

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 25th March 2022

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 96%

Attendance Year - 95%

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



Dear parents and carers and friends of the school,

Messages from the Headteacher:

Headlines:

As you may, or may not be aware, I have been isolating at home this week due to picking up COVID towards the end of last week! Therefore, I have been frustratingly stuck at home and unable to see and speak to our lovely pupils at first hand to find out about how they have been doing! Nonetheless, it is lovely to catch up on what they have been getting up to in school in the Class Updates document – which as usual each week will be accompanying this week's Friday Newsletter. Remember you can catch up on all of our previous newsletters and Class Updates by following this link to the **News & Events** section of our website <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/newsletters/>

Please do take some time to check out this week's Class Update – they are a really great way of reading about what the children have been getting up to in class, as well as the trips, visitors and sporting/musical experiences which they take part in through our St Mary's curriculum. I would also like to thank the teaching staff for the time they take to construct these each week – we hope that the photographs of our pupils taking part in their learning activities prove interesting and useful!

Defibrillator Delight!



I am delighted to report that recently the school has taken ownership of a new Defibrillator, which was kindly paid for by a parent at St Mary's school and cost around £1000. As you will know, a defibrillator is a crucial piece of life-saving equipment – and may be used upon both pupils and adults. As part of our regular first aid training, staff are trained on how to use this vital piece of equipment.

This wonderful parent has informed me that they wish to remain anonymous, but I am sure that you will join me in sending them our heartfelt appreciation for this extremely generous donation which will benefit the entire school community. Thanks also to the kind support of the PTA, who have paid for the newly installed defibrillator display cabinet (see attached photograph).

School Business Manager position:

At the end of the Summer term Sonya Johnson, our lovely School Business Manager, will be leaving St Mary's as she will be relocating to a different area of the country – for new and exciting challenges; Sonya will be greatly missed by everyone at St Mary's.

Therefore, the school is now recruiting for this future vacancy – with the future applicant required to start at the beginning of September, ready for the new academic year. The advert, job description and relevant information is available following this link <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/current-vacancies/> on the school website. Interviews will take place early in the Summer term.

Welcome to new members of staff:

I would like to say a warm welcome to a number of new members of staff who have joined us this term; Miss Naunton joined us a number of weeks back as a 1:1 Learning Support Assistant in Key Stage 2, Miss Kim Mayne has joined us as a 1:1 Learning Support Assistant in Key Stage 1. Both members of staff have settled in brilliantly and are proving to be great assets to our staffing team. Moreover, Miss Chloe Humphreys is due to join us as a KS1 LSA 1:1 next week.

I am also delighted to report that the school has recruited Mrs Jen Shackleton to take over the role of class teacher following the Easter break in our Year 5 Busybee class, whilst Mrs Robinson is undergoing cancer treatment. Mrs Shackleton is an extremely experienced teacher, including previously as a Deputy Head and Acting Headteacher and joins us from Thaxted Primary school. Jen is a fantastic teacher and will be a great member of our dedicated school team.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming all of these new staff members to our wonderful St Mary's school.

I very much look forwards to seeing much more of you all next week, for the final week of the Spring term. Just a reminder that we break up at **1.30pm on Thursday 31st March** (please note that Friday 1st April is a teacher INSET day). School returns for the Summer Term on **Tuesday 19th April at 8.30am**

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Garmain

Headteacher of St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Year 3 Colchester Zoo Trip

During our trip to Colchester Zoo we fed some very pretty Australian rainbow birds (lorikeets) which was really fun. We also saw penguins, giraffes, elephants, rhinoceros, monkeys (which were really cute because they were cuddling each other) and lions. We called one of the monkeys Professor Gibbon because he looked like a professor! We also saw the tigers but one of them was sleeping in the sunshine. We saw some zebras with the giraffes and elephants. Some of us had a ride on the train through the zoo too! At lunchtime, we stopped and had an ice-cream. Our favourite animals were the monkeys because they were really cute and funny and the tigers because they are my favourite animal. The day was really fun and exciting! I woke up really early in the morning because I was so excited! We were really sleepy and tired on the coach on the way back and lots of us had a nap!

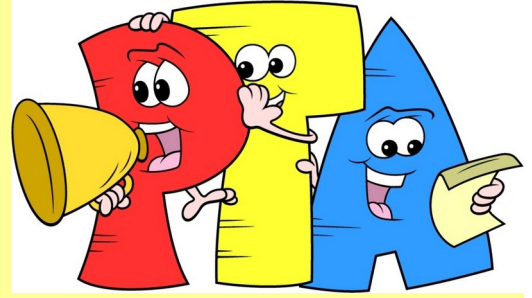
By Holly and Ava (Year 3)



PTA Reminders

Easter Raffle:

Thanks to all that have bought tickets. We still have plenty left, and there are some fantastic prizes to win. £200 of Market House Vouchers (donated by Mullucks), £100 cash (from Tee's Law), plus a load of fun rainbow hampers. So, get your tickets now and we'll draw the winners on Monday...



https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/raffle/871140835?s=859640953&utm_source=EMAIL&utm_medium=TO_PARENT_RAFFLE_INVITE

Mother's Day Gift Shop:

The children will be prepping their gifts today and tomorrow, ready to bring home after school on Friday. So, don't worry if you haven't got a ticket through Classlist or brought in your £1-£3 donation yet, you've still got time to do so as this is open to everyone.

Pink Fun Run:

We're excited about the 'Pink' themed fun run next Tuesday (29th March) raising money for Breast Cancer research and support, and our own year 5 teacher, Mrs Robinson. Children are welcome to wear their PE kits, and/ or anything pink! Here's the link to donate...

<https://gofund.me/7d2ecf12>

Thank you for your ongoing support.



April is Stress Awareness Month

Stress Awareness Month has been held every April since 1992 to raise awareness of the causes and cures for our modern stresses. This year's theme is community.

A community is much more than just a group of people. St Mary's Primary School is a community, communities bring a sense of belonging and connection to others, ensuring we feel supported and accepted. Relationships are one of the most important aspects of our lives. People who are more socially connected to family, friends, or their community are happier, physically healthier and live longer.

Why don't you take on the 30 day challenge to give your physical, mental and emotional well-being a lift.

For more information visit:

<https://www.stress.org.uk/national-stress-awareness-month/>

Community News & Events

Please visit our new Community News & Events page on our school website to find information on news and events happening in our area; including information on Easter clubs that are offering children free places for children who are in receipt of Free School Meals.

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



Diary Dates



Monday 28th March	-	PTA Easter Rainbow Raffle
Tuesday 29th March	-	Pink Fun Run
Wednesday 30th March	-	Y1 Stansted Mountfitchet Castle Trip
Thursday 31st March	-	Last day of term - 1.30pm finish
Friday 1st April	-	INSET Non Pupil Day
Mon 4th - Mon 18th April	-	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 19th April	-	First day of Summer Term - Pupils Return
Thursday 21st April	-	Lily-Jo Project Visit (Mental Health Workshop)
Monday 25th April	-	Y2 Audley End Miniature Railway Trip
Friday 29th April	-	Year 6 Swimming start
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
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
Friday 24th June	-	INSET Day - School Closed
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 - Fri 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



Easter Menu

Thursday 31st March

**Chicken or Quorn Burger
with
Chips and Salad Bar**

Rocket Ice Lolly

