anti-bullying and peer on peer abuse policy and procedures.
- Encouraging their children to be positive members of the school community.
- Helping to establish an anti-bullying/abuse culture outside of school.

The Anti-bullying and peer on peer abuse policy is available on the school website, please visit the link below for further details.

[www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies)

# K2 French Theatre Company Visit



## Children moving into Year 3 in September 2022

### Free School Meals (Pupil Premium) Funding

It is important for children to have a good nutritious meal at lunchtime? and I know children in Year 2 have been enjoying a free school meal under the governments Universal Free School Meals scheme where all children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are automatically eligible. In September this scheme ends for our current Year 2 pupils, as your child moves up to Year 3 in September they may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)



The FSM/Pupil Premium grant is a sum of money (currently £1,345 per pupil per year) awarded to schools from the government to help them support disadvantaged pupils. Once a child becomes eligible the school automatically receives the pupil premium grant for 6 years – to us that could mean up to £9000 over the time your child will be with us. We use the pupil premium grant to support the learning needs of our pupils and full details of how we use it each year are on our website.

In previous years we have employed a learning mentor, additional teachers to work with small groups and individuals and helped fund trips and resources. The impact of this additional money can be seen in the progress of all pupils, regardless of their life experience. If your child becomes eligible for free school meals (FSM) they will automatically become eligible for the pupil premium. However, some children have packed lunches and Reception/Key Stage 1 pupils receive a universal free school meal (UFSM) so we don't always know if we are receiving the money for all the children that are entitled to do so.

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income of below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you would like to find out if your child is eligible to receive Free School Meals from September 2022, please apply directly via Essex County Council - <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals> from **Monday 1st August**.

# Diary Dates



- |                             |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Mon 20th - Thu 23rd June    | - | Y5&6 Bikeability  |
| Friday 24th June            | - | INSET Day - School Closed   |
| Wednesday 29th June         | - | KS2 Athletics @Carver Barracks  |
| Thursday 30th June          | - | SCARF Life Education Visit (Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3)   |
| Monday 4th July             | - | Year 6 Performance Dress Rehearsal  |
| Tuesday 5th July            | - | Year 6 Performance 6pm - Parents Invited  |
| Wednesday 6th July          | - | Sports Day (parents, carers & friends of the school welcome)<br><b>Reception &amp; KS1 - 9.30-12.00pm &amp; KS2 - 12.00-3.00pm</b><br><b>Picnic lunch on the Meadow - 12.00-12.45pm</b> |
| Mon 11th - Thu 14th July    | - | Parents Consultations for Reception - Year 5 (Timings TBC)  |
| Mon 11th Jul - Thu 14th Jul | - | Year 6 Residential - Danbury  |
| Fri 15th July               | - | Reception Class Graduation Assembly   |
| Thursday 21st July          | - | Year 6 Leavers Service - 9.30am @St. Mary's Church  |
| Thursday 21st July          | - | Last day of term - 1.30pm finish  |

## Community News

Please take a look at our newest addition to our school website; a Community News page, where you will find information on local events and services. See link below:

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/community-news-and-events/>

