

St Mary's Newsletter

Summer Term – Friday 14th May 2021

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 94.5%

Attendance Year - 98%

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Head's Lines

I'd like to start of this week's newsletter with a big thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting our big push on school uniform. Over the last few days I have noticed a significant improvement and, particularly in PE lessons, there is now a larger number of black tracksuit tops and black jogging bottoms and leggings than there was before. Thank you for your continued support in this important part of school life.

Parent and Carers Survey for 2020 to 2021:

As we mentioned in last week's Friday newsletter, you will be aware that our governors have just launched our latest **annual Parents and Carers survey** – which this year is **online**. I would really urge as many of our parents and carers as possible to take the time to complete this survey – as it will help the school to decide upon its priorities for the next few years. In this survey you can tell us what you think we are doing well and where you think we can improve.

We have currently received **35 completed surveys** and we would love to have as many as possible. The closing date for this survey is **Friday 21st May**, at which point school leaders and governors, will carefully analyse the survey results and then respond to the ideas, comments and suggestions that you have raised. You can complete this Parents & Carers Survey using the following link: <https://schoolwork.space/T/DFj39FmFVOof02dQumW>

As a reminder, if you are not able to access an online device (such as a computer, Ipad or mobile phone) to complete this survey, please contact the school office on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk and we will provide you with a printed copy.

Live streaming on TikTok and other platforms:

We want to make you aware of an emerging concern involving TikTok. There is a facility on TikTok whereby 1000 followers enables a person to be able to broadcast live, and some children and young people at school are broadcasting live using this and possibly other platforms at different times during the school day.



Live streaming is the broadcasting of live video to an audience or on a one-to-one basis in real time. During public live streams viewers can participate by 'liking' videos and adding comments which can be seen by the person broadcasting, and by other viewers. It is also possible for viewers to contact broadcasters who are live streaming or who have live streamed.

Any person with a TikTok or similar platform account can use live streaming. Many children and young people do this, for example to sing and dance and to talk about things, perhaps with the aim of attracting more viewers and to be someone who is 'trending' online.

Some example TikTok live streams were shown to me recently by the 'Two Johns' ([E-Safety Training](#)). I was able to see groups of students, who appeared to be at various different secondary schools, live streaming during the lunch period at school. The broadcasts I saw did not appear to include anything specific; they just seemed to be students who had decided to broadcast live on TikTok during their lunchtime, with other students coming in and out of the screen at different times.

This type of activity is popular among children and young people, including primary school children, and can be beneficial. For example, broadcasting live may help to develop a person's creativity and improve their confidence, enable them to speak about something that matters to them on a wider platform, or perhaps as an additional way to stay in touch with friends.

Concerns

There are risks for children and young people associated with broadcasting live online, and in engaging with other people's broadcasts, including:

- viewing inappropriate content (such as sexual or violent videos);
- communicating with people that are unknown to them;
- children and young people may be broadcasting from their bedroom, unsupervised – making an additional forum in which abuse may take place;
- there could be thousands of people watching a live stream at any time, including those who are looking to harm children and young people – it is possible to move a child or young person from a live stream to a private one;
- coercion or manipulation to create and share indecent images of themselves while live streaming; live videos can be recorded and shared.

The [Internet Watch Foundation](#) found that 98% of live streamed abuse on mostly private platforms showed children aged 13 and under, suggesting that this age group may be more at risk when live streaming. Research by the [London Grid for Learning](#) showed that 1 in 6 pupils aged 7-16 taking part in a survey said that something had happened while they were live streaming that made them feel uncomfortable, and more than 1 in 20 pupils had been asked to change or get undressed.

What you can do to support children and young people

Schools will cover live streaming and the associated risks during online safety lessons, and alert parents and carers if there are any specific concerns.

Children and young people can be reassured that if something happens while live streaming it is not their fault, and reminded to seek support from school staff or their parents and carers if they are worried about anything, or if something has happened. Parents and carers can be reminded of the risks and ways to support their children with online safety.

Resources are also available from various organisations including those referred to above, and others such as [Thinkuknow](#), and the [NSPCC](#).

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support of the school. Have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's



National Online Safety Mobile App
It's time to get **#OnlineSafetySavvy**.

Children are spending more time than ever online. As adults, we need to do everything we can to keep them safe in the digital world. But with new apps, games and platforms emerging every day, how can you stay in the know?

Say hello to the National Online Safety mobile application. With all online safety knowledge available at your fingertips, the NOS app empowers parents to understand and address online safeguarding risks – any time, anywhere.

Please download the APP or visit the website www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Many children are on TikTok or gaming in their spare time and have access to so much more content on the internet than we may realise. It is so important to be mindful of this and talk about what is age appropriate. Please look that attached examples of the posters and information you can access on www.nationalonlinesafety.com

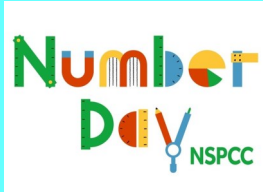
Parent Survey - Your Opinion Matters

The Governors would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on the School, this is especially important due to how much School life has been affect this academic year by Covid 19. Our Parents Survey on the following link; <https://schoolwork.space/T/DFj39FmFVOof02dQumW> can be filled in online, however if you have any difficulty, please contact the office to arrange a paper copy. The questionnaire is designed to be quick and easy to fill out, however the more comments and details you can add, the greater the benefit to us to help ensure the School runs to its full potential.

Please could you **complete the survey by Friday 21st May** and the Governors will issue our findings in June. Thank you for your help with this.



NSPCC Number Day



We all enjoyed our activity for NSPCC Number Day. We had to solve 10 questions and had to collect puzzle pieces. When we had all 10 puzzle pieces, we had to put them together. We had to answer code breaking questions using emojis, maths problem solving questions and a wordsearch. The pieces were all hidden around the classroom, like under the ipad and by the window and the questions gave us clues to find out where the hidden pieces were. The activity was fun for everyone and was like a mind booster! *Evie and Molly Year 3*



We raised a fabulous £162.24 for the NSPCC. Thank you everyone for the kind donations.



Stars of the Week

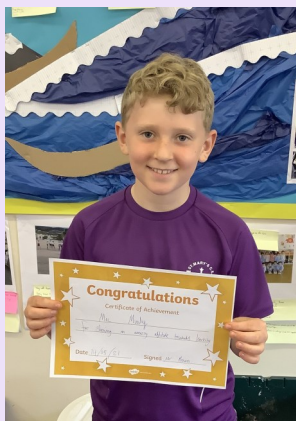


Reception - Layla-Mae has also been working hard writing her name too. What a super couple of weeks Layla-Mae!



Year 1 - Woody for being a kind and considerate classmate and putting so much effort into his writing. **Olivia** for being a kind and considerate classmate and being a resilient learner.

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



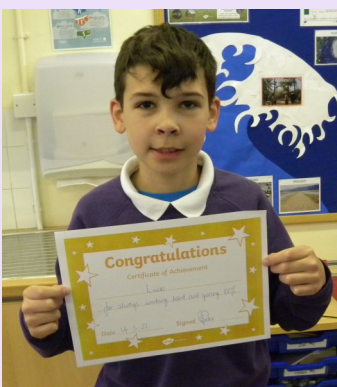
Year 4 - Mac for showing an amazing attitude towards learning



Year 2 - Frank - making a concerted effort during writing sessions and showing bravery during the recent lockdown. **Lumi** - wonderful creative writing



Year 3 - Evie for always persevering and trying her best.



Year 6 - Lucas for always working hard and giving 100%.



Year 5 - Orson for being more vocal in class discussions. **Caitlin** for giving a really positive message in RE about living your life and being grateful rather than being worried. **Tyler** for pushing himself in his reading level and then passing his quizzes

Reception Class Update



The children came into class on Monday with a surprise, there was a **crime scene** with a real mess! Somebody had messed up the reading area and left empty biscuit wrappers, books and things all over the floor. There were even some giant footprints with 3 toes.

The children talked together about who they thought had done this and how. Using detective skills and magnifying glasses, the children looked for clues and then drew who they thought it was...they have some amazing imaginations! We read together the story of the **Three Billy Goats Gruff** and the children linked the clues – green hair, grass on the floor, a hungry person, 3 toes – it must have been the troll. Butterflies created their own troll pictures and wrote 'Wanted' posters, which we have displayed in the corridor in school. Well done for solving the crime Butterflies, we just now need the troll to say sorry. We used the outside apparatus to act out the story and have learnt a Talk for Writing version of the story as a class with actions and puppets.

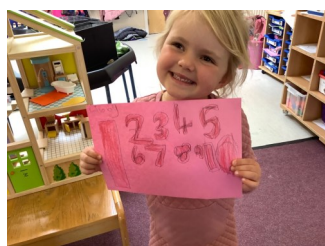
Butterflies enjoyed visiting the **school library** and choose books to read back in class. The children were challenged to tell their friends what the book they chose was about. It was great to see the children's real interest in a wide range of books they had chosen.

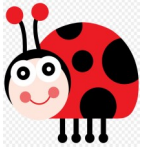
This week in Maths, Butterflies have been developing their **subitizing skills** – this is being able to instantly recognize the number of objects in a small group, without counting. There is an emphasis on learning this skill in the new Early Years Framework (which begins in September). We have been encouraging the children to think about recognizing small groups of objects as it helps them to develop their counting skills and it is very interesting discovering how children see patterns differently.

Our Star of the Week for demonstrating great perseverance with climbing the adventure playground on her own is **Layla-Mae**. Layla- Mae has also been working hard writing her name too. What a super couple of weeks Layla-Mae! Well done to **Thomas and Linda** who are now in the **100 Club** - they are reading the high frequency words to me consistently. Well done to you both!

Some photos from **NSCPCC Number Day**, thank you again for your donations:

Mrs Jeewan and EYFS Team.





Year 1 Update

Ladybirds have been working hard all week both in the classroom and outside. In English they have been learning all about nouns, adjectives and verbs and writing sentences about Traction Man. In Maths we are looking at fractions and finding halves, cutting, folding and sharing things to find a half. Our bean plants are shooting up and this week and we took Science outside to look at all the different trees in our school grounds, their leaf colour and shape and learned the words evergreen and deciduous. 'Topic' took us to the North Pole, learning the story of the explorer Matthew Henson. We also had a special PHSE lesson, thinking about our emotions and ways we can cope when our emotions are overwhelming us.

Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter & Year 1 Team

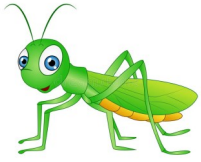


Year 2 Update

Another busy week for Caterpillar Class! We have made friendship bracelets having learnt about the Hindu festival of Rakhi which symbolises tying the knot of love and protection between siblings. The class are rightly proud of their understanding of column addition and we have this week learnt how to use the same skills to subtract— we're really impressed with their progress here! We were also working hard in science, conducting an experiment to see which type of paper was the strongest using weights, plastic bags and paper clips. The children worked carefully and methodically, listening to their partner and writing down their results. We spent time thinking of Matilda and how brave she has been this week. We send all our love and best wishes to Matilda and her family.

Mrs Robinson and Mrs McInnes & Year 2 Team





Year 3 Update

In maths this week, we have started our measurements unit. Year 3 have worked hard ensuring that they are measuring accurately and have even been measuring to the nearest millimetre! They have also done a brilliant job of working out the perimeter of 2D shapes.

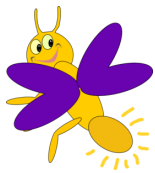
In English, we have been looking at and making predictions around our new book, Stone Age Boy. The children did a fantastic job of looking at sentences from the book before they had seen it and at making predictions based on these.

Grasshoppers have continued to do a great job practising their tennis skills. They worked on a carousel of activities on Thursday afternoon, which included tennis ball 'keepie upies', throwing and hitting practise.



The children have also been listening to folk music and thinking carefully about the different components of this style of music.

Miss Allin & Year 3 Team



Year 4 Update

Well done on another busy week! Throughout this week, I have been so impressed with all of your attitudes and hard work!

During our English lessons, you have worked incredibly hard to vary your sentence starters and to use this skill when describing settings and characters. Next week, we will plan and start our adventure stories- I am already excited to read them.

During our topic work, you all created fantastic Japanese cherry blossom paintings- I was so impressed with the artistic skills you used to create these paintings.

In Science, we have continued to look at building circuits and testing what conducts electricity and what insulates it. You all came up with some fantastic explanations to explain the differences between the two.

Finally, in PSHE, we looked at different scenarios that we may face in life and how we can try our best to cope. Well done this week, *Mr Brown & Year 4 Team*



Year 5 Update



Year 5 began their through the portal stories this week in English, and the ideas they've been coming up with in class have been fantastic! In Maths, they grappled with adding and subtracting time using number lines, which they grasped very well and most moved onto trying time question word problems!

The Bees also took a step outside the classroom this week, with an impromptu trip to Saffron Walden castle to complete a field sketch. This was after learning about the anarchy during the reign of King Stephen, where lords built castles to defend their more important towns (your child can tell you more about all this!).

After having considered the difficulties of storming a castle, the class took on the challenge of creating their own basic...catapult! They used a range of materials to try and make one before following instructions for a more powerful design. We then tested the range and accuracy of our catapults!



Mr Clarke & Year 5 Team



Year 6 Update



This week in maths we have been targeting a wide range of areas including: time, shape, negative numbers, sequencing, division skills as well as continuing to revisit our number and calculation skills. Please use SATS Companion to target these areas at home where possible as this will increase understanding and confidence.

In English, you edited your non-chronological reports, it was really clear where your editing skills have improved and I could see lots of evidence of the key elements to year 6 writing, including: use of pronoun, place and time adverbials, use of modal verbs and evidence of Y5/6 vocabulary. We also did some setting descriptions to develop your use of synonyms and similes. I was so pleased to see how many of you improved on your reading comprehension assessment this week. I know you were proud of yourselves seeing your progress in black and white.

I hope you enjoyed Number day and the number based quiz we did, well done to the two groups that drew on the tie break question!! I also loved seeing how you converted the given numbers into different images in art.

Remember, keep working as hard as you can as we only have one week left until your 'SATS' week.



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



Thu 20th May	-	School Census Day - Special Lunch Menu
Wed 26th May	-	Whole School Danceathon (PTA Event)
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun	-	Half-Term Break
Thu 10th June	-	Class Photos (Kittle Photography)
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