

# St Mary's Newsletter

Summer Term – Friday 7h May 2021

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Website: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk)

**Attendance Weekly - 96.7%**

**Attendance Year - 98.1%**

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

## Head's Lines



### Parent and Carers Survey for 2020 to 2021:

As you will be aware, our governors have just launched our latest **annual Parents and Carers survey** – which this year will be **online on the following link:** <https://schoolwork.space/T/DFj39FmFVOfo2dQumW>

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.

The closing date for this survey is **Friday 21st May**, at which point the Senior Leadership Team, in partnership with our school governors, will carefully analyse the survey results over the next few weeks and we will then respond to the ideas, comments and suggestions that you have raised.

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](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) and we will provide you with a printed copy.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support of the school.

### Phonics resources at St Mary's:

A lot of parents and carers often ask us how they can support their child (or children) with their emerging phonics). Throughout this academic year, Mrs Jeewan, our Phonics Leader and EYFS teacher in Butterfly class, has been developing and improving our school's provision in this area. This week Mrs Jeewan carried out a refresher training session with the teaching staff and she is very eager to share these resources with our parents and carers, so that you can help your children back at home.

If you are interested and would like to support your child with the process of learning their phonics, then please visit our Phonics section on the school website by following this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/st-marys-phonics-page/>



In this section you will find:

- ◆ Our Phonics Mat
- ◆ Phonics flashcards
- ◆ A selection of Phonics videos (produced by Mrs Jeewan and Miss Hunter)
- ◆ An instructional PowerPoint showing how we help our children to learn phonics, including:
- ◆ How phonics are the first steps to reading
- ◆ How phonics link to comprehension and word reading and an explanation of what phonics actually are Graphemes
- ◆ How we engage our pupils to enjoy their phonics
- ◆ How we encourage our children to be independent learners
- ◆ Segmenting and blending
- ◆ Phonics activities to try at home
- ◆ Example phonics lesson routines
- ◆ Useful resources and websites to help you at home
- ◆ Our future plans for phonics and how we will help and support our parents & carers

A big thank you to Mrs Jeewan and all of the staff at St Mary's who work so hard to teach this valuable part of the curriculum and our parents and carers for your continued support!

Please do let us know if you would like any more information from the school, so that you can help to support your child whilst learning their phonics when at home.

Have a great weekend.

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

*Headteacher at St Mary's*



## **Mental Health Awareness Week - 10th – 16th May**

Mental Health Awareness Week takes place next week, the theme this year is nature and the environment. There's a lot of good research to support the role nature can play in

protecting and supporting our mental health. For many of us though, 'being in nature' may not be as easy as it sounds. The good news is, you don't have to climb a mountain to feel the benefit – there are lots of simple ways to bring nature into your everyday.

For further details or to download a free Nature Pack visit [www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

*Joanna Crocker*

*Welfare and Support Officer*



# Stars of the Week



**Year 2 - Vivien** for awesome writing



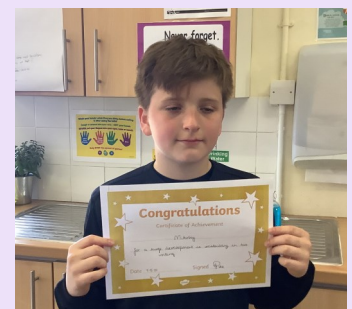
**Year 3 - Lena** for excellent independent writing this week.



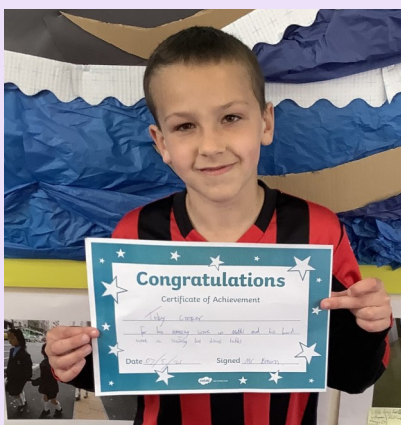
**Year 1 - Blossom** for participating so enthusiastically in class discussions



**Year 5 - Maria** for starting to use dashes to correctly extend sentences – Instead of commas



**Year 6 - Mikolaj** for amazing development in his use of vocabulary



**Year 4 - Toby** for his amazing work in maths and his hard work in learning his times tables.

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

## Reception Class Update



Butterflies had a lovely NSPCC Number today and enjoyed a wide range of number and maths activities to extend their learning. Thank you again for all of your donations and support. (Photos to follow next week)

This week the children have been developing their gross motor skills and travelling 'Around the World with Piggy Wiggy'. The children are relishing looking up the different countries from our stories and especially those that Piggy Wiggy has visited, and discovering what similarities and differences you may notice in these countries. It has been very nice to virtually visit different countries! The children used Google Earth to find these countries to using the interactive whiteboard.

In Maths, the children enjoyed reading and counting with Piggy Wiggy, who was making a cake and he needed their help to count out and measure his ingredients. Butterflies then had to make their own salt dough, following the word and pictorial instruction cards and working together as a team. The children needed to find the resources to measure the items and check how much water, flour and salt they needed. Butterfly rocket groups then added the correct rocket colour using food colouring. The children were then free to use their imagination to manipulate their salt dough to make creations, here are some of them:



Well done to **Chloe** who is the first Reception child this year to join the **100 Club**! Chloe can consistently read at least 100 of the first set of 100 High Frequency Words – an amazing achievement and perseverance at your reading skills, Chloe. There are a few more children that are very close, so keep on reading and who will be in the 100 Club next?



**Stars of the Week** – Well done to both **Edith and Maisie** for always giving excellent effort and wonderful behaviour.

*Mrs Jeewan and EYFS Team.*



## Year 1 Update

Ladybirds have been enjoying the adventures of Traction Man by Mini Grey in English this week, making predictions and describing the characters. In Maths we have been finishing our Multiplication and Division topic, thinking about how we can share objects into groups. Topic this week has focussed on explorers, what do they do, where do they go, what do they need to take on an adventure. We are all looking forward to Number Day on Friday, when our focus will be on Maths and using our mathematical skills.

**Star of the Week - Gavin** for a fantastic attitude to school, working hard and being a considerate classmate.

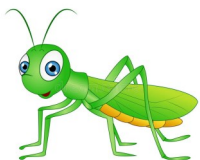
*Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter & Year 1 Team*



## Year 2 Update

What a surprise we had on Tuesday morning when we came back into the classroom—the caterpillars had finally spun their chrysalises! We look forward to seeing the beautiful butterflies emerge over the next few weeks... The children are really enjoying our materials unit in Science—we played a fun game this week using our great questioning skills to work out which material was stuck on our back and next week we will be carrying out an experiment testing the strength of paper. Keep practising those exception words that have come home this week and read every day with your child. The children are also learning how to use persuasive language—you may find they try to persuade you to let them stay up before bed for five more minutes!

*Mrs Robinson and Mrs McInnes & Year 2 Team*



## Year 3 Update

Year 3 have continued to work hard this week at revising their knowledge of fractions. They have been adding and subtracting fractions with common denominators and have also been problem solving using fractions.

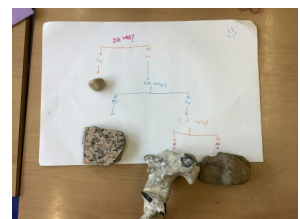
In English, the children have written their persuasive letters to Mr Boggington to convince him to change his plans to build a pickled onion factory on our playing field. They have done a fantastic job of using emotive language and persuasive sentence openers and I am certain that they will have changed Mr Boggington's mind and saved the meadow!

Year 3 have been practising their tennis skills this week, carrying out activities to work on their racket skills and control. In French, Grasshoppers have been learning the days of the week.

We have continued to look at rocks in our science lessons, with Year 3 using their organising and classifying skills to create flow charts to organise the rock selection they had. The children thought carefully about what questions they could use to distinguish between the rocks.

Well done for your hard work this weekend and have lovely weekend!

*Miss Allin & Year 3 Team*





Fireflies,

## Year 4 Update

Wow! Another week has flown by. We have looked at solving area and perimeter-based questions during this week and what the formula is to work these types of questions out. We have also focused on our arithmetic skills and built the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) into parts of our lessons. During our times table sessions, I have been so impressed with the improvements all children are making and I hope this continues!

During our English lessons, the pupils have looked at the key features of an adventure story by analysing both the structural elements and the essential SPaG features of this type of text. Over the next few weeks, we will focus on writing an adventure story based on the Samurai of Japan!

Finally, in PSHE, we focused on the challenges we face in life and how we can support each other.

Have a great weekend,

*Mr Brown & Year 4 Team*

## Year 5 Update



Bees ended the week with another hard fitness session—we can see the improvement in their stamina already! During these sessions, we've been learning how to warm up and warm down as well as how to breathe during exercise.

In class, Year 5 began thinking about how to introduce a character to the reader and what is needed to create a compelling character that readers want to root for! The starts of their Through the Portal stories display this already. In Maths, they've completed learning everything they will come across in KS2 arithmetic by turning their hand to dividing fractions by whole numbers.

The class enjoyed lots of other lessons this week, including Science, where they carried out an investigation to learn how and why dissolving works; History, where they learnt about how the market came to Saffron Walden and why it made the town so important; and Computing, where they finally got started on writing some HTML code for a website!

*Mr Clarke & Year 5 Team*



## Year 6 Update

Another busy week this week. In maths, we have continued to go over key gaps in learning and areas to practise further, specifically multiplying and dividing fractions—including mixed numbers, we have also finished some maths assessments. Please use SATS Companion to target these areas at home where possible as this will increase understanding and confidence.

In English, you have worked so hard on your non-chronological reports, your use of vocabulary is amazing! It was also great to see your use of pronouns, modal verbs, time & place adverbials and punctuation really shine in this piece of writing. You should all be really proud of what you produced! Instruction writing next.

Using your block prints we photocopied them so you had 3 versions to work with. We kept one the same to show the original print, the next one we used handwriting pens to highlight the detail that was lost in the printing process. Finally, with the third print, we used paint to add colour and detail. The final pieces of art were fantastic! The whole process worked even better than I imagined and all of you produced gallery worthy art!

Your attitude towards swimming has been great, I know lots of you were nervous but you have embraced the sessions and it is really nice to see you enjoying yourselves. The staff at the Leisure Centre commented on how polite and well-behaved you are, which I am very proud of.

Remember, keep working as hard as you can as we are so close to the end of all these target groups, tests and 'SATS' stuff and you will have the chance to show off all you have worked so hard for.

*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.



## COVID-19 Testing

There are different tests you can get to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19). The test you need depends on why you're getting tested.

The 2 main tests are:

- **PCR tests** – mainly for people with symptoms, they're sent to a lab to be checked
- **Rapid lateral flow tests** – only for people who do not have symptoms, they give a result in 30 minutes using a device similar to a pregnancy test  
Both tests are free.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19

Get a **PCR test** as soon as possible if you have any of these symptoms:

- a high temperature
  - a new, continuous cough
  - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- You and anyone you live with should stay at home until you get your test result. Only leave your home to have a test.**

Anyone in your childcare or support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



## Diary Dates

Mon 10th - Sun 16th May	-	Mental Health Awareness Week
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

