

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 25th February 2022

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

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:

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Stormy weather!

The end of the February half term break and the start of the second half of the Spring term, saw huge storms, cold winds and even some hail, followed by some lovely bright sunshine – very much typical of British weather! You will not fail to have noticed that the school suffered some storm damage. Some of the damage was to some trees located at the bottom of the concrete staircase to the school field, which unfortunately led to them falling down a few days before school restarted; the other was to some of the large roofing panels on the Key Stage 1 decking area – seven of which blew away on the same weekend. I am delighted to report that a roofing company have now visited the site and have completed the first stage of the remedial works to the decking roof area; the damaged trees have also now been removed.



Police Officers visit to St Mary's



On Monday, we were delighted to welcome two local police officers to St Mary's for our Monday Daily Worship assembly! One of the purposes for their visit was that we want to give our pupils the opportunity to find out more about different jobs/professions (a key part of our School Development Plan), so that when our pupils grow up into adulthood they are able to make more informed choices about which professions they choose for themselves. Another reason for their visit, was to support two of our school values: Respect and Trust - we want all pupils to understand the different roles and activities that police officers have to fulfil each week, whilst on duty.

Police Constable Jasmine Thorndyke and Police Constable Conor Fields, both based at Saffron Walden Police Station, gave an interesting and informed discussion to the children about the different types of police officer and how half of their job is to catch bad people and the other half is to keep people safe – which they said that people often forget! They talked about how they often have to respond to emergencies, take finger prints, attend ceremonies with colleagues as well as the different types of offences that criminals can commit!

The children proved themselves to be very knowledgeable in many of these areas – including knowing the colour of a Taser (!), what to do if a police dog is running near you, and identifying some of the kit worn by both officers. The pupils very much enjoyed the demonstration of PC Fields being hand-cuffed by PS Thorndyke (and how to do this effectively and safely) as well as a demonstration of their police radio/telephone devices (with attached earpieces), body-worn cameras and other equipment. A number of pupils were also chosen to come up to the front to wear some of their different police helmets/hats

– which included one which would be worn by a PCSO – and how to identify this. The police officers also discussed the emergency number to call (999) as well as what to do if you are ever lost and you cannot find your mum or dad. Again, the children gave some excellent answers to some of the questions asked by the officers. At the end the officers also presented our new Peer Mentors with their badges!

We would like to thank a **HUGE** thank you to PC Thorndyke and PC Fields for taking the time to visit the school and tell us more about the incredibly important job that they do. **If there are any parents, carers and friends of the school out there in our school community who are feeling brave and would be interested in coming to talk to our children about their own profession in a Daily Worship assembly, please do contact the school and we will discuss this with you and get you to come in for a talk with our lovely pupils!**

For further pictures and news articles please visit our school website and by clicking the following link: <https://stmaryschurchofengland.secure-primariesite.net/stream/news/full/1/-//>

Mid-Year Attendance Report

Attendance and punctuality are constantly being monitored here at St Mary’s, but we do appreciate that over the winter months attendance can be affected by illness. Nevertheless, we would encourage all parents to send their children into school wherever possible. However, if they have been ill with sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them off school until they have been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours to prevent the bug spreading throughout the school community as this has a significant, adverse effect on attendance levels of both children and staff.



Many people think that missing the odd day at school here and there can’t do much harm. But even taking a short amount of time away from school can be a problem. Your child might fall behind in their work and not be able to catch up. If there are gaps in their knowledge they may suffer and this will result in gaps in their learning. There could be other problems too; children who miss school are missing out on the social side of things, which affects their ability to make and keep friends and it can dent their confidence to attempt new work and work alongside others.

Over the next few weeks you will receive a mid-year attendance report for your child. Persistent Absence (PA) is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more of absence a year or 100+ lessons missed. If a child’s attendance drops below 90% this could lead to them becoming a safeguarding concern. This could also result in the authority taking legal action against parents, resulting in a fine or a court appearance.

Minutes late per day	Learning time lost in a year
5 minutes	3½ days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10 ½ days
20 minutes	14 days
30 minutes	21 days

Wonderful News!



Congratulations to Miss Flack (who works as a Learning Assistant at St Mary’s) who recently celebrated the birth of her lovely daughter Gracie Rose. She was born on the 11th February, weighing 7lbs. Mum is understandably extremely proud said that she is happy, healthy and made a rather speedy entrance into the world! Hayley is excitedly looking forwards to introducing her new bundle of joy to the school! We wish them all our love and the very best of health (and luck!) from the whole of the St Mary’s community. Let’s hope they all manage to get some sleep!

If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child's class teacher or book at appointment via the school office to speak with Mrs Crocker the Schools Welfare and Support Officer.

Thank you for your support in helping to raise our school attendance

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/>

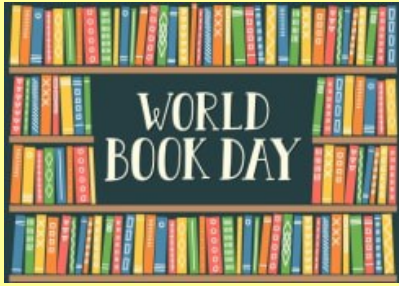
Have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher of St Mary's, Saffron Walden

More photos of the police officer visit on Monday 21st February.





REMINDER - WORLD BOOK DAY

Don't forget it is World Book day next **Thursday 3rd March!** Children are encouraged to dress up as a book character and bring in their favourite book.

Diary Dates



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Thursday 3rd March | - | KS1 Explorer Dome Workshop |
| Thursday 3rd March | - | World Book Day (Dress-up as your favourite character) |
| Mon 14th - Fri 18th March | - | British Science Week |
| 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 24th March | - | Y3 Colchester Zoo Trip |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Mon 11th Jul - Fri 14th Jul | - | Year 6 Residential - Danbury |
| Thursday 21st July | - | Last day of term - 1.30pm finish |