

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 4th March 2022

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 96.6%

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,

Message from the Headteacher:

It has been an extremely busy week again here at St Mary's – with lots and lots going on in our creative curriculum. We have, once again, been visited by **Portals of the Past** – who spent the day with our Year 3/Grasshopper children last Thursday. On Tuesday, a published author (Fay Evans) came to visit the school and spent the whole day with each class on a range of interesting activities. On Wednesday a number of Year 6 pupils from Dragonfly class attended a tag-rugby tournament at the Carver Barracks. Yesterday, the **Explorer Dome** spent the morning with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and the children had an absolutely fantastic time – with the workshop team commenting that the children's behaviour was fantastic! On the same day, the school hosted our annual **World Book Day** celebrations – and it was lovely to see the fascinating range of costumes worn – both pupils and staff members very much got into the spirit of the day with a range of activities. To end off the week, Year 3 have been swimming at Lord Butler for their second week and had a really great time!



Keep reading on to find out even more and to see some of the lovely photos (please note that more are available on our website).



Portals to the Past – Rocks and Fossils Workshop – article by Vivien and Penny (Yr 3)

Last Thursday, Year 3 had a dinosaur, fossil and rocks workshop. Graham and Sue came in to run it. We started the day with a scavenger hunt to find lots of different fossils and models. At the end of the scavenger hunt, we had to see which fossil matched each name. One fact we learnt is that a Triceratops could grow as long as 9m! Isn't that amazing?





In the afternoon, Graham told us all about the different fossils that you can find in different rocks. The different types of rocks are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. Then we sketched different fossils and he did some oil pastel drawings. He showed us a real, fossilised dinosaur egg with a baby dinosaur still inside! We saw the x-rays of the inside of the egg too! We also saw an amazing potato rock, which he called that because on the outside, it looked like a potato! But actually, on the inside, it was full of lots of little, sharp pieces of crystals called quartz!



We also had a visit from Mary Anning in the afternoon. She told us all about when she found a fossil of an Ichthyosaur skeleton. The first complete skeleton of one of these found. It was sold to the Natural Museum but it didn't have her name on it because she was a girl and back then didn't think girls could be scientists! She was devastated! Year 3 had the best day ever!

We also had a visit from Mary Anning in the afternoon. She told us all about when she found a fossil of an Ichthyosaur skeleton. The first complete skeleton of one of these found. It was sold to the Natural Museum but it didn't have her name on it because she was a girl and back then didn't think girls could be scientists! She was devastated! Year 3 had the best day ever!

PTA upcoming events

In this week's newsletter we would like to tell you about some of the PTA events that they have planned for this term!



KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUT SALE - Friday 18th March

Having had such a fantastic uptake on the Krispy Kreme sale last year, we are bringing it back, this term. We will shortly send our ordering details, to pick up on Friday the 18th March after school. This was not only a fab fundraiser for the school, but hugely popular, so make sure you order in advance for friends and family to enjoy, and also to support your school. Pre-orders recommended

MOTHERS DAY GIFTS - Thursday 24th March -On Thursday 24th March, we will be running a Mother's Day gift shop. Please send your child to school with £2.50, to buy mums or a special person in their life, a personalised Mother's Day gift, ready to bring home on Friday 25th March. Online payments can be taken if you email pta@st-maryscofe.Essex.sch.uk by Weds 23rd March.

EASTER RAINBOW RAFFLE - 28th March - Tickets will go on sale on the 16th March for the draw on the 28th March, so make sure you get your tickets. More details to follow.

World Book Day & author visit – article by English Leader, Mr Brown

During this week, we were fortunate to have the author, Fay Evans, in the school to do some interactive storytelling sessions with the children. The day started with Fay leading our collective worship and talking about her experiences in becoming an author and answering the children's questions. Throughout the day, Fay visited classrooms from Reception to Year 6, to tell one of her stories (Bob's beard) and involve the children in the storytelling. I was very impressed with the children and how they immersed themselves in the experience and asked some fantastic questions to the



author! During World Book Day all of the pupils and staff dressed up in a wide array of fantastic costumes! Some dressed as famous or infamous characters from well-known stories, whilst others dressed as the books themselves! It was great fun to try and get some of the costume choices. One of our favourites was Cruella Deville (AKA Mrs Jeewan) who managed to capture one of the little dalmatian puppies (Libby) – see photo at the top of this newsletter. Well done to the entire school for showing respect and effort throughout both days.

Reading Champion Volunteers

Thank you to all of the parents, carers and friends of the school who have volunteered this year to be Reading Champions here at St Mary's. We apologise that there has been a delay in starting you; however, we will be in touch next week to arrange time/days when we can bring you in! We would like to thank you for offering your precious time to come and support our lovely children as they practise their reading skills.



Tag-rugby competition – article by Sophie in Dragonfly class

On Wednesday some of our Year 6 pupils attended a Tag-rugby tournament to compete against local primary schools. After travelling to Carver Barracks, all the teams proceeded to play three matches in round 1. After some impressive performances. These teams were then split into two groups to play many more challenging matches. All the teams played well and tried their hardest, but only five teams could get through to the Harlow tournament. Unfortunately, St Mary's did not quite make it into the top five teams and placed joint 7th. Despite the poor weather and freezing cold conditions, everyone there had fun, behaved beautifully and (hopefully!) enjoyed the experience!

Ukraine - Teddy Donations

A big thank you to all the children who brought in teddy donations for Mr and Mrs Wade, who have organised a special collection of cuddly toys for children who are being directly affected by the current conflict in Europe. We received 5 big black bin bags full this morning.

And finally...

Please do read on to find out what's been happening at our wonderful school this week – in our class updates and also what's coming up over the course of this term. If you want to read any of our school newsletters or class updates, they are available on our website, following this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/newsletters/>

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher of St Mary's, Saffron Walden

KS1 Explorer Dome Visit - Thursday 3rd March

Reception and Key Stage 1 enjoyed having time in the amazing science Explorer Dome.

Reception: Space Dome

The children enjoyed listening to stories about the stars and seeing lots of pictures of the planets, the sun, the moon and the stars.

Alex and William told us the story of Orion's belt and the children were mesmerised!! William said how well behaved the children were too!

Here are some of the children's comments:



The dome was fun. I liked everything!' Lara

'I like the crab star' Ruby

'When the bit was lifting up the stars. It was like I was lifted up too into the stars' Woody

'I liked the moon and the stars and I loved the lion stars' Matthew

'I liked the stars and the stories. I liked the lion. It was brilliant!' Ernie

'It was nice and dark. The dome was amazing and I liked the moon.' Esther

'It was fun! I loved going in the space dome and going into the tunnel. I loved it and the music., and all the space pictures. I felt it was spinning around but it was the lights that were spinning up in the sky' Mason

'I think the sun has shiny bits. I liked the explosions in the sun' Teddy



Year 1 and 2 looked at the body in the Dome, here are some of their comments too:

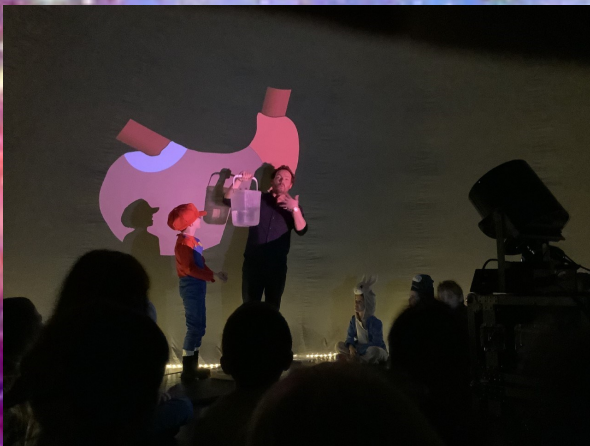
Year 1: Body Dome

Edith, Emily and Maisie were very excited to talk to me about the Dome. ***'It was fun!' 'We learnt about stomachs. Food in the basket looked like it was on the roof and we were in it!'*** Emily

'It was like going into the front of a pumpkin' 'There was a tube and it looked like a sausage and Phoebe squeezed a poo out and William pout put on the sound like it was someone really pooing!' Maisie

'We saw a lion, a shark and a cow stomach's and we saw their food. Did you know a shark's teeth fall out all the time and then they grow back! We then heard a person's heart beating, boom, boom, boom.' 'It was like we were all food floating round in the stomach!' Edith.

Wow, that sounded amazing girls, thanks for sharing!



Year 2: Body Dome Year 2 also enjoyed learning about the body:

'It was interesting. The visitors were nice. I learnt about the stomach.

They showed us what happens inside your stomach, they used bread dropped in water.' Beatrice

'It was a bit interesting because I learnt that you grow your bones' Woody

'I learnt that babies have more bones than adults because when you get older they break apart to make different bones. It was very exciting in the Dome!' Hugo

Thank you children, I am glad that you all learnt a lot from William and Alex in the Explorer Dome. William told me how well behaved and interested the children were .

Well done everyone.

Mrs Jeewan, Science Lead

World Book Day



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**[®]
3 MARCH 2022
25 YEARS

Diary Dates



Mon 14th - Fri 18th March	-	British Science Week
Tuesday 8th March	-	Year 5 Saffron Walden Museum Trip
Thu 10th March	-	Book Look/Share Our Work Session - 8.30-9am & 3.15-4pm
Tuesday 15th March	-	Tinies visit St. Mary's Church
Thursday 17th March	-	Pink Fun Run Marathon
Friday 18th March	-	PTA Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale
Friday 24th March	-	PTA Mothers Day Gift Shop
Thursday 24th March	-	Y3 Colchester Zoo Trip
	-	Y2 Cambridge Science Centre
Monday 28th March	-	PTA Easter Rainbow Raffle
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	-	Frist day of Summer Term - Pupils Return
Thursday 21st April	-	Lily-Jo Project Visit (Mental Health Workshop)
Monday 25th April	-	Audley End Miniature Railway Trip
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
Friday 13th May	-	Year 6 Swimming start (TBC)
Thursday 19th May	-	CENSUS Day Special Lunch Menu
Mon 30th May - Fri 3rd June	-	Half-term
Thursday 9th June	-	Kittle Photography Visit - Class Photos
Friday 24th June	-	INSET Day - School Closed