

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 21st January 2022

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

Friendship
Trust

Truthfulness
Compassion

Perseverance
Respect

Dear Parents. Carers and friends of the school,

Message from the Headteacher:

A rather busy week!

As you may well be aware (and I am sure most of you are!) St Mary's has been experiencing a rather large increase in our COVID numbers. Nearly 20% of our pupils and 20% of staff have been absent from school this week, after testing positive for COVID.

May I just say a huge thank you to all of the St Mary's staff who have remained incredibly adaptable, helpful and professional throughout the last two weeks – helping to cover and support where needed – both in different classes and with different pupils.

I would also like to say a big well done to **everyone** in the St Mary's community for helping your children with their home learning and remaining so resilient during what has been, without a doubt, one of our most challenging periods throughout this COVID pandemic.

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

Reminder of guidance for COVID19 Self-Isolation:

Students and staff can end self-isolation period after 5 full days. Under the new rules, students who are self-isolating with COVID-19 can now end their isolation period after 5 full days. To do so they must **test negative** using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests **on both day 5 and day 6**. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 and the second must be taken the following day. Please note that in order to return to school, your child must also not have a temperature.

Those who are still positive on their LFD tests at this point must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

All LFD test results should be reported online at: Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Children with Coronavirus symptoms

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms it remains the case that they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. They should take a PCR test as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate. You can book a PCR test for your child online.

Mask wearing:

As you will be aware, the government has updated its guidance for the future use of masks in public places, however establishments are still free to stipulate their own arrangements. As cases of COVID are currently at the highest levels that they have ever been at St Mary's we have taken the decision to continue to wear masks in the school grounds and in our corridors and walkways up to the end of this half term (Friday 11th February). Further requirements for beyond that point will be communicated nearer to that time. Therefore, may we please remind all parents and carers to ensure that they are wearing a mask when they come to pick up or drop off their child/children. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.



Parents and Carers Spring Term Consultations

This term, St Mary's will be holding our Spring Term Consultations on **Tuesday 8th February and Thursday 10th February**. Following the same arrangements as the Autumn/Winter term Consultations, these will be hosted **in person** and **in the school hall**. Please can you keep an eye out for booking information – which will be sent out by the school office early next week. Children who have One Plans will receive separate information from the class teacher and will be contacted by the school office with the suggested time and date provided by the class teacher.

Mrs Robinson update:

I am delighted to report that Mrs Robinson, one of our Year 5 teachers, has undergone surgery earlier this week and she has reported to us that it has gone very successfully. I am sure you will join me in keeping her in our thoughts and prayers. The school also marked their very own Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Tuesday this week, and staff and pupils supported this important event by wearing special pink ribbons (which is an international symbol of breast cancer awareness) and they have continued to proudly wear these throughout the week.



We thought you would appreciate the lovely photograph of our amazing Year 5 pupils sending Mrs Robinson their best wishes.

As ever, do read on to find out what's been happening at our wonderful school this week – and also what's coming up over the course of this term.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher of St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Recently we have noticed an increase in the number of children coming into school smelling of tobacco which is lingering on them and their school bags and clothes.

Second-hand and third-hand smoke is dangerous, especially for children. The best way to protect loved ones is to quit smoking. At the very least, make sure you have a smoke free home and car.

You **can't** get rid of third-hand smoke by airing out rooms, opening windows, using fans or by confining smoking to certain areas of a home.

Please consider the impact your smoking is having on your own family and our school community, it is unacceptable for the children, staff and visitors to the school to have to inhale third-hand smoke when simple steps could alleviate this issue.

For further details please visit the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/live-well/

For your kids' sake, never smoke indoors. Take it right outside.

Harmful secondhand smoke contains poisons like carbon monoxide, cyanide and benzene – and lingers for up to 5 hours, waiting for your child to breathe it in.

CARBON MONOXIDE
CYANIDE
LEAD
ARSENIC
BENZENE

For tips on going smoke-free visit smokefreefamilies.co.uk
#smokefreefamilies

British Lung Foundation
fresh
Making Smoking History

Diary Dates



- Tuesday 25th January - Tinies visit St. Mary's Church
- Thursday 3rd February - Reception class - Library Visit
- Tuesday 8th February - Parents Evening (3.30-6.30pm)
NB - After School clubs are now moved to Tue 22.02.222
- Thursday 10th February - Parents Evening (3.30-6.30pm)
NB - After School clubs are now moved to Thu 24.02.222
- 1st-28th February - LGBT History Month
- 2nd February - Year 4 Rivers Trip (Epping Forest)
- Wednesday 9th February - Lego STEM Day
- Mon 14th Fri 18th February - Half-term
- Mon 7th - Fri 11th March - British Science Week
- Tuesday 15th March - Tinies visit St. Mary's Church
- Friday 1st April - INSET Non Pupil Day
- Mon 4th - Mon 18th April - Easter Holidays