

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 10th February 2023

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance Weekly - 95 %

Attendance Year - 94 %

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,

Energy Efficiency Grant - Fantastic News!

I would like to start this week's newsletter off with some **fantastic news!** A week ago St Mary's found out that we have been successful in receiving a significant amount of funding following a Heat Decarbonisation bid, which the school submitted over a year ago. This tender was submitted to a company called Salix, who are acting on behalf of the Government and was for significant works to take place to our school building to improve its energy efficiency and therefore its 'Carbon Footprint' - which will also reduce our annual energy bills—which in the current climate (if you pardon the pun!) will be particularly beneficial.

The work behind the scenes started nearly 3 years ago and included site visits to the school by teams of engineers and other specialists to examine the 'fabric' of our school, including our heat and lighting systems and how our school is insulated; they also looked at our current costs and how potential energy efficiency works could help our school in the future.

So... what does this planned work involve?

The work that the school has received this financial support to complete will involve the following work to the school building:

- ◆ **Replacing our old gas boilers and replacing them with Air Source Heat Pumps;**
- ◆ **Installing Solar Panels to our school roof areas;**
- ◆ **Replacing all of our old fluorescent strip lighting to LED energy efficient lights;**
- ◆ **Installing an insulated ceiling system to a large number of the classrooms in the original Victorian part of the school building.**

Therefore, I am delighted to announce that the Government (Salix) are going to be providing us with just over £164,000 towards these developments; the Diocese (as we are a Church of England Voluntary Aided school) will be contributing nearly £278,000 (with the school required to contribute approximately £28,000 of our own funds). This means that there will be **£442,000 of energy efficiency works completed on the school building.**

Brilliant news—I am sure you will all agree. Watch this space for further developments!

Children's Mental Health Week

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we shared an assembly around the theme of 'Let's Connect'. The children showed a great understanding of how we connect with people around us, appreciating that it's not just about words but also about eye contact, facial expressions, gestures and touch. We enjoyed listening to the poem 'Together' by Matt Goodfellow and discussed how we don't just connect to celebrate but also support one another when we are struggling, when we play sport or when we reflect on something together as a group.



We agreed that we are definitely stronger when we 'are one', when we are a team. We finished by discussing young

people who have done amazing things for others such as Malala Yousafzai, Anne Frank and Greta Thunberg. We can all change the world by doing small, everyday things that help people feel valued and connected.

Can you connect more with others this half term? Maybe wave at your neighbour, greet the bus driver, message someone you haven't spoken to in ages?



Bag2School Initiative:

As a follow up from our Bag2School collection we can now confirm that we collected **380kgs of clothes bag donations which totals a massive £152 raised for the school.** This is an absolutely brilliant achievement for the size of the school and a big thank you for all your generous donations. Some of the money will go towards new books for the Library and the School Council will be deciding what to spend the rest on. We will keep you updated when they decide.



Year 5 Road Safety Pedestrian Training

This week Year 5 had a visit from the Safer Essex Road Safety Partnership. The pupils were reminded how they should behave when they are near the road, including how to cross the road in the safest way. They were also reminded why they should always wear a seat belt and the importance of wearing their cycle helmet. Every pupil was given a fluorescent bag to remind them to Be Bright, Be Seen.

We encourage you to reinforce this learning with your child following Stop, Look, Listen and Think. For more information and additional free resources visit <https://saferessexroads.org/> and <https://www.think.gov.uk/>.

Reception Parent and Child Road Safety Presentation

Also this week the reception pupils and their parents/carers had a visit from the Safer Essex Road Partnership. The pupils were reminded why it is important to always stay with their adults and always hold their hand when walking outside. Parents had the opportunity to look at ways of teaching their child Road Safety from a young age.

I do hope that you have enjoyed this week's Newsletter, as well as the weekly Class Updates. Have a great half term break and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 20th February from 8.30am!

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

Your Child's Attendance

Important information regarding your child/ren's attendance will be coming home via book bags today. If you have any concerns/questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and request a telephone call with our Welfare and Support Officer Jo Crocker. Please note that the attendance percentage for any child who did not attend school due to teacher's strike will not be affected.



Outstanding School Dinner Monday



Can any outstanding dinner money be paid before your child/ren return from the half term break. Please can we politely remind parents and carers that dinner money account must be kept in credit. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to call the school office in confidence.

Diary Dates



Week Commencing

- Monday 6th February - Children's Mental Health Week
- Wednesday 8th February - Road Safety Training (Reception & Year 5)
- Friday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
- [Mental Health Dress to Impress](#)

Monday 13th February to
Friday 17th February

- Half term holiday

Week Commencing

- Monday 20th February - Pupils return to school (from 8.30am)
- Monday 20th February - One Plan Meetings
- Friday 24th February - Book Looks (8.30am to 9.00am and 3.15pm to 4.00pm)

Week Commencing

- Monday 27th February
- Tuesday 28th February - Parents/Carers Consultations
- Thursday 2nd March - Parents/Carers Consultations
- Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Week Commencing

- Monday 6th March - World Book Day Workshop
- [Thursday 30th March - Easter Service in St Mary's Church 10.00am \(all parents/carers welcome\)](#)
- Friday 31st March - Last day of Spring term
- Monday 3rd April to
Monday 17th April - Easter break
- Monday 17th April - Teaching staff INSET Day

** new or amended items added are in blue*

