

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 24th March 2023

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 97.7%

Attendance Year 94.3%



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

Friendship

Trust

Truthfulness

Compassion

Perseverance

Respect

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Welcome to the Week 10 Spring Term newsletter! It has been an extremely busy week here at St Mary's—particularly sporting and activity-wise! During Monday's assembly, **Gareth Williams, ECB Coach** from Saffron Walden Cricket Club, came in school to share a promotional video and his love of cricket, as well as to share information about their **Open Day on Saturday 22nd April**, which takes place between 10am and 2pm (leaflets will be coming home in children's bookbags). This week has also been the **Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel** and it has been so fantastic to see so many children walking, skipping, jogging, scooting and bike-riding to school. As I am sure you will all agree increasing the amount of physical activity that the children take part in is so good for their overall health, as well as their mental wellbeing and not forgetting the environment—with a lot less car journeys taking place on our local roads being very evident this week. Please note that the points awarded for this event are being totted up and will be shared in next week's newsletter!

It has also been great to see the children coming into school wearing their coloured house t-shirts for our **Inter-house Tag Rugby Competition** (on Thursday) and **Inter-house Fun Run** on Friday. The children had so much fun putting into practice all of their tag-rugby skills, showing noticeable progression in their throwing, catching and tagging—and most importantly—working together as a team. The behaviour and attitude of all of the children who took part was exemplary as was their sportsmanship—something we talked about before the tournament started. We will announce the results in next week's newsletter and you can see some more photos of both events later in this edition.



During the Fun Run all the children were being very active running to music, having fun taking part and completing as many laps as possible to gain house points.



Thank you to Miss Driscoll (our Sports Coach) for all of her hard work in organising and running both Inter-house events and also to Mrs McInnes (our PE Leader) for organising and promoting the Sustrans Big Wheel event here at St Mary's.

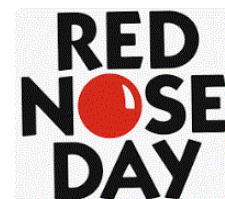
Next week, I am looking forward to the Year 3 and Year 4 Parent/Carer Presentations, which take place on Tuesday 28th March and Wednesday 29th (both at 9am in the school hall). Both of these events are an excellent opportunity for our pupils to practice their speaking and listening skills whilst they are proudly sharing work with their parents, carers and friends of the school. I look forward to sharing in this brilliant work.

Also, don't forget our ever-important **Diary Dates** which are on the last page of this newsletter! As you will know there is only one week to go, but lots to cram in!

Finally, don't forget to check out this week's **Class Updates** (which as you know comes out as a separate document) with information and photos of our pupils enjoying their learning in class, as well as sharing some of the lessons they have been engaging in for British Science Week.

Red Nose Day:

I am delighted to report that the school raised £154.40 from last week's important fundraising event and the money that was shared will go to good causes. Well done to the School Council for organising this and thanks to everyone who took part.

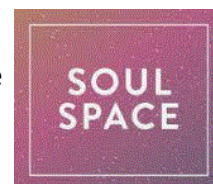


Soul Stations at St Mary's Church

On Monday this week every class in the school visited St Mary's Church to take part in a new initiative called Soul Spaces which was led by KT Haynes (from the Stort Valley Trust) and Matt Williamson (St Mary's Youth and Children's Leader) and the Key Stage 2 Worship Council who led the groups through their different activities. Through these sessions, our pupils considered elements relating to the Easter story, these included gratitude, fairness, giving over fears, as well as worries and wonder.

The overall aim of these Soul Spaces sessions was to provide a designated themed space where students (and staff) can pause for quiet, mindfulness to reflect on their own lives & the wider world from a spiritual perspective.

They offer a place of intentional crafted activities with the intention of broadening understanding of prayer, pause and reflection.



Soul Spaces should be:

Inclusive: hospitable & welcoming to people of any faith or none, whatever their beliefs or cultural backgrounds.

Reflective: providing an opportunity for people to stop, think & ask questions about their lives, their experiences, their beliefs, and their relationships, and to learn from this reflection.

Creative: the space will occasionally include a variety of innovative and imaginative activities to enable people to reflect, think or pray and to express their own responses in different ways.

Accessible: to provide for a variety of learning styles and be accessible, with appropriate support, for all.

Safe: The Soul Space will be set up to ensure that students feel safe and are effectively protected from harm.

I would like to extend my thanks to both KT and Matt as well as the St Mary's Worship Council for doing such a great job on the day of ensuring each class had a really enriching and thought-provoking experience.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher of St Mary's Church of England Primary school, Saffron Walden



Inter House Sports At St Mary's



KS2 Tag Rugby



**Whole School
Fun Run**



Roblox has been a major hit with children worldwide, even though it is an odd-looking and often confusing game. It is a popular topic for the children in EYFS and KS1 at the moment. There are many Roblox rumours, fake scare stories, and incorrect advice on the internet and in the newspapers. However, children can play it safely and enjoyably with little supervision and understanding. Below is a link to help you understand what makes Roblox so popular and how to ensure your children stay safe whilst playing.

www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/



Eco-Garden update:



You will be excited to hear that plans are moving ahead with our wonderful Eco-garden project. Last week Mrs McInnes and the eco committee met with representatives from Gardena who are working with Stansted airport to support schools in the next stage of the project. They looked at the area with us and gave some advice on next steps as well as ideas for the final design and how to implement this. With this in mind, we will be clearing the area over the Easter holidays and would love some help - it won't take long with a group of us and may require a trip or two to the recycling centre. We will be there on **Monday 3rd April from 10.30am**. Please let us know if you could come along to help - we would certainly hope to see as many eco committee members (with any other family) as possible. Mrs McInnes will provide some chocolate splodge cake for sustenance! We would also be interested in anyone who works for garden centres as we will be looking to purchase lots of equipment/plants/ a polytunnel etc. Also anyone with gardening experience who would like to be involved. Thanks!

**WE ARE
HERE TO
HELP**



SWCC COMMUNITY SUPPORT HELPLINE

**When life gets tough, it can be
difficult to know where to turn**

Saffron Walden Community Church now has a dedicated email helpline for anyone trying to navigate their way through challenging times.

If you're trying to find the right support, food, clothing or other items, or want to find ways to get out of the house and meet people without breaking the bank, please get in touch and we will do all we can to point you in the right direction.

HELPLINE@WALDENCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSIONS

Drop in sessions held once a month around the Uttlesford District, support and advice offered by a School Nurse and the 5-19 Healthy Family Support Practitioner.

Parents can ask advice about behaviour and emotional needs, bed wetting and soiling issues plus other health needs that may be impacting on both home and school life.

4.4.23

Saffron Walden Hospital Clinic Room in Outpatient Department

15.30- 17.00

2.5.23

Spangles Family Hub, Peter Kirk Centre, St John's Rd, Stansted Mountfitchet, Stansted CM24 8JP

location Main Hall

15.30 _ 17.00hrs

6.6.23

Saffron Walden Hospital Clinic Room in Outpatient Department

15.30- 17.00

4.7.23

Spangles Family Hub, Peter Kirk Centre, St John's Rd, Stansted Mountfitchet, Stansted CM24 8JP

location Main Hall

15.30 _ 17.00hrs





**Tickets
From £12**



DINOSAUR ROADSHOW

Saturday 22nd April 2023

SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN HALL

Sessions:

11am-1pm

&

2pm-4pm



For more details please
email: hello@kcuk.org.uk

11:00am



Buy Tickets Online at:

tinyurl.com/dino11am

tinyurl.com/dino2pm

2:00pm



Diary Dates



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Monday 20th March | - | Soul Stations (for each class held in St Mary's Church) |
| Monday 20th—24th March | - | Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel |
| Thursday 23rd March | - | Inter House Tag rugby KS2 |
| Friday 24th March | - | Year 1 Dance Festival |
| | - | Inter-house running event |
| Tuesday 28th March | - | Year 3 Parent/Carers Presentation at 9am |
| Tuesday 28th March | | Saffron Walden Museum visit—Reception |
| Wednesday 29th March | - | Year 4 Parent/Carers Presentation at 9am |
| | - | Year 6 Dance Show at Saffron Hall (4.15pm-6pm) |
| | - | PTA event Bunny Hop Bounce |
| Thursday 30th March | - | Easter Service in St Mary's Church 10.00am (all parents/ carers welcome) |
| Friday 31st March | - | Last day of Spring term—1.30pm finish |
| Monday 3rd April to
Monday 17th April | - | Easter break |
| Monday 17th April | - | Teaching staff INSET Day |
| Tuesday 18th April | | Term commences for pupils |

** new or amended items added are in blue*

