

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 11th 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:



A rather busy term!

Although this has been a relatively short half term compared to the much longer Autumn/Winter half terms, it has undoubtedly been one of our busiest of the last few years and COVID has definitely played a role in this, as the school has experienced a very high number of cases amongst staff and pupils. This has obviously been really logistically challenging, as we have required school staff to be extremely flexible and support in classes where they might not normally be based. I am proud to say that all staff members have been incredibly helpful, adaptable and professional in the way that they have gone about their duties – and I would like to thank them for that.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all of our parent and carer community, who have continued to support their children's learning (both at home and at school) whilst also remaining patient and understanding whilst all of these changes have been happening at home and at school.

As, ever, thank you for your continued support for the school through these challenging times!

Rainbow Raffle:

Today the PTA organised a really fun Rainbow Raffle for all of our St Marys pupils. Children attended school, dressed in their own clothes (rather than school uniform). In return, children had to bring in donations towards the school Rainbow Easter Raffle. Each class was assigned a colour of the rainbow, bringing in small donations of anything of the same colour. Gifts could include: sweets or biscuits, toiletries, a candle, drinks for adults or children, toys, stationery, or any other smalls gifts going spare. The PTA will then create some amazing hampers as prizes for a colourful Easter Raffle.



Thank you to all parents/cares for all your kind and colourful donations. The PTA will now be able to create some amazing hampers as prizes for a colourful Easter Raffle. I am sure you would all agree – that we all cannot wait to see what these amazing hampers will look like. I, for one, would love to win one!

Huge thanks to Gemma and Ruth and all the members of the PTA for their creativity and hard work in organising and promoting fund raising events on behalf of the school.

Mask wearing:

As you will be aware, the government has very recently updated its guidance for the future use of masks in public places. You will also be aware that throughout January and early February the school experienced an extremely high number of cases amongst pupils and staff. Thankfully, our case numbers are now far lower than they were, so we are also going to remove the need for mask wearing whilst on the school site. We would still ask that if parents/carers are coming into the school site eg as a helper in a class or a visitor (for a meeting) that parents/carers take a LFT before coming into school and do not attend if symptomatic.



Thank you, as ever, for your continued support in this matter.

Kitchen Kindness:

I would like to say a massive thank you to the St Mary's Catering team for going above and beyond this week. Riina Driscoll, our Kitchen Manager, has been supporting Ashdon Primary school, who have been without their own catering team this week. Riina has been driving over to Ashdon primary school every day to run their kitchen and to ensure that their lovely pupils get their delicious cooked lunches every day! The headteacher there said that they are in awe of her amazing flapjacks!

I would also like to thank Riina's Deputies - Emma Saville and Sian Owen, as well as Xenia Madill (Office Assistant) and Claire Burgess (Finance Officer), as well as Rose Dye and her midday team - who have ensured that our own school kitchen continues to be run efficiently whilst Riina has been supporting Ashdon Primary school.

Parents and Carers Spring Term Consultations:

This week St Mary's hosted our Spring Term Parents/Carers consultations. It was really lovely to see so many friendly and familiar faces in school and it was also a great opportunity for parents/carers to find out how their children are doing in school and what they will be working on with their class team over the rest of the school year.



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/>

Do have a lovely half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to St Mary's at **8.30am on Monday 21st February**. Please note that the end of the Spring term will be on **Thursday 31st March at 1.30pm** (as Friday 1st April is a school INSET day).

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher of St Mary's, Saffron Walden



Safer Internet Day

This week the children have had assemblies on Safer Internet Day with the theme being 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

The day promotes the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively.

For more details visit:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022>

For younger children there is a lovely resource about Digiduck and his friends which has been created to help parents and teachers educate children aged 3 – 7 about online safety. The collection includes a ebooks, PDFs, a poster and an interactive app.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories>



Children's Mental Health Week

Its Children Mental Health week and the theme this year is **Growing Together**.

Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

The 8 Tips for Good Mental Health are a set of simple actions we can build into our daily lives, each of which have been shown to support good mental health and wellbeing.

For more details on Children's Mental Health week visit:

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/
<https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/07/how-to-prioritise-childrens-emotional-intelligence-and-why-its-important-16057884/>



Job Vacancy at St. Mary's CE Primary School

We are currently advertising a vacancy for a SEND Learning Support Assistant 1-1. For more information about this vacancy please see click on the link below:

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=71695>

Closing Date - Midnight 20th February 2022



School Facebook Page



Please check out our school Facebook page for lots more information including local holiday clubs - on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/329775704409996>

Diary Dates



Mon 14th—Fri 18th February	-	Half-term
Thursday 24th February	-	Y3 Rocks & Fossil Workshop
Thursday 3rd March	-	KS1 Explorer Day Workshop
Thursday 3rd March	-	World Book Day (Dress-up as your favourite character)
Mon 7th - Fri 11th 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 30h March	-	Y1 Stansted Mountfitchet Castle Trip
Friday 1st April	-	INSET Non Pupil Day
Mon 4th - Mon 18th April	-	Easter Holidays