

St Mary's Newsletter

Summer Term – Friday 18th June 2021

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 98.2%

Attendance Year - 97.9%

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Head's Lines

This week, the weather has definitely been extremely changeable (as per typical British weather) and the outside conditions have ranged from glorious sunshine, to torrential showers. Nevertheless, the school children and staff continue to remain extremely busy and supremely focused as we work through the last activities and fun learning events that have been organised for the remainder of the Summer term.

This week's newsletter focuses on how we are using the COVID Catch-up Fund as well as the events that have been planned for the last part of this academic year.

COVID Catchup:

During our recent Parents/Carers Survey, a few parents/carers wanted to know a bit more about the COVID Catch-up Grant, which (as many of you will be aware) is a grant of money provided to every Primary and Secondary school in England to support each of our pupils – who, as you very well know, have been out of school for various periods of time, since March 2020, due to the enforced National Lockdowns.

Early in this academic year, the School Leadership Team, in consultation with teaching staff, put together our own COVID Catch-up Plan, based on the areas that staff have identified as the greatest needs for our pupils. I am sure that you will agree that each primary school is very different and St Mary's is not unlike in that respect. Therefore, every school will have to spend their Catch-up Grant to tailor to their school's specific needs. Following careful analysis of our in-school data, as well as other areas of need identified in school, we have centered on a variety of areas where our funding has been utilised. As I am sure you are aware, we are continuing to add to and adapt our provision of our COVID Catch-up funding as and when we identify the need.

Here are some of the key areas that we have used the additional Government funding for so far at St Mary's since the start of September 2020:

- Myon Reading Scheme. After a great deal of research, the school has purchased the online Myon Reading scheme which has thousands and thousands of reading books. This online e-book scheme enables our pupils (whatever level or ability) to read e-books, including in the eventuality of a lockdown scenario. It also has a clever function where it will read a book to your child, so that they can follow the words and it will also explain vocabulary – a very handy tool! **Please contact your class teacher if you would like help in accessing Myon for your pupil or if you would like further guidance on the level of books that your child/ren require/s. On the Curriculum section of the school website where Mr Clarke explains how to use and access Myon ebooks.**

- Additional reading books for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. The school has spent a significant sum of money on physical copies of additional reading books for pupils throughout the school. These are already being used regularly by our pupils.
- CGP books were purchased to support remote learning for families who struggled to access Google Classroom.
- Talk Boost – for Early Years (Reception) as well as Key Stage 1 pupil. Talk Boost is a targeted and evidenced-based intervention, which supports children in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 to make significant progress with their language and communication skills. Talk Boost can also improve behaviour for learning by developing children’s attention and listening skills and confidence in communicating. We have already noticed how well this intervention is working with our younger pupils.
- Employed additional members of staff to support targeted interventions. Early in the academic year we identified gaps in some pupils reading, phonic and maths knowledge. Therefore, we immediately targeted pupils for high quality intervention groups. We have also employed some members of staff to support our pupils throughout the school in the areas of reading, maths and phonics. In reading we have been increasing pupils’ skills in the areas of fluency, comprehension and vocabulary development. In maths we have targeted the development of number skills and, in particular, times table knowledge through the use of visual and kinaesthetic strategies. In Phonics we have invested in additional materials and targeted each of our pupils to ensure that they are developing the required level of phonic skills and understanding.
- Supported pupils Mental Health and Wellbeing. Since early in the year and following the Summer break, we have prioritised pupils wellbeing so that we can build upon our pupils Mental Resilience and help our pupils to have healthy minds and bodies. We have employed Mindfulness practitioners and I-heart facilitators to support us using their professional skills.
- Developed school staff. At St Mary’s following our comprehensive programme of CPD (Continuing Professional Development) we have support staff by providing additional strategic training, which includes in the areas of Metacognition (Learning to Learn) as well as high quality training for all of our Teaching Assistants through High Level Teaching Assistant training, which will support the Catch-up Interventions which are currently taking place at St Mary’s.

There are, of course, areas that we continue to invest additional resource and this will continue into the coming year/s.

If you would like to know more, please visit our school website where you can check out our COVID Catch-up Plan (in the Policies area of the Key & Statutory Information section) or follow the link below.

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

What's going on?

This week has, once again, been incredibly busy with lots of fun activities and memorable learning taking place. This week we have had two Days of Dance (one for Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage 2,) as well as a visit by a theatre group for lower Key Stage 2, and we even had a fantastic Forest School Day for our oldest pupils.

However, you will be pleased to know, that we are also looking to plan in some further activities and events, which will take place in the next few weeks and we will communicate these will you as soon as they are finalised.

Please note that we are looking to arrange a **Leaver's Service** for our lovely Year 6 pupils – which will very likely take place outside of the school, most likely on the school field and adjacent meadow. **Please watch this space for further information.**

As we come to the second half of this Summer term I wanted to keep our parents and carers updated, once again, with all of the fun and engaging curriculum activities that we have planned before we break up for the Summer. As you can see we are continuing to squeeze in as many fun activities as we possibly can and we have even added some new events since last week's newsletter!

- **Rounders Competition for Year 6 pupils** has now been arranged for **Wednesday 23rd June** in the afternoon at Saffron Walden County High School
- **Spectacularly Stupendous Seaside Fun Day** for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will take place on **Thursday 24th June**, where Punch and Judy will be in attendance, an ice-cream van, some donkeys, some tents and a camper van and generally lots of seaside related fun will be had by all
- **Year 6 Residential Visit to Mersea on 28th June to 2nd July**, where these children will take part in team bonding and challenging adventurous activities in the outdoor environment.
- **Spirit of the Wild** (for all of our Key Stage 2 pupils) is booked in for **Thursday 8th July**, where our lucky pupils will get the opportunity to witness (and possibly even handle – if they are very lucky) some incredible and interesting creatures.
- **Photographer coming in to take pictures of our school and school pupils for our new school website.**
- **Key Stage 2 Sports Day** will be on **Monday 12th July**, 9am to 12pm approx.
- **Year 5 and 6 dramatic performance of SuperStan on Monday 12th July (afternoon only)**
- **Key Stage 1 Sports Day** will be on **Tuesday 13th July**, 9am to 12pm approx.
- **Year 5 and 6 dramatic performance of SuperStan on Monday 12th July (afternoon only)**
- **Dinosaur Animatronix Workshop** (for the whole school) will take place on Wednesday 14th July, where our lucky pupils will get the opportunity to see some amazing replicas of dinosaurs and learn some fascinating facts!

As you can see, it is gearing up to be an **extremely busy last few weeks** – with lots of fun things planned for our St Mary's pupils!

I do hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's

Year 5 Go Ape





Day of Dance





Stars of the Week



Reception - Phoebe always puts lots of effort into her work at school and in the work she does at home.



Y2 - Blakely for awesome reading
Oscar for fantastic progress with writing



Y1 - Beatrice for excellent focus and resilience in the classroom.
Mary Ellen for amazing progress in phonics

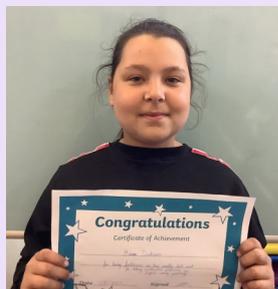
Well done to all of these wonderful pupils whose light is well and truly shining!



Y4 - Grace for always showing a fantastic attitude towards her learning and making regular contributions in class.



Y3 - Max for fantastic effort during assessment week.



Y5 - Maria for being fastidious in her Maths tests and for taking constructive criticism in English really positively!



Tilly - for working really hard this year, pushing herself and passing both her Maths and Reading assessments!



Keiran - for working so diligently on organising the library!



Reception Class Update



Wow, Butterflies have had another busy week!

The children have been thinking about keeping fit and healthy. The children have really enjoyed our stories this week—The Healthy Wolf, Oliver's Fruit Salad, Grown Your Own and Yoga Ogre.

We have been learning about healthy and unhealthy food, making fruit smoothies, fruit kebabs and fruit salads just like Oliver in the story:



Labelling the body and using appropriate Dr words for body parts using their phonic skills.

The children all loved the 'sting' Dragon Dance workshop:

Well done **Phoebe** who is our Star of the Week

week. Phoebe always puts lots of effort into her work at school and in the work she does at home. Well done Phoebe!



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Mrs Jeewan and the EYFS team

Year 1 Update



This week we met a real explorer via Zoom! Steven works for the BAS (British Antarctic Survey) and told us many interesting facts about his job as an explorer in Antarctica and the Arctic. We had a great dance afternoon on Wednesday learning a routine to a song from Matilda. The dance teachers were great and we really enjoyed ourselves! Alongside all this fun we have been working hard, writing diary entries for Baby Bear in English, portioning and comparing numbers in Maths and investigating rockets in Science!

Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter & Year 1 Team



Year 2 Update

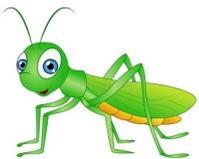


Year 2 started a new unit for Science this week, all about plants and trees. They started off by going on a mini field trip to inspect the trees nearby, making close observations to help them with their detailed drawings of the trunk, branches and leaves. The children showed good understanding of measure by measuring the length and width of the leaves. Next week we will test our scientific thinking by setting up various seeds and bulbs, predicting how they will grow and what conditions plants need to grow healthily. We had a fantastic time with STING performing arts on Wednesday, practising our skills as revolting children from Matilda and creating a wonderful routine with Year 1 which we look forward to sharing with you soon. We have also been using our team building skills in PE. The tasks were harder than they looked and we had to support and encourage each other every step of the way! ***Mrs Robinson and Mrs McInnes & Year 2 Team***



Year 3 Update

Grasshoppers have done an excellent job staying focused and completing their end of year assessments this week. They should be really proud of themselves. Their results show how hard they have worked and what fantastic progress they have made this year even with another lockdown!



In science this week, Year 3 carried out another rainbow based experiment. This time, their experiment involved making a rainbow using the capillary process. They carried out their experiments carefully and did a great job of writing up their findings.

We were very lucky to have Sting Performing Arts lead a drama and dance based workshop for us on Thursday morning. The workshop was really engaging and involved the children playing drama games, improvising, acting out their own scenes from Cruella and learning and performing a dance to a song from the new Cruella film. Well done for the high energy and enthusiasm Year 3!

We were also very lucky to have a French theatre company visit and perform a play called 'Les Olympiques des Animaux' for us. It was brilliant to see the Year 4s taking part in the play too!

Miss Allin & Year 3 Team





Year 4 Update

You have done incredibly well this week. To start, I would like to say all the children did an incredible job with their times table check- I continue to be so proud of their achievements this year. When learning their times tables, their attitude has been impeccable, and they always look for ways to improve.

This week, we have continued to look at our 'States of Matter' unit during our Science lessons. Once the pupils had completed some drama work to show the formation of the particules in solids, liquids, and gases, we conducted an experiment. The pupils used their scientific knowledge and skills to measure liquids to see how much weight Carbon Dioxide has in fizzy drinks. The pupils enjoyed completing this experiment and even came up with ideas about how we could make it a fairer test in the future.

This week, we have also been fortunate to have two different sets of visitors- one to teach the children about dance and the other to do some French work with them. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning different sections of dance and performing. During the French workshop, the children learnt about animals and sports in French and created a performance at the end. It was so lovely to see the pupils participating in the different dance and drama work this week- they challenged themselves and went out of their comfort zone.

Finally, during our topic lessons, we have continued with our new unit- Inventors and Achievers- and looked at creating clear definitions of what these words mean and some examples of people that fall into these categories.

Well done on all your hard work! Have a great weekend!

Mr Brown & Year 4 Team





Year 5 Update

Year 5 had lots of fun this week...even with all the assessments they've had to sit (which they've shown their hard work in!!)

They had a great time learning some dance moves and exploring some dramatic games with two visitors—some of the children really showed their rhythm!

Bees explored formal and informal language in English, embarking on a vocabulary hunt using their Thesauruses. I can't wait to see their reports on the strange items we discovered down in the boiler room last week...

And we'll round off with an update on the GoApe trip! The children had a fantastic time and everyone really tried hard to push, even when they were nervous and scared! Traffic delayed us getting there, but the upside was that GoApe extended our session so we had more time in the treetops. After climbing for hours, the class had their lunch and then played some team games that made them really think.

It was a great day and the children all did really well. And the class would like to give a big thank you to Mrs Trust and Mrs McKinnes, who came on their day off to lend a hand!

Mr Clarke & Year 5 Team



Year 6 Update

Another busy week Y6, working really hard practising for production. Keep learning your lines as I want to go script free on Monday! Don't panic we will prompt you whenever needed. I also sent home some costume ideas (these are just a guide), please let me know if you need any help.

We had 2 teachers and 2 former students in this week from SWCHS to talk to those going to County High. It was very useful for the children to learn all about the transition and what Y7 will be like; it was also useful for them to have the opportunity to speak to 2 former students and ask any questions they wanted answered.

We had a dance and drama company in on Thursday which the children really seemed to engage in and enjoy. They did a range of drama warm ups and games then learnt a hip-hop style dance.

We also had a full day of bush crafting—see attached overview and pictures.

Mr Pike & Year 6 team





School Dinners - KS2 Parents

If your child has school dinners, please ensure your School Money account is topped up regularly and is always in credit.

If your account goes £10 in debit, your children will need to bring in a packed lunch until the account is cleared & topped up.

Recently the office has been spending a lot of time chasing up accounts and having to make uncomfortable phone calls, which they would rather not have to do. Thank you for your cooperation.

Self-harm, or self-injury, describes a wide range of things people deliberately do to themselves that appear to cause some kind of physical hurt. It can still be very hard for parents and carers to know about - or witness - self-harming behaviour in their children. If you are worried about your child self-harming you can find further information and advice on youngminds.org.uk. Alternatively, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.



Mrs Jo Crocker, Welfare Support Officer

Diary Dates

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|---------------------------|---|---|
| Wed 23rd June | - | Y6 Rounders Competition at SWCHS (pm) |
| Thu 24th June | - | KS1 Seaside Fun Day |
| Friday 25th June | - | INSET Day (non pupil day) |
| Mon 28th June | - | Explorer Dome Visit - KS1 |
| Mon 28th Jun Fri 2nd July | - | Year 6 Residential Mersea |
| Mon 5th July | - | Parent Consultations Week |
| Mon 5th - Fri 9th July | - | Book Fair Week |
| Thu 8th July | - | Spirit of the Wild Visit - KS2 |
| Mon 12th July | - | KS2 Sports Day (am) |
| Mon 12th July | - | Year 5 & 6 SuperStan Performance (pm) |
| Tue 13th July | - | KS1 Sports Day (am) |
| Tue 13th July | - | Year 5 & 6 SuperStan Performance (pm) |
| Wed 14th July | - | Dinosaur Workshop - Whole School |
| Wed 21st July | - | Last Day of Term - Finish at 1.30pm - Wear Mufti Bring £1 |

