

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 16th April 2021

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly - 98.5%

Attendance Year - 97.9%

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

Dear parents and carers and friends of the school,

A warm welcome back to all of our St Mary's families after the Easter break! Its lovely also to see that the weather is steadily improving as Spring gets into full swing! I must say that it certainly makes standing at the school gates in the mornings even more enjoyable!

Red Nose Day:

I would like to start off by saying a big well done to all of our families for helping to raise an impressive £163.09 from Red Nose Day (which as you know happened just before Easter). I know that the children really enjoyed dressing up in their red clothes to mark the 'Superheroes' theme and I am sure that you all enjoyed the lovely photographs in our last newsletter!



Big Pedal Initiative on Tuesday 20th April:

Get set... GO! We at St Mary's are choosing to take part in this fun and important challenge on **Tuesday 20th April** and we want to try and get as many staff and children to take part! Sustrans Big Pedal Initiative 2021, is the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge.

What is lovely about this challenge is that it's free and we would love **everyone** to be involved. All you need to do is encourage your child(ren) to take active journeys to school and... better still... you can join them on their way. Or, if your child(ren) are learning from home, take active journeys from home with them or encourage them to do physical activity on as many days as possible instead.

Please keep an eye out for the information that has been emailed to parents and carers today with further information about this. It would be really lovely if as many pupils and their families could join in with this as possible! If you would like to share photos in next week's newsletter, please email them to Sonya on admin@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk by Wed 21st April.

Health School's Mark:

Congratulations to Mrs McInnes (our PE & Sports Leader) who successfully re-applied for our Healthy Schools Mark just before Easter. The assessor noted that there have been a number of improvements shown since the last award and the school has now be re-accredited with this important award for a further two academic years.



Support for the community:

A HUGE well done to **Lana** (in our Busybees class) who has been clearly extremely busy helping people in the local community! Lana, who you may well be aware was recently featured in the Saffron Walden Reporter over Easter, for organising an Easter egg hunt and she raised an amazing £258. Lana has now thoughtfully used this money to help homeless people by delivering them a week's shopping with the monies raised.



Well done Lana – definitely a brilliant example of a St Mary's Shining Light!

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's

Key stage two football competition!

Before Easter break, the sports ambassadors set up a football competition for KS2. This event took place on the bottom meadow.

Each year group had a time limit of 10 minutes to score as many goals as they could. Each year group was split into two groups.

On day One, we asked Year 6 if they would like to compete in a football event. They all loved the idea so we got to work. We told them to split into two groups (girls and boys). They got 77 goals altogether. The next day, we did Year 5 and they scored 56 goals.

The last day we did Year 3 and Year 4. Year 4 persevered very well as they got an amazing score of 74 whilst Year 3 scored 68.

Every year group did amazingly!

The winning class got half an hour on the adventure playground.

The class that won was year six, with the score of 77! Year five scored 56 goals. Year four scored 68. Year three scored 73, amazing!

Article written by the Sports Ambassadors





Computing & Safeguarding advice

Children may not feel they can tell you if something goes wrong online, leaving them scared, vulnerable and isolated. Many children report that they are scared their technology will be taken away from them if they share distressing online experiences. Many also report they would feel 'scared' or 'ashamed' to share with an adult at home.

It is important to discuss how your child feels about telling you if something goes wrong online. If your child feels comfortable then you will be able to help them if something goes wrong in the future. For more information on how to talk to your child about the online world please visit the following website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/> or speak to your class teacher.



Starting a conversation about online safety

It can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online or who they might be speaking to. But talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you. It can help to:

- reassure them that you're interested in their life, offline and online. Recognise that they'll be using the internet to research homework as well talking to their friends.
- ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or apps they're using so you can understand them.

be positive but also open about anything you're worried about. You could say "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here."

- ask them if they're worried about anything, and let them know they can come to you.
- ask them about their friends online and how they know they are who they say they are.
- listen for the reasons why your child wants to use apps or site you don't think are suitable, so you can talk about these together.
- ask your child what they think's okay for children of different ages so they feel involved in the decision making.

Worried about a child?

If you're worried about something a child or young person may have experienced online, you can contact the NSPCC helpline for free support and advice. Call us on **0808 800 5000** or [contact us online](#).

Children can contact [Childline](#) any time to get support themselves.
Get Support!

Mrs Jo Crocker
Welfare & Support Officer





SILLY SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

Tue 13th April



The children really enjoyed the opportunity to meet **Doctor Silly Billy** when he visited the school on Tuesday! Doctor Silly Billy carried out some fun experiments to spark the children's interest in science, explaining what was happening as he carried out his explosive experiments.

Here are some of the **children's feedback** about Dr Silly Billy's experiments and what they learnt:

Bailey in Reception said ' I liked the coke one (experiment). It sprayed everywhere! He put Mentos in the coke and it fizzed up out and sprayed out and it nearly got some of the kids! I thought that with the fire one it would burn Becky's fingers off as you can burn through gloves but he did it ok and knew what to do. He pretended his brain was in a jar but it was just an egg! He was called Silly Billy because he did Silly Billy things!'

Teddy in Year 1 said 'We saw explosions inside and outside with coke. It was funny because Silly Billy was trying to make us wet. We learnt about so many things like fire and air.'

Toby in Year 2 explained 'I really liked the part when I had a flame on my hand. It was like I had magic powers with fire in my hand. I learnt that you must not play with fire or with it at home but you can try other small experiments like the air in the bottle one. We did try this at home but it didn't work. He said if you make a fire you need something hot, something to burn and oxygen. I learnt that to put it out you need to put it upside down to trap the oxygen from getting in. I like science a lot. I think I want to be a scientist when I am older. You have to listen a lot and keep on persevering and trying with safe experiments. My grandma and grandpa are scientists.'

Abigail in Year 3 said 'I think it was really funny. I quite liked the coke fountain experiment and it was really cool when he set fire to someone's hand! He trapped my best friend in a bubble too! We learnt about our brains, that there is special electricity that helps move our bones and we learnt that science can be fun but can be dangerous.' Well done to Year 3 for some super evaluations of Silly Science.

Lilly in Year 4 reported 'I really liked it. It was about explosions and I learnt about the pressure of air. Air was trapped inside a pot with the fire inside it. It was metal and the heat expands it'.

Kieran in Year 5 said 'I had to balance a cup on my head and then the scientist used an air gun to blow the cup off my head. This shows that air can move things.'

Faye in Year 6 commented 'Silly Science was really good. I got chosen to hold the fire experiment, with goggles and glasses on, he lit the cotton wool that had something you can ignite on it and it caused the flames to shoot up in a fire and then disappeared. I liked when a little pot was on the table and it had been shook up and left then it bounced up off the ceiling! I learnt how the bubbles take up the space in the pot and push them up and get rid of the air inside the pot there was no where else for it to go so it pushed the lid off'.

Some super responses from just a few of our children. Well done to all the children that bravely volunteered to take part in some of the experiments!

Mrs Jeewan, Science Lead.





Stars of the Week



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



Reception Class Update



Well, we have had a wonderful first week back after Easter. Butterflies have come back to school calm and ready to listen and learn.

The children have been very busy and activities have included the very fun and informative Silly Science workshop; enjoying Forest School in the sun; developing conservation of number skills with a range of fun **Maths Stories**; and beginning our '**Around the World**' Topic looking at maps, multicultural atlas and globes, and discovering all the different places in the World we and our families live or originate from.

This has been really interesting and many thanks to all the parents who have shared details of their families for us to share with the children. If you have any items that the children can bring in for Show and Tell that would be great or if you would like to say a bit more about another country please let me know.

In our **Silly Science workshop** Dr Silly Billy taught us so much about science. Professor Silly Billy explained how we use our brains, how brains are protected like an egg in a jar of water...then we looked at fire and we got to see it on cotton wool in brave Becky's hand!...how air is trapped in bubbles that are floating....and in the bubbles that went around Joseph and Isla, and how air moves things...including a plastic beaker off brave Bobbie's head! We then went to see a big fizz experiment outside! The children had great fun and learnt lots about how to be safe and have fun with science.

We have also welcomed Charlotte to our class who is making friends already. Butterflies you have been real super stars demonstrating your best behavior and being so kind and friendly. We are very proud of you all!

Mrs Jeewan and EYFS Team.

Well done **Charlotte**, you are our **Star of the Week** for settling in to Butterfly class and for a wonderful first week in St Mary's!

Year 1 Update



Ladybirds have returned to Summer term raring to go! This term's topic will be 'Adventure into the unknown..'. We will be finding out about different countries around the world and some of the people from the past who have explored it. In English we have begun reading Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett and learning about the adventures of Sonny the meerkat. In Maths we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s both in the classroom and outdoors. We have been turning our hands to weaving in Art and looking at the wild flowers and plants that grow in our local environment in Science. Highlight of the week was the Silly Science workshop, which got us all excited about developing our scientific skill set. A promising start to the new term! Well done Year 1!

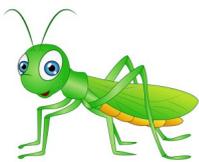
Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter

Well done to our **Stars of the Week** - Shining Lights - **Claudia** and **Blossom** for a positive attitude to their learning



Year 2 Update

Our Caterpillars have returned to school full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. We started the week off with the fantastic Dr Silly Billy who packed 45 minutes full of laughter, practical learning and science –filled fun. The children loved witnessing how the brain is protected using an egg, the nature of air, what you need to make fire and finished off with some explosive action! We have enjoyed starting a new English topic Quests! and have begun to think about quest stories we know. Our new topic about holidays is very popular. It would be very helpful if you could send in any photos of your child at the seaside, or even better, old snaps of you and grandparents so we can compare these with holidays today.



Year 3 Update

Year 3 have had a very busy week back after the Easter break. On Tuesday, they loved taking part in the Silly Science Workshop. It involved being trapped in bubbles, holding fire and watching coke explode into the air on the playground! Year 3 carried out their own science experiments on Wednesday too. We used chocolate to show the different rock types: sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous. They were slightly disappointed that they weren't allowed to eat any though!

The Grasshoppers have worked hard in English this week, carrying out their own research into our new topic: Stone Age to Iron Age. They have worked in a fantastic, mature manner and have been super independent with their research and planning.

Year 3 also enjoyed a football workshop on Thursday morning where they were able to practise their dribbling and passing skills.

Well done for all your hard work this week! *Miss Allin*





Year 4 Update

This week has been a hectic first week back! Throughout this week, Year 4 have been working hard on all of our topics.

Firstly, we were fortunate to welcome a visitor into the school who did some fantastic 'Silly Science' experiments with the pupils. The pupils conducted and watched lots of amazing experiments involving bubbles and even fire!

In our maths lessons, the pupils have been working very hard to add and subtract fractions. I have been so impressed with their continued development of this topic, and they even managed to add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

During our English lessons, we have started to look at instructions. We have looked at the different instructions and how they are used in lots of different text types. The pupils also found the critical Grammar and punctuation we will include in our piece of writing.

Finally, we have continued to look at our topic of Japan; we have looked at different Japanese dances styles, and the pupils recreated this in the lesson!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Brown



Year 5 Update

Bees have come back to a jam-packed week! They kicked off the term with one of their new PSHE sessions and a visit from a scientist, who showed them various amazing experiments! The children were also visited this week by a football coach who taught them all different skills in futsal.

It's been great to see that the children have begun to really embed their fractions skills, particularly adding and subtracting fractions that in mixed number or improper fraction form (as well as converting between the two). They've also launched into our topic, starting with the Norman Conquest of Britain - ask your child who they believe had the best claim to the throne in 1066!

Well done on the first week back and we'll see you on Monday (quick reminder that our Wednesday PE session has moved to Monday for the next six weeks). *Mr Clarke*





Year 6 Update

A great first week back Y6! I hope you all had a restful and fun Easter holidays. As always, you have come back in with a great attitude to learning and ready for your last full term at St Mary's! I can already see that you are retaining the skills we have revisited in our SPaG & maths groups. Although algebra has been quite tricky this week, you have amazed me with how well you have understood each element, especially today when you had to create your own formulae.

In English, I loved seeing how creative you were when imagining your own mythical creatures and your vocabulary choices were a really good start! I look forward to learning more about these creations.

It was great to have 'Silly Science' in on Wednesday—moving objects with static electricity, blowing up pots and setting fire to different materials! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. It was also great to start the 10 week iHeart programme with Nerys & Steve. You were so well behaved and thoughtful with your responses and I hope that you can take away lots of methods to support your mental health in the future.

Lastly, it was great to have the visitors in to enhance your football skills and enjoy a bit of a competition. I hope you enjoyed this session.

As we head into our final half term before SATS (we are going to have our own unofficial SATS because you have worked SO hard at the end of this half term) we will be revisiting all areas of maths, SPaG and showing off your skills in writing as well as finishing our Natural Disasters topic. You will also be starting swimming next week! *Mr Pike*

Diary Dates



Tue 20th April	-	Big Pedal Challenge - Cycle, Walk, Scoot to school After School Clubs Commence (3.25pm-4.15pm)
Mon 3rd May	-	Bank Holiday- School Closed
Thu 20th May	-	School Census Day - Special Lunch Menu
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun	-	Half-Term Break
Thu 10th June	-	Class Photos (Kittle Photography)
Friday 25th June	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Mon 5th July	-	Parent Consultations 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



Reminder - After School Clubs start next week