

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 10th March 2023

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: [info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk)

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

Attendance Weekly 93.7%

Attendance Year 94.2%



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

**Friendship**

**Trust**

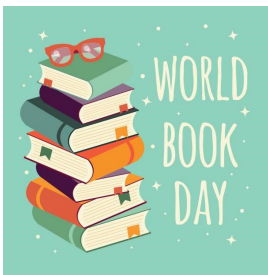
**Truthfulness**

**Compassion**

**Perseverance**

**Respect**

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,



## World Book Day

The week started with St Mary's very own World Book Day celebrations. Our pupils came into school wearing a wide variety of creative book or character themed costumes. Some pupils in Year 6 even organised themselves as different characters from the Mr Men series of books and they looked brilliant! Mr Brown had also organised Ali from the **West End in Schools dance company** to come into St Mary's to deliver a

**Bringing Books to Life dance workshop** with every class. For Key Stage 1 and Early Years pupils they used the text **How to Catch a Star** as their stimulus. For Key Stage 2 pupils **Where the Wild Things Are** was used. One teacher even gave the following feedback: 'Ali was fantastic. It was a great mix of storytelling, music, drama and movement. The children were really engaged throughout and I was amazed at how much they learnt in 35 minutes! The end result was really impressive and the children were so proud of their achievements. We should definitely consider using them again in the future.' Wow what amazing feedback!

The pupils and staff clearly had a fun filled day which also reminded everyone of the importance of books and how reading can provide so much knowledge and enjoyment! As ever, thank you so much for your help providing costumes—as a parent myself I completely recognise the challenges of finding different costumes for your children each year, especially when they seem to grow so quickly! Please be rest assured that they thoroughly enjoy these dress up days and will have life-long memories of these types of events! **Please see the Class Updates (separate document) for more World Book Day pictures.**



## Easter Camp

Just a reminder that we are proposing to host an Easter Camp during the holidays from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th April which is open to all year groups from Reception to Year 6. The day will run from 9.00 am until 3.00 pm and will be £25 per child per day. The children will be required to bring a packed lunch and water bottle. Every day will be filled with fun and enjoyable activities for your child. These will include crafts, sports, music and much more! The club will be run by school staff. Unfortunately, due to staffing limitations we are unable to guarantee one to one support for children that may need it. If you believe your child will require one to one support and interested in a place, please email

the School Office on [info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) prior to booking a place. At this stage we are looking to see if there is enough interest and please note we will only be able to run the camp if enough children sign up. Please also fill in a separate form for each child you may have at the school. **Please submit your replies by Monday 13th March at 12 noon. Please also note, that to allow us to be able to offer this camp, we will need a certain number of confirmed bookings by the closing date on Monday.**



### **EASTER SPONSORED PTA FUNDRAISER**

On Weds 29th March, the children of St Mary's Primary School are going to be doing a sponsored 'Easter Hop -Obstacle Course'. They will complete as many laps as they can in the allocated time given for each class, to raise as much money as they can for their school. They'll tackle the Easter themed obstacles along the way, featuring Space Hopper Bunnies, Hop the Hurdles, and the Hot Cross Run, then test their balancing skills with an Egg & Spoon race to finish.

We encourage all children to wear bright coloured sportswear for school on this day, (Weds 29th March) and if they'd like to wear bunny ears, Easter themed fancy dress or face paint, this would add to the fun! The PTA will ensure all children that complete the challenge, bring home a lovely Easter treat. How eggs-citing!! :) Sponsor forms will come home with the children, but if you'd like to donate / sponsor online, please use this Go-FundMe link <https://gofund.me/8df5a9aa>

The school PTA funds raised, will buy some much needed bikes, trikes and balance bikes and some fresh reading material for the library, so all the children will benefit. Every penny goes back into the school, so please do sponsor your child, children, friends or grandchildren to support them.

St Mary's PTA (and everyone here at St Mary's) will be so very grateful for any sponsorship. Thank you!

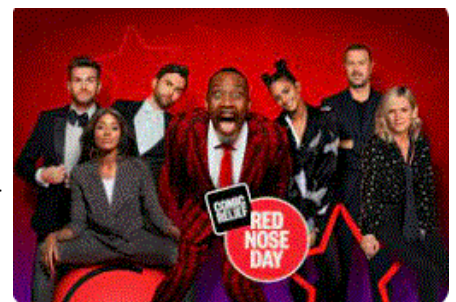
### **Important information - Term time holidays**

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays. We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court. If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents/carers could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

If you need to book a holiday (for this year, or upcoming years) please take a look at our Term Dates, which are available for this academic year (2022-2023), as well as 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. You can find these on the school website by following this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/school-opening-hours-term-dates/> If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### **Red Nose Day—Friday 17th November**

Next Friday is Red Nose Day and will be a designated School Council Fundraising event. If you would like to participate on Red Nose Day, please give a voluntary donation of £1 and wear something red! Buckets will be available in classrooms and on the school gates! Later in the newsletter you will find a poster, which has been created by the School Council.



As ever, please don't forget to check out our Diary Dates (at the end of this newsletter) as well as our weekly Class Updates (available separately) where you can find out what our pupils have been learning about in school during this week.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

*Mr C. D. Jarmain*

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

## Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

Get set... we're taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2023 the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 20th - 31st March and **St Mary's will be logging all of our journeys from 20th- 24th March.** It's free and we would love everyone to be involved.

### What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

### Including everyone

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel.

We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. If you want to discuss more about your child (ren)'s specific needs, please contact the office and we will make sure to look into how your child(ren) can take part..

### Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels.

Plus there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

### Useful resources

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school.

They also highly recommend that you make sure your bikes and scooters are safe and road ready for the challenge by watching these handy videos:

Bikes:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qtx60bcNk0>

Scooters:- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwQL\\_iorrAg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwQL_iorrAg)

Download your free family guide using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/>

For more information about the event go to [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk) . Please help us get involved in this challenge which is so good for our minds, bodies and our planet! Send any photos of you in action walking/biking/scooting into the office that week.



Families in Focus will be joining PACT for benefits and education questions.

Parents and Carers are welcome, they support the Neurodiverse community, your child or young person doesn't need a diagnosis for you to attend our sessions.

16th March - 9.15 - 10.30 at Saffron Walden Golf club, Windmill Hill, Saffron, Walden, Essex, CB10 1BX

## Online Safety



The Internet can be a great place for children and young people to play, learn and connect. But it can also put them at risk of online abuse. 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 them on **0808 800 5000** or contact them online: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

If you are worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating then please contact CEOP – Child exploitation and online protection organisation [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/)

Friday 17th March

2023

**RED  
NOSE  
DAY**

This event is  
brought to  
you by school  
council

**Wear red for red nose  
day!**

**£1**



# BIG WALK AND WHEEL

20th—24th March 2023

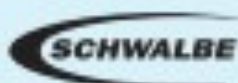
Discover how you can  
change your world by  
changing your journey

- ✓ Be active and feel more energised
- ✓ Help the environment by replacing a car journey
- ✓ Help your school win some fantastic prizes

Are you taking part  
in the UK's biggest walking, wheeling,  
scouting and cycling to school competition?

[www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk](http://www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk)

Headline sponsor:



Sustrans is a registered charity no. 101194 (England and Wales) 101194 (Scotland, NI & Northern Ireland)

**sustrans**  
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

# Diary Dates



- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Monday 6th March                         | - | World Book Day Workshop  |
| <i>Monday 13th-17th March</i>            | - | <i>Science Week at St Mary's</i>   |
| <i>Friday 17th March</i>                 | - | <i>School Council Fundraiser for Comic Relief</i>                        |
| <i>Thursday 23rd March</i>               | - | <i>Inter House Tag rugby KS2</i>   |
| <i>Monday 20th March</i>                 | - | <i>Soul Stations (for each class in St Mary's Church)</i>                |
| <i>Monday 20th—24th March</i>            | - | <i>Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel</i>                                       |
| <i>Friday 24th March</i>                 | - | <i>Year 1 Dance Festival</i>   |
|  | - | <i>Inter-house running event</i>   |
| Tuesday 28th March                       |   | Saffron Walden Museum visit—Reception                                    |
| <i>Wednesday 29th March</i>              | - | <i>PTA event Bunny Hop Bounce</i>  |
| 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<br>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*

