

St Mary's Newsletter

Summer Term – Friday 11th June 2021

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 97.9%

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



Year 6 end of year tests:

As you may be aware, the last week before we broke up for the May and June half term holiday, our Year 6 pupils, from Dragonfly class, sat down to take their end of Key Stage SATs assessments. Although, earlier on in the year the government had removed the requirement to share these results locally and nationally (due to the second national lockdown) we were so proud of how hard the children had worked and how well they had done, that we decided we simply had to share them with our parents, carers and friends of the school.

In SPAG 93% of the Year 6 pupils achieved the pass mark.

In Reading 86% of the Year 6 pupils achieved the pass mark.

In Maths 86% of the Year 6 pupils achieved the pass mark.

In Writing, the children are still completing pieces of writing for their Year 6 portfolio – which will be shared towards the latter end of this term.

Needless to say, we are extremely proud of how hard all of these children have been working and how much progress they have made, despite having to cope with two very long National lockdowns with such a significant time spent out of school.

Therefore I must say a **HUGE** well done to all of the pupils and staff members in Dragonfly class. What an **outstanding** effort!

Year 5 and Year 6 Bikeability:



Throughout this week many of the pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 have been taking part in Bikeability. Bikeability is a cycle training programme which is geared (if you pardon the pun) towards about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability isn't about teaching these children how to ride a bike – they already need to be able to handle a bike to a sufficient level, but it gives children the skills and confidence for all kinds of cycling. Children and adults can be trained individually or in groups, through school, clubs or private tuition.

Hugo told me, 'We were taught how to ride safely on any road and how to avoid bad habits such as turning without signalling.'

Some other comments from our Year 5 and 6 pupils about their Bikeability training:

'I learnt how to look before you stop and how you should ride when you are at a junction,' quoted Ellie R.
'I learnt that you have to look backwards over your right shoulder when stopping and I also learnt that it is illegal to ride on a path!' stated Hugo.

'I learnt about junctions and how to do a U-turn,' said Paige.

I am sure that you would agree that this training was incredibly important now that many of our pupils are riding their bikes independently near, or on, the roadside. Please do remember to make sure your child is wearing their cycle helmet whenever they ride their bike, whatever their age.

If you would like to find out more please click on this link: <https://bikeability.org.uk/>

A visit by PC McNamara



On Thursday morning, PC Ryan McNamara our Children and Young Persons Officer, from the Saffron Walden Community Policing Team came to visit St Mary's to talk to some of our children about the dangers of knife crime. It was a really interesting session and he kept the children really engaged throughout. The pupils were told about the incredible risks of carrying knives, the dangers of drugs and also what to do if you are assaulted.

Josh reported, *'the policeman said that the most important weapon we have is your voice – not any of the weapons'.*

Zac told us, *'I learnt there is a 50 per cent chance that you will be stabbed by your own knife, which is why you should not carry one!'*

Faye informed us, *'if someone has been hurt (for example being stabbed) and you call 999 that you have to give a description of the person, if they are breathing – and the location.'*

'I learnt that the police don't use violence to arrest someone, they use voices,' said Albert.

All in all, a very useful and informative session. Thank you, PC McNamara!

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Sports Day Reminder!

Just a quick reminder that St Mary's will be holding its annual Summer term Sports Day on two days this year (due to the necessary bubble management protocols). Both Sports Days will be held in the morning and in the afternoon the children will be treated to a dramatic performance by the Year 5 and 6 pupils (which, this year is Super Stan!).



Key Stage 2 Sports Day will be on **Monday 12th July**, 9am to 12pm approx.

Key Stage 1 Sports Day will be on **Tuesday 13th July**, 9am to 12pm approx.

Unfortunately, and with great sadness on our part, we are currently unable to invite our lovely parents/carers and friends of the school into St Mary's to watch and enjoy these Sports Days (due to infection control). However, we promise that we are going to have a lot of fun - with loads of music and decorations (posters, flags and house colours) and every class will provide something to make both days as colourful as possible. The school will also take lots of photos and videos which we will share with our parents and carers after these fun events.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Kindness and Empathy

Kindness quotes and remarks about empathy, compassion, forgiveness, and peace help engage children in meaningful conversations about themselves and others. Empathy facilitates the expression of caring, compassion, and kindness. Sadly, research shows that empathy is on the decline and that people who lack empathy may be less inclined to treat others nicely.

Kindness quotes can help children understand empathy in new ways – to discover how generosity, patience, forgiveness, acceptance, care, and compassion are vital to understanding and supporting each other.

Martin Luther King Jr's quote "***We may have come on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now***" has been widely used over the past 18 months and is displayed in many workplaces and homes. We are all trying to navigate our way through the uncertainty of the pandemic, managing feelings that may be difficult and unsettling at times, testing our patience and resilience.

The following kindness quotes are short, simple, and memorable and are a gentle reminder to us all that kindness goes a long way.

"IF YOU SEE SOMEONE WITHOUT A SMILE, GIVE THEM ONE OF YOURS."

Dolly Parton

"IF THERE IS ANY ONE SECRET OF SUCCESS, IT LIES IN THE ABILITY TO GET THE OTHER PERSON'S POINT OF VIEW AND SEE THINGS FROM HIS ANGLE AS WELL AS YOUR OWN."

Henry Ford

"IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE YOURSELF, TO FORGIVE."

Maya Angelou



Start a ripple... Create a wave.
It begins with YOU!



Stars of the Week



Reception - Jasper who has settled in to Butterflies so well.

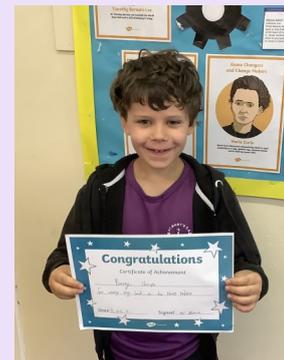


Y2 - Rebecca for awesome maths

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



Y3 - Nathan for fantastic perseverance and effort during our Quad Kids session.



Y4 - Barney for working very hard at his times tables.



Y1 - Hugo for all his hard work in the classroom and articulate responses

Ava-Mae for expressing her fantastic ideas so clearly in English lessons.



Reception Class Update



Another busy week at the start of the last half term in Reception! The children were excited to meet another new friend Jasper and were great at welcoming him to Butterfly Class. This half term's school value is **friendship** and the class have certainly shown how good they are at being respectful, kind and caring friends.

We began our new topic **Ready, Steady, GROW!** by looking at plants and what they need to grow and the children enjoyed following instructions to plant their own sunflower seeds and then thinking about just how much they have grown over the last year.

The children had a busy time at Forest school...can you spot the large frog that visited the new pond?



Our Star of the week is **Jasper**, who has settled in so well to Butterfly class and he has already made lots of new friends. Well done Jasper, we know it is not easy joining a new school during the last part of the school year but you have made a really great start to your school life at St Mary's.

Mrs Jeewan and the EYFS team.

Year 1 Update



Year 1 have hit the ground running after the half term break. This term our learning will take us into outer space and we made junk model rockets inspired by the story *Whatever Next?* by Jill Murphy. Forest school was very warm this week so we made shelters to protect us from the sun. The children have enjoyed making use of the school library to research space and astronauts. We were also very lucky to have a visit from PC Mcnamara who talked to the children about keeping safe. The children had lots of questions to ask him and made some very sensible suggestions.

Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter & Year 1 Team

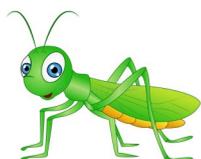




Year 2 Update

It's been a hot week back in the classroom but that has not stopped our lovely Caterpillars from working hard - as always! We've loved hearing about what they've been up to over half term and they have really impressed us with how they got on in their end of unit quiz about everyday materials. We have started looking at poems in English and a few children blew us away with the recital of some classics that they have learnt off by heart. Well done Ruby, Penny and Blakely. Try reading poems at home with your children—you can have a lot of fun together! We have started to write our own 'Magic Pebble' poems—the children have thought of many magical things their pebbles can do. We enjoyed hunting for our own special pebble in the Forest School area.

Mrs Robinson and Mrs McInnes & Year 2 Team



Year 3 Update

In maths this week, Grasshoppers have continued working hard on their measurements unit. They have been looking at metric units of measurement for length, weight and capacity and have been converting between different measurements. They have also done a fantastic job of solving word problems that contain these different measurements. In English, Year 3 have been writing their own version of Stone Age Boy. They were given the start and end and have done a brilliant job of writing the middle section. They have focussed amazingly on using exciting sentence openers and descriptive language within their stories to make them exciting.

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the USSP Quad Kid's sports activities on Wednesday morning. This included sprinting, long distance running, standing long jump and throwing. The children put in so much effort and energy and should be really proud of themselves! In science this week, we carried out an experiment to see what happened when you added skittles to warm water. See our photos to find out our results! The Grasshoppers have also done a fantastic job of creating Stonehenge pictures using oil pastels and black paper.

Miss Allin & Year 3 Team





Fireflies,

Year 4 Update

Well done on another busy week! Firstly, I would like to say how proud I am of all the children who have worked so hard in preparation for their practice times table check. As we already know, the check is only being practised this year, but the pupils have shown incredible effort and application. Please wish them luck over the next few weeks as we complete the check. Any revision they can do at home would be greatly appreciated, and this website is beneficial-

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

During English, we have started to look at poetry. We looked at the poem 'Willow Pattern' by Tony Mitton and looked at the poem's story. Over the next few weeks, the pupils will be writing their poems using lots of descriptive language and I look forward to them using their creativity to create a poem.

In Computing, we have been looking at using scratch to build a band. The pupils were able to add different musical instruments and controlling the music. I was so impressed with the children's knowledge of scratch and how well they completed this tricky task.

Finally, we were lucky to participate in a PE event this week called 'Quad Kids'- this involved lots of different aspects of sport such as running and throwing. The pupils did incredibly well- especially as it was so hot! Have a great weekend

Mr Brown & Year 4 Team





Year 5 Update

Year 5 had a packed first week back at school this half term!

They've had a plethora of activities to keep them busy over the last five days—with visits from policemen to their own investigation...

The Bees were sent down to the boiler room, where some very strange items had been left by an unknown suspect. Bees took photos and theorised what the person had been doing down there and what kind of person they were. The general consensus was that it was being used by a bank robber, who had either done a heist, was planning one—or both!

They also took part in a Quad Sports event, where they competed in two forms of running, howler throw and the standing long jump. The people who ran the event were full of praise for Year 5, citing not only their ability but also how they cheered each other on!

Bees then rounded off the week with a trip to GoApe—we'll save a more in-depth update for next week though!



Mr Clarke & Year 5 Team



Year 6 Update



A busy first week back Y6, we are straight into practising for production, I am so impressed at the number of you that have already learnt some of your lines. Keep going so we can go script free as soon as possible. I will send costume ideas out in the next few weeks.

It was lovely to see so many of you enjoying bikeability and learning how to be safe when riding your bikes to and from school and out with your friends. Keep all you have learnt in your mind to keep yourselves safe.

We had an informative visit from PC McMamara on Thursday to speak to Y5 & 6 about knife crime, drugs awareness and generally keeping yourself safe as you grow older and spend more time out in town or with your friends.

I loved seeing you all looking so smart for our last class photo, especially as we missed it last year so this one felt extra special.

Thank you to all the parents who joined me for the Mersea residential meeting on Tuesday evening, hopefully you all received an emailed copy of the PowerPoint. Please get in touch if you have any further questions and as I said before, I am so looking forward to taking this class on residential.



Mr Pike & Year 6 team

Diary Dates



- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Tue 15th June | - | Year 6 at Forest School |
| Wed 16th June | - | KS1 Day of Dance by Sting Performing Arts |
| Thu 17th June | - | KS2 Day of Dance by Sting Performing Arts |
| Fri 18th June | - | Theatre sans frontiere (for Years 3 and 4) |
| Wed 23rd June | - | Y6 Rounder Competition at SWCHS (pm) |
| Thu 24th June | - | KS1 Seaside Fun Day |
| Friday 25th June | - | INSET Day (non pupil day) |
| 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 |