

St Mary's Newsletter

Summer Term – Friday 28th May 2021

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 97.9%

Attendance Year - 97.8%

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Head's Lines

PTA Danceathon:

On Wednesday this week, our lovely co-Chairs of the PTA, Ruth and Gemma, organised and ran a fun Danceathon for every class in the school. The Danceathon took place on the school field, on the meadow area, with a wide range of popular music, colourful lights and even some super dancing props to spice things up! Needless to say, it went amazingly well and it was so lovely to see all of our St Mary's children having fun and dancing away to their hearts content!

I am extremely happy to report that after our most recent count the school has raised **nearly £2300** from incredibly generous donations.

Please do have a look at some of the photos taken on the day, which you will find later on in our school newsletter.

I would just like to say a HUGE thank you to all of our parents and carers and friends of the school for your ongoing support, as the funds raised from these events goes directly towards providing additional resources for each of our children that the school would not normally be able to afford.

Sports Day:

I am delighted to report 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.

Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum:

As you will be aware, today all of our parents will have received an important letter explaining the upcoming lessons that teachers and support staff are going to be delivering to each of their classes around the new RSE curriculum. These letters explain which topics the children will be learning about in their particular year groups, and where you can find out more information if you would like to. Please feel free to read our RSE policy, which is available on our school website, following this link to our policies section: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/>

Please note that these lessons are statutory and part of the National Curriculum. If you have any questions, please make an appointment to speak to a member of staff with the school office.

Parents and Carers Survey 2020 to 2021:

As you will know, over the last few weeks the school has been conducting its annual Parents and Carers Survey – which this year was offered as an online version.

I would like to thank every parent and carer who was able to complete this survey as the information we gather from these surveys enables the school to see what is working well and, also see when we can help and also make certain adaptations.

After half term when we have carefully analysed these results, we will be providing further feedback from these surveys and also which areas the school will be concentrating on in the future to make further improvements.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Year 6 end of year tests:

Between Monday and Thursday this week our fabulous year 6 pupils took their end of year assessments (which you may also know as Standardised Assessment Tests – or SATs). These tests were the culmination of all of the excellent hard work and teaching and learning that has taken place since the pupils first joined St Mary's. I have got to say that we are all **extremely proud** of how hard every single one of these children have worked and also how much progress they have made, not just since the start of this year, but also from their 'starting points'. I very much look forwards to sharing their fantastic results with you when we return after the half term break. Although these results will not be submitted to the government this year, they will be proudly displayed and made available on our school website. Well done to the Year 6 pupils and their teaching team for all of their **outstanding** efforts.

What's going on?!

As we come to the end of the first half term 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 cram in as many fun activities as we possibly can and we have even added some new events since last week's newsletter!

New activities are now highlighted in purple!

- **Elmer Day** (for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 class) on **Friday 28th May**, which is all about positivity and making friends.
- **Bikeability training** for Year 6 – will take place on the days of 7th/8th/9th June, where our Year 6 pupils will be receiving important bike training, including how to ride your bike safely on a road.

- **PC McNamara comes to visit on Thursday 10th June** – some of our pupils in Key Stage 2 will get to meet our local Police Constable, where they will learn about some vital facts about keeping ourselves safe.
- **GoApe day trip** (for our Year 5 pupils) which is a day crammed with fun team-building and adventurous activities – on **Friday 11th June**
- **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)**
- **Year 6 Forest School Fun Day – Tuesday 15th June**, where Mrs McInnes, our Forest School Leader will be taking these children on a fun-filled day of outdoor learning.
- **Day of Dance by Sting Performing Arts for Key Stage 1** on **Wednesday 16th June** (for Key Stage 1 children). The theme is popular musicals, films and street dance!
- **Day of Dance by Sting Performing Arts for Key Stage 2** on **Thursday 17th June** (for Key Stage 2 children). The theme is popular musicals, films and street dance!
- **Theatre sans frontiere** (for Years 3 and 4) is now booked for **Friday 18th June**.
- **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.
- **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 term – with lots of fun things planned for our St Mary's pupils! I think you'd all agree that they thoroughly deserve it – especially after the last year and a half!

I hope you have a great half-term week.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's

Donations Request—Toy Figures

If anyone is having a clear out over half-term, we would love any donations of toy figures, animals etc that could be used for the children's sand pit in school. Thank you



DANCE-A-THON



A great time was had by all on Wednesday for the PTA Dance-A-Thon. Thank you to everyone for all your kind donations. We raised a **MASSIVE £2300.**

Absolutely amazing!



Stars of the Week



Y3 - Lily for always having an excellent attitude to her learning.

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



Y2 - Liliana for exceptional letter writing. **Jake** for excellent mathematical thinking



Y1 - Bertie and Henry for their excellent progress in phonics this term



Y4 - Elsie for working so hard in all subjects and being an amazing classmate



Y5 - Daisie for working hard on her arithmetic and increasing her score.



Lana for her attention to detail and memory when coding her website.



Reception Class Update



Wow, what a busy week it has been!

Butterfly class went on their first school walk around town. We visited Walden castle, thinking about how it would have looked in the 12th Century. We then went past the town museum listening to how Saffron Walden used to be; then walked around St Mary's church and the refugee statue. The children walked beautifully representing St Mary's School and found lots of things to talk about, asked appropriate questions and shared their own knowledge.



Well done Butterflies, we were very proud of you.

Barney drew a picture of himself at St Mary's school in his very smart uniform and different faces showing the different feelings from the Zones of Regulation in class.

Well done Barney!



Quillan has shown some amazing gymnastic skills on the Adventure Playground and in PE. He has just started attending a gymnastic club. Quillan proudly shared his 'Star Gymnast' of the week certificate with the rest of the class.



The children wore super outfits for the Dancethon, Butterflies danced most of the morning, having lots of fun and raising money for the school. Thank you for all your donations!

Layla-Mae and Harry showed us all how to dance...



Star of the Week is **Becky** for giving so much more effort into her work AND coming and talking to me, during the class day. We are also very impressed that Becky is now putting up her hand to answer questions in class! Amazing progression Becky, well done!

Have a lovely half term Butterflies, have some well deserved rest. We cannot believe that there is only one last half term left with us in Reception! You are certainly showing that you are getting ready for Year 1.

Mrs Jeewan and the EYFS team.



Year 1 Update

Ladybirds have had a great week and have been working hard in all lessons. In English, we have been looking at rhyming words in poetry as well as singing some of our favourite nurse-ry rhymes to help us identify rhyming words. Ladybirds have been showing off their amazing phonics' skills for an assessment this week. They did brilliantly! In Maths, we have finished our unit on fractions and have been looking at position and direction. In PSHCE, we looked at ways to make people feel better if they are feeling sad and in RE we made lanterns for the Buddhist celebration—Wesak. We hope you all have a wonderful and restful half term and look forward to seeing you for our final half term of Year 1!

Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter
Year 1 Team



&

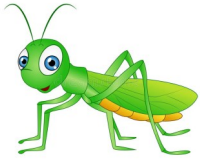


Year 2 Update

Wow, I bet we're all ready for a rest now and Caterpillars you deserve it as you have been working so hard. This week you have produced some fantastic writing, showing your understanding of how to make a story descriptive and interesting. We have also been learning about recycling and this sparked much interest and discussion about our planet and how we can look after it. We'd like to help tackle the plastic waste problem by joining the Million Mile Beach Clean - see beachcleans.org.uk. Can you find one near you over half term? We thought you would like to see some of the amazing art work the children have produced this half term. Each week they have learnt how to create a piece of art which represents one of the seven continents. We think they look very impressive and hope you do, too! **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 moved on to looking at volume and capacity and have been measuring in and solving word problems involving ml and l.

In English, we have continued to look at Stone Age Boy. Year 3 have carefully practised their speech punctuation and also carried out some hot seating. The children did a fantastic job getting into character and pretending to be Om and the stone age boy.

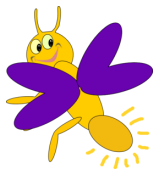
We had our last cricket session with the cricket coach this week and the children really showed how much they have improved on their throwing and batting skills over this half term. Well done! They have also continued to practise the racket skills in our tennis lesson.

The class also showed excellent energy during our Danceathon on Wednesday. We had a brilliant time dancing and singing along. Thank you to the PTA for running it all!

**Miss Allin &
Year 3 Team**



Year 4 Update



Fireflies,

We are at the end of a jam-packed half term! Firstly, I want to say how impressed I am with all your efforts during this time. I am so proud of you all and how you have adapted to being back at school.

This week, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed their 'Danceathon', and it was lovely to see the pupils being active while raising money.

During our topic lessons, we have been comparing Japan's landmarks to the landmarks in the town. We all visited the Church, Town square and the Castle to identify the differences between the different landmarks. The pupils behaved incredibly well during this local visit and were a credit to the school.

Finally, we have finished our Electricity unit in Science and have been looking at circuit symbols- the pupils even drew some of their own circuits using these symbols to replace the items within a circuit.

Well done again on all your hard work,

Have a great half term





Year 5 Update

Year 5 have rounded off their half term in maths by completing the Year 5 unit on manipulating shapes! They've learnt to translate and reflect shapes by moving vertices, and have worked on rotating shapes clockwise and anti-clockwise by specific degrees given.

In English, Bees finished their through the portal stories, and I have to say I have been really impressed with how imaginative and descriptive they are! The class have really worked hard on their English since coming back from lockdown and it has shown in this latest piece. The class also had a crack at trying to write the through the portal stories up in best on the computer!

We finally got to the part of the Saffron Walden history tale where we gained the moniker 'Saffron' to our name (ask you children what we'd been called beforehand and why we ended up changing to Saffron Walden!). The children recreated the Saffron Walden crest using drawing and watercolours. But can they explain the pun hidden inside the crest to you?

Mr Clarke & Year 5 Team



Year 6 Update

Well year 6, you did it! All the weeks of hard work, homework, tests, groups and revision to plug those gaps caused by lockdown 1 and 2 culminated in your SATs week this week. The effort you have put into developing your own learning has been a joy to see and you should all be super proud of the progress you have made. Because it is so important to get used to experiencing exams ready for secondary school, we used the 2019 SATs papers (as these were the last ones available) in full test conditions to see if you would have passed your SATs had we officially had to do them this year. I know you all enjoyed starting each day with a SATs breakfast of yoghurts, croissants, chocolate brioche and fruit.

Please try not to be disappointed if you didn't quite pass the paper because it is just the first step onto your next learning adventure in secondary school and the disruption you have experienced is unprecedented. You have ALL made amazing progress and to even sit a SATs test after the last two years is an achievement in itself. Your talents in P.E, art, science, design, computing and all the other areas of the curriculum are equally important so continue to feel proud and confident about all you have achieved at St Mary's

I have spoken one to one with each of you to share your results but also the progress you have made across the year in SPAG, maths and reading. We will be continuing to access your writing as the year progresses as well as focusing on relationship, sex and health education (RSE) and lots of creative session obviously.

I am so proud of ALL of you and how confident and mature you have been this week and all you have achieved over the last 2 years. I hope you all feel proud of yourselves too.

Mr Pike & Year 6 Team

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Half Term - School Track and Trace procedures:

· If your child has suspected Covid symptoms, we strongly advise you to **go to a testing centre** as results come back much faster, usually within 24 hours, whereas the postal tests are subject to long delays.

If your child has been in school and receives a positive result from Friday 28th May until the end of Sunday 30th May, please email covid19reporting@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

You are only required to do this if your child's symptoms occurred within 48 hours of being on site. We will have staff on duty to check the emails during this 48h hour period.

· If your child receives a positive result from Monday 31st May until pupils return to school on Monday 7th June, you will need to follow NHS advice and alert all your close contacts, family and friends directly. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

· Should your child/ren need to self-isolate during half term on the advice of NHS Track and Trace, you can let us know after half term on Monday 7th June, by emailing the office on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk.



Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid family carers and young carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and young carers and access much-needed support. Many people are taking on more caring responsibilities for their relatives and friends who are disabled, ill or older and who need support.

Carers and Young Carers need to be recognised for the difficulties they are experiencing, respected for all they are doing, and provided with information, support and understanding. During Carers Week local and national organisations are hoping to **Make Caring Visible and Valued**.

CARERS WEEK is being held between 7th – 13th June 2021

If you would like further information please visit www.carersweek.org or speak with Jo Crocker, Welfare and Support Officer

Diary Dates



- Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun - Half-Term Break
- 7th, 8th & 9th June - Y6 Bikeability
- Tue 8th June - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting - 5pm via Zoom
- Thu 10th June - Class Photos (Kittle Photography)
- Thu 10th June - PC McNamara Visit - KS2
- Fri 11th June - Year 5 Go Ape Trip
- Tue 15th June - Year 6 Forest School
- Thu 24th June - KS1 Seaside Fun Day
- Friday 25th June - INSET Day (non pupil day)
- Mon 28th Jun Fri 2nd Jul - Year 6 Residential Mersea
- Mon 5th July - Parent Consultations Week
- Mon 5th - Fri 9th Jul - Book Fair Week
- Thu 8th July - Spirit of the Wild Visit - KS2
- Wed 14th July - Dinosaur Workshop - Whole School
- Wed 21st July - Last Day of Term - Finish at 1.30pm - Mufti Bring £1

