

St Mary's Newsletter

Summer Term – Friday 21st May 2021

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 94.7%

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 term seems to be motoring on at a significant pace and I can hardly believe that there is only one week left, before the school breaks up for half term. As ever, the pupils are continuing to work incredibly hard – and I would particularly like to shower some praise on our lovely Year 6 pupils in Dragonfly class, who have been working incredibly hard on their upcoming 'mock' SATs – which they will be taking at St Mary's next week. These tests will be a culmination in all of these pupil's primary school learning and I am extremely proud, as are the Year 6 staff team of Mr Pike, Mrs Norman and Ms Dye, of how much effort they have put into preparing themselves. I have no doubt that they will do their very best and the end of term 'performance' will be a fitting reward for all of their sterling efforts.

What's happening?

With just one-half term (and one week) to go before the Summer break, there are still so many fun activities to take place before the end of this academic year! We are so excited that now that some of the governments COVID restrictions have lifted around trips and visitors, that we have crammed as many as we can into the rest of the Summer term.

Take a look at some of the amazing activities our children will be taking part in over the rest of this term:

PTA Danceathon (for the whole school) on **Wednesday 26th May**, where all of our St Mary's children will be dancing to their hearts content!

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**

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.

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!

Theatre sans frontiere (for all of our Key Stage 2 pupils) is pencilled in for 18th June (TBC) for all of our Key Stage 2 pupils.

Wow – what a busy term and lots still to take place and there will be even more added to the list, I am sure, before this school year comes to an end!

I hope you have a great weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's



Active Essex and Essex County Council are pleased to be offering FREE places on the Essex ActivAte half term holiday programme for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and for those working families who could benefit from this additional holiday support. These clubs provide a range of fun activities and a healthy lunch for every child attending. All clubs offer at least 4 hours of fun each day. To find your nearest Essex ActivAte club and to book your FREE place please see our website

[ActivAte Your Half Term - Active Essex](#)



National
**Children's
Gardening**
Week

We know that being outside in nature improves our general wellbeing and with half term approaching this is an excellent time to get outside and do some fun activities. National Children's Gardening Week celebrates the fun that gardens and the outdoors hold for kids. Children love growing plants, love being in the garden but they're often impatient, wanting to see instant results. National Children's Gardening Week aims to capture children's enthusiasm at a time when results are immediate.



National Children's Gardening week takes place between the 29th May – 6th June. For activities and free downloads please visit www.childrensgardeningweek.co.uk/
Together we can help children grow.



DANCE-A-THON

Wednesday 26th May

Thank you to everyone that has sponsored Wednesdays DANCE-A-THON already. We are nearly a quarter of the way to the target so far, which is fantastic!

For those that haven't had the chance yet, please click here <https://gofund.me/e69061b2> for the online fundraising page. Alternatively you can bring cash on the day along with the sponsorship forms (Wednesday next week).

Please remember to tick the gift-aid box online, as HMRC allow us an extra 25p per £1 sponsorship for events, as we are an official charity.

You should have already received the letter and sponsor form via paper and email. If you need another copy, please contact the school office.

DONT FORGET THIS IS A NON-UNIFORM DAY TOO for the kids to enjoy getting dressed up with their friends, so sponsorship and **non-uniform day** on **Wednesday 26th May**.

Please ask as many friends and family to sponsor your child, to raise as much as we can to support the children. The link can be found on Facebook too.

Ruth & Gemma

On behalf of the PTA





Stars of the Week



Reception - Addalyn,
Lilli & Millie

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



Y2 - Ruby - participating in maths lesson
Toby - enthusiasm for learning



Y3 - Maisy A for brilliant use of descriptive language in her setting description.



Y1 - Harry for applying himself so well in writing tasks

Chloe for a consistently hard-working attitude in school



Y5 - Anna for always working hard and showing a fantastic attitude towards her work.



Y5 - Henry for his fastidious approach to his maths.



Sophie for her equally fastidious approach to her maths.



Harvey for reading his first book with over 100 pages.



Y6 - Bonnie for amazing focus and improvement in arithmetic.

Reception Class Update



Butterflies have really enjoyed their **PSHE** lessons this week, especially a live session on Zoom with **Nancy and Harold the giraffe from SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship)**. The focus was 'Happy, Health Me', looking after our bodies and minds. The children have been learning different strategies, techniques and ideas for if they have a feeling that they need or want to change. Ask your child about the 'Tin man, Rag doll' calming technique and the 'Happy Healthy Me' signs. SCARF has great ideas for boosting mental health in school and at home.

This week we have been reading the **Naughty Bus** together as a class and the rather naughty bus and his friend came for a visit and have been getting up to all kinds of mischief in class including driving through Mrs Jeewan's lunch! Tommy had the great idea of using a metal detector to find the naughty bus when he is hiding 'as he is made of metal'.

There was excitement in class when one of the butterflies emerged from its chrysalis. The children also enjoyed watching the **tadpoles** being released from their tank in class to the new pond at Forest school.



They discussed how it is better for the tadpoles to have more room as they transform into frogs.

Next Friday with Year 1, Butterflies will be taking part in **Elmer Day** with lots of fun activities – it will be a day looking at the stories about Elmer, the rainbow elephant, and spreading positivity, kindness, friendship and the understanding that it is ok to be different.

Stars of the Week – 3 children have impressed us this week:

- 1) **Addalynn** for putting lots of effort into her very detailed Naughty Bus drawings
- 2) **Lili** for her very detailed Story Map of the Naughty Bus story and sharing her ideas with the adults in class
- 3) **Millie** for making progress in her writing, and wrote two sentences about the Naughty Bus.



Well done children, such wonderful work, excellent effort and progress made!



Year 1 Update

Ladybirds have had another busy week! In English we have been creating our own characters for our stories. Evil Broomy has been up to no good and Traction Man has had to swoop in to the rescue! In Maths we have continued to look at fractions but this week we have focused on quartering. In Topic, we learnt all about Felicity Aston who walked 59 miles in the Antarctic all alone! The highlight of our week was a special live PSHE session with Nancy and Harold the Giraffe where we discussed all the ways we can keep our minds and bodies healthy.

Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter & Year 1 Team



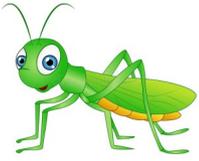
Year 2 Update

The butterflies emerged from their chrysalises this week which was very exciting - the children have been fascinated by them. Every spare moment, they have been looking at them, feeding them and touching the empty chrysalises left behind which "feel like paper". We talked a lot about our feelings this week, especially with Nancy and Harold from the SCARF foundation. It was lots of fun, even if we couldn't see them in person. Favourite activities included thinking of an emotion, saying it, holding it in our hands then throwing it into Nancy's bucket. We don't know how she managed to catch them but the bucket was overflowing! We loved Feelings Bingo and singing with Harold. Next week we would like to learn Harold's rap so listen out for that at home!

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 consolidating their understanding of perimeter and have also been converting between different types of measurements.

In English, we have been writing setting descriptions based around the cave that is discovered in Stone Age Boy. The children have been using thesauruses to help with descriptive language and have produced some fantastic pieces of writing.

On Monday morning, we had a fantastic virtual PSHE session with SCARF. The children were able to discuss their wellbeing and the different activities which they carry out on a day to day basis to allow for this to happen. They also did a brilliant job of helping Harold the Giraffe with his rap at the end of the session!

In topic, we discussed what life might have been like in Skara Brae during the Stone Age and how the settlement there varied from other settlements which have been discovered from the Neolithic period. The children then wrote some great diary entries discussing what a day in Skara Brae may have been like.

Year 3 have continued working on their cricket skills and tennis skills in PE lessons. On Thursday afternoon, they took part in some very competitive tennis skill based relay races! They worked well within their teams, ensuring that they supported and encouraged their teammates.

Miss Allin & Year 3 Team

Year 4 Update



You have been fantastic this week! At the start of the week, we were fortunate to have a live PSHE session based on a healthy body and minds. The pupils had to complete a quiz and think about the essential things we need to be healthy including wellbeing. The pupils gave some fantastic responses during the live session and enjoyed completing a song about healthy eating. We also had lessons that focused on the differences between all of us and our friendships. I was so proud of the maturity the pupils approached this topic with.

In our Maths lessons, we focused on money this week and converting between pence and pounds- the children impressed me with their place value knowledge and their understanding of dividing numbers.

In Science, we have continued to look at circuits and how they work. This week, the pupils used a paper clip to create our switch and then we looked at how this works. The children came up with some fantastic scientific explanations of the differences between an open and closed circuit.

Well done on another fantastic week, and I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Brown & Year 4 Team





Year 5 Update

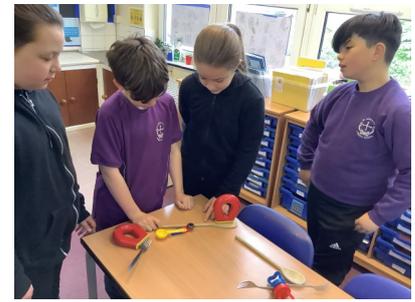
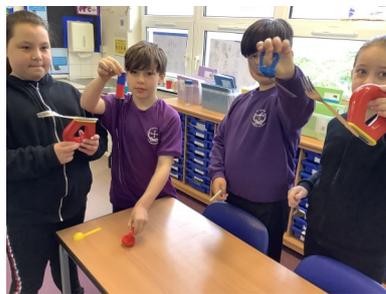
Year 5 have continued with their through the portal stories, and it's been great to see them implementing all the skills we've been working on this year! They've also launched into their unit on manipulating shapes, where they've learnt to translate and reflect shapes by moving vertices.

The class also enjoyed creating their own fair test to determine which objects were magnetic—this took us off on a tangent where we looked at what atoms were and what is inside them! I think everyone in Bees is still trying to wrap their minds around the fact that everything is just a collection of differently arranged protons, neutrons and electrons!

The Bees also made another step in their coding journey—this week adding pictures to their pages and manipulating where text and images would appear on the screen! It's been great to see them developing their coding and debugging skills in these sessions; they're really getting better at independently sorting out problems.

Have a good weekend Bees and see you for the final week before half term on Monday!

Mr Clarke & Year 5 Team



Year 6 Update

Well year 6, this is it, using all your hard work in maths, reading and SPAG you will be able to show off next week when you sit your SATs tests. I am so proud of how hard you have worked this term after a stressful and disruptive year and a half. All I want you to do next week is to try your hardest as you are all amazing! If you are feeling worried about it, try to focus on the fact that you have done hundreds of these tests over the last 2 years and it's just another one. Use your positive thinking and remember that as long as you have given it your best effort that is that counts.

We will be offering a SATs breakfast every morning from 8:50am in the hall to start of the day off right, then on Monday, you will be sitting the arithmetic and SPAG; on Tuesday, the reasoning paper 1; on Wednesday, the reading paper and finally on Thursday, the reasoning paper 2. The rest of each day will be revision quizzes and a range of sport, art and fun activities with swimming on Friday.

Please come and speak to me if you are worried about anything and we can talk it through.

In geography, we had great fun recreating tsunamis in the playground to try and understand the force and ferocity these waves create and why the destruction can be so disastrous.

Mr Pike & Year 6 Team



The Big Ask survey for school pupils

Last month the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, launched [The Big Ask](#) – the largest ever survey of children in England. It asks all children about their priorities and concerns for the future, so that we can put children at the heart of the national recovery post-COVID-19.

Have your child/ren all had their say about what matters to them? If not, then please consider supporting them in completing this survey and make their voice heard. Every single pupil's voice is important. The deadline for completing the survey is Friday 28 May.



Diary Dates



Wed 26th May	-	PTA DANCE-A-THON - Non Uniform
Fri 28th May	-	KS1 Elmer Day
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun	-	Half-Term Break
7th, 8th & 9th June	-	Y6 Bikeability
Thu 10th June	-	Class Photos (Kittle Photography)
Fri 11th June	-	Year 5 Go Ape Trip
Tue 15th June	-	Year 6 Forest School
Thu 24th June	-	KS1 Seaside Day (Details to follow)
Friday 25th June	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Mon 28th Jun Fri 2nd Jul	-	Year 6 Residential Mersea (TBC)
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