

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 22nd April 2022

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 95.3%

Attendance Year - 94.9%

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,

Messages from the Headteacher:

I would like to welcome everyone from the St Mary's community back to our lovely school after the Easter break. I hope that you all managed to enjoy some time together, in the fantastic sunny weather! I cannot believe that we have already completed the first week of our Summer term!

ActivAll Interactive Boards

Over the Easter break St Mary's was extremely fortunate to have two new interactive ActivAll playground boards installed, just outside the Year 3 classroom, facing onto the playground. These interactive boards were kindly paid for using funds generated through PTA fundraising events throughout the last academic year.



So... What are Activall Boards?



ActivAll is the fantastic high-impact reaction wall, designed for fitness, health, and fun. Combining movement, action, coordination, and problem-solving, ActivAll is acknowledged as a unique inclusive fitness tool, giving everyone access to exercise regardless of ability, age, or fitness.

- ⇒ Encourages active play during breaktime and lunchtime (as well as PE lessons)
- ⇒ Engages those children who may struggle with PE and Sports, increasing the confidence and skills of pupils and staff
- ⇒ Tackles obesity and improves fitness
- ⇒ Strengthens cognitive skills, mental agility, as well as concentration and also improves mental health
- ⇒ Increases competitive play and sport opportunities and records improvements
- ⇒ Develops communication and team work

So... What do our pupils think of them?

Lucas said, 'I really like the board because you get a lot of exercise and build your arm strength. A lot of people like doing it because you can see your score in different amounts of time, for example 5 seconds, 30 seconds and 1 minute. Some people hit it too hard and some hit it too soft! I really like the gloves because they are quite comfy!'

A visit by Linda Strachan—Olympic Athlete

During this morning's assembly we were very privileged as we were visited by an Olympic athlete—Linda Strachan—who is currently promoting the Commonwealth Games, which are happening in Birmingham, this July. Linda will be promoting this important event to all the local schools during the summer term.



During the assembly, she gave a fascinating and informative presentation about her experiences in the Olympics. We found out that Linda competed in the summer 1988 and 1992 Summer Olympics in the discipline of Fencing. Linda was really great with our pupils and answered some thoughtful questions and pupils posed for photos with her afterwards, including our Sports Ambassadors. If you would like to know more about Linda Strachan please see more info on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linda_Strachan



Welcome to Mrs Shackleton!

I am sure that you will all join me in extending a warm St Mary's welcome to Mrs Shackleton, who joined us at the start of this week—to teach our lovely pupils in Year 5 (Busy Bee class). Mrs Shackleton has already settled in brilliantly and we very much look forward to working with her this term.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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



Forest School

Please take a look at our latest Forest School Update by Mrs McInnes. Further information on Forest School including all the Updates can be found on our school website on the following link:

<https://stmaryschurchofengland.secure-primariesite.net/forest-school/>

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/>



Mental Health Workshop - Lily-Jo Project

We were really lucky to have a visit from the Lily-Jo Project this week.

The children attended a workshop which was hosted by Nazerene Williams who has been in Disney's Aladdin and the Dumping Ground as well as other productions.

The session covered:

- How to look after their own mental health.
- What to do and where to go if they are struggling.

To drive home the message, the Lily-jo Project utilised music, dance, and activities to make the session about mental health fun and memorable.

The children learnt about being Unstoppable kids and their own HERO:

Helping other

Exercising

Relaxing

Opening up

For further information please visit www.thelilyjoproject.com



Diary Dates



Monday 25th April	-	Y2 Audley End Miniature Railway Trip
Monday 25th April	-	Y5 Residential Parents Meeting at 5pm
Friday 22nd April	-	Y5 Rounders Festival @RAB
Friday 29th April	-	Year 6 Swimming commences
Monday 2nd May	-	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Mon 9th - Thu 12th May	-	Year 5 Residential - Danbury
Mon 9th - Thu 12th May	-	Year 6 SATs Week
Thursday 19th May	-	CENSUS Day Special Lunch Menu
Wednesday 25th May	-	Year 6 Crucial Crew 1pm at SW Town Hall
Mon 30th May - Fri 3rd June	-	Half-term
Wednesday 8th June	-	New Reception 2022 Parents Information Meeting
Thursday 9th June	-	Kittle Photography Visit - Class Photos
Tuesday 14th June	-	Governor Day
Thursday 16th June	-	KS2 French Theatre Company Visit
Friday 24th June	-	INSET Day - School Closed
Wednesday 29th June	-	KS2 Athletics @Carver Barracks
Monday 4th July	-	Year 5 &6 Performance Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 5th July	-	Year 5 &6 Performance 6pm - Parents Invited
Wednesday 6th July	-	Sports Day
Mon 11th - Wed 13th July	-	Parents Consultations for Reception - Year 5 (Timings TBC)
Mon 11th Jul - Thu 14th Jul	-	Year 6 Residential - Danbury
Thursday 21st July	-	Year 6 Leavers Service - 9.30am @St. Mary's Church
Thursday 21st July	-	Last day of term - 1.30pm finish