

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 15th March 2024

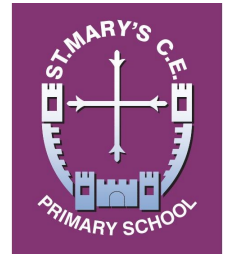
Telephone 01799 523384

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 94%

Attendance Year 94.1%



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

**Friendship**

**Trust**

**Truthfulness**

**Compassion**

**Perseverance**

**Respect**

Dear parents and carers and friends of the school,

On Wednesday this week, Gillian and Hazel from SWAT (the Saffron Walden Assembly Team) visited St Mary's to deliver a whole school assembly. It was very interactive and they chose a number of our pupils to act out the key roles in the story—including that of Jesus and a number of readers and narrators. This was another brilliant opportunity for our pupils from Reception to Year 6 to practise their speaking and listening skills and they did a brilliant job.



**A Fond Farewell:** Sadly, the school will be saying goodbye to two lovely members of staff over the next few weeks. **Mrs McInnes**, who has worked as a class teacher at St Mary's since 2017 will be leaving her role as a class teacher in Year 1 at the end of this term to pursue her passion as a teacher in Outdoor Learning. I am delighted to say that **she will be staying on as our Forest School teacher** going forwards.

**Miss Naunton**, who joined the school two years ago as a Learning Support Assistant, and more recently took on the role as Teaching Assistant in Year 6 will be leaving us today to take on a new career supporting the Police in Victim Support. **Mr Powlesland**, who many of you will be familiar with, will be teaching in Year 1 every Friday and **Miss Nicholson** will be teaching the Year 1 class from Monday until Thursday each week. **Year 1 will therefore have their Forest School sessions on a Thursday afternoon each week after Easter.** I am sure you will all join me in sending them both your very best wishes as they embark on their new and exciting journeys. Please keep them both in your prayers.

**Stars of the week:** Well done to the following fantastic pupils who have shown one or more our school values or some of our Core Skills of Safe, Effort or Respect.

**Dylan** - for stellar work in rounding numbers.

**Jessie** - for persevering in her Maths.

**Hugo** - for showing a massive improvement in his arithmetic.

**Eva** - for always showing compassion and respect in school.

**Alex** - for an improved effort in SPAG group and sentence formation.

**Lily** - for always working hard and having a positive attitude to her learning.

**Evie** - for always going above and beyond when giving back to the school community.

**Woody** - for always pushing himself - especially in writing and reading comprehension.



**House triumphs!** In 1st place this week with 54 points were Earth House (Green)! Fire House (Red) were in 2nd position with 52 points. In 3rd place with 38 points were Water House (Blue) and Air House (Yellow) were in 4th place with 27 points! Well done everybody!



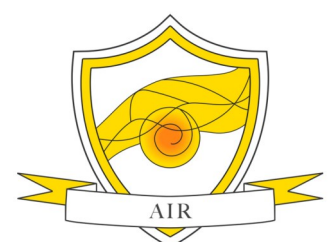
**1st place  
(54 points)**



**2nd place  
(52 points)**



**3rd place  
(38 points)**



**4th place  
(27 points)**

## Dolce Tasting session—Tuesday 19th March

On Wednesday this week Dolce held one of two tasting sessions where there was an opportunity for parents and carers to speak to the Dolce catering and management team about any questions they had regarding the current lunch provision, and a chance to taste the food and see portion sizes. There is one more session due to take place, so if you would like to come along to the final session on **Tuesday 19th March at 2.30pm** (which will also be taking place in the school hall), please let the office team know by emailing [info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) so that we can have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.



## 2John's training—21st March 2024

As mentioned last week, St Mary's School have organised online training on the 21st March with the 2 John's training which will be offered to staff, pupils, parents and carers and would urge you to prioritise this training, so we can all keep our children safe online. Details of times are on the keys dates page of this newsletter. The link to join the parents session is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83790784928> and attached and on the next page are the joining instructions.

## Internet Safety—WhatsApp

During our regular internet safety lessons it has become apparent that a significant number of children are using WhatsApp. Whilst we recognise how useful the app can be, we would encourage you all to regularly check the messages your children are both sending and receiving as there have been reports of children from other schools being added to group chats, which can cause issues both in and out of school.



We will continue to talk with the children about how they should manage interactions using technology, but would be grateful if you could explain to your child that you will be checking their phone each week to ensure they are kept safe and the expectations are that they do not add or interact with anyone they do not know in person. WhatsApp itself has classified the app as for those over 13 years, however the NSPCC has rated it 16+. We appreciate how difficult it is for parents and carers to balance an increased level of independence for their children, whilst maintaining safe and healthy communication, and we as a school are keen to work with you to achieve the best balance possible. As these incidents are occurring outside of school we do need your cooperation in order to maintain happy and positive relationships in school.

**WhatsApp recently announced that they were reducing the minimum age for the messaging service from 16 to 13 which brings WhatsApp in to line with other social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok and Instagram. We have attached the internet matters guidance for your reference as we are aware that many of our KS2 pupils have access and use WhatsApp.**



## PTA Sponsored Run and Read

Following the fantastic PTA Sponsored Run and Read last week there is still time to bring in any sponsorship money or pay online until Monday before the PTA will make a final count to find out which class will have won the coveted St Mary's Fundraising Trophy for this year!

## SEND Roadshow—Tuesday 19th March 9.00am to 11.45am

Please note that the West Essex Local Offer Roadshow is available for parents and carers of children with SEND. It will run from 9.00am until 11.45am and there is no need to book. Details about the exhibitors who are attending the west roadshow can be found here: <https://send.essex.gov.uk/send-roadshow-west-essex>

Kind regards

*Mr C. D. Jarmain*

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



# WhatsApp safety guide for parents

internet  
matters.org

16+

WhatsApp's  
minimum age  
in the UK\*

58%

Kids aged 3-17  
who use  
WhatsApp

37%

Kids under 13  
who use  
WhatsApp



\*those who register from 16 February 2024 must be 13 or older. This will apply to all users from April 2024.

## 5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp



1

**Review privacy settings** WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.



2

**Customise contacts** Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.



3

**Talk about personal information** Make sure your child understands what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.



4

**Show them where to get support** If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.



5

**Check in regularly** Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.

internet  
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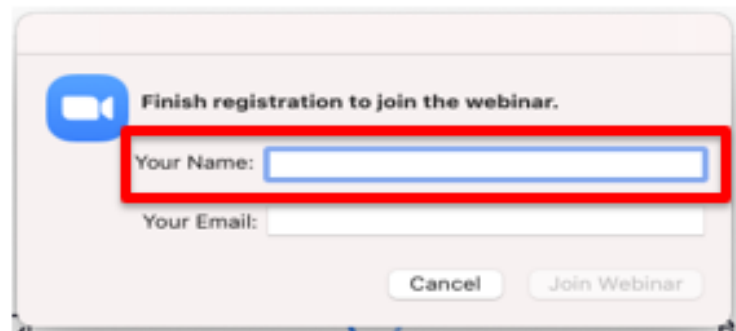
### **On Line Joining Instructions For Parents**

All Session will be live 15mins before the requested Start time.  
Please ask the parents to click on the Link provided to the school (taken from your booking form) to access the relevant session

Your Browser will then open zoom and you will see this box.



Click on **Allow** button and you will then get the log in box



Please instruct the Parent to log on using one of the following instructions.

Please ask each parent to enter in the **'Your Name' Box'**

The following information :-

**For One Child at a school e.g. = School Name / Y3 (One child in Year 3)**

**For Two Children at a school = School Name / Y1 & Y5 (Two Children)**

### **For Non School Parents**

If the session is being watched by another Family member, other professionsl or school Governor etc then they can just use their full name to log on

### A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



## Half-term PTA Announcements: Quiz & Easter Bonnet Parade



### Easter Bonnet Parade – March 27

Children are invited to make an Easter Bonnet at home and bring it with them into school on March 27. They will wear them at different points throughout the day, with each class nominating their two favourites. There is no 'fee' to take part and the PTA will select the overall winners. This event responds to feedback from parents/carers to organize activities that are more arts/crafts-related.

We look forward to see the children's creations!

**PRO-KARATE  
ACADEMY**

**Come & try  
our school  
club for FREE  
for the rest of  
the half term!**

**St Mary's  
Fridays 3.15pm - 4pm**

**Easter Offer!**

**@prokaratehertsandessex**  
Email Sensei Chelsea to book a place—[senseichelsea@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:senseichelsea@yahoo.co.uk)

# QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday**

**15th March, 2024**

**7.00pm — 10.30pm**

**PTA**

- \* £10.00/ticket (purchase via Classlist)
- \* Up to 8 per team (smaller groups welcome)
- \* Price includes a delicious cheeseboard
- \* Licensed bar with alcoholic and soft drinks
- \* Please email the PTA with team names and members to reserve a table.

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



# Diary Dates

## Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 5th March               | - Parents/Carers Consultations  |
| Thursday 7th March              | - KS2 Girls Football Event  |
|                                 | - Parents/Carers Consultations  |
| Friday 8th March                | - World Book Day  |
|                                 | - <b>PTA Sponsored Fun Run</b>  |
| Monday 11th – Friday 15th March | - British Science Week  |
| Wednesday 13th March            | - Dolce School Dinner Tasting (2.30pm—3.00pm)   |
| Friday 15th March               | - <b>PTA Quiz (7.00pm—10.30pm, School Hall)</b>   |
| Monday 18th March               | - Bringing Books to Life Workshops (Whole School)   |
| Wednesday 19th March            | - Dolce School Dinner Tasting (2.30pm—3.00pm)   |
| Thursday 21st March             | - 2Johns Online Safety sessions today (Yrs 1 & 2 – 9.30am to 10.15am; Yrs 3 & 4 – 11.00am to 12.05pm; Yrs 5 & 6 – 1.30pm to 3.00pm; staff – 4.00pm to 5.15pm; parents carers – 8.00pm to 9.30pm). |
| Friday 22nd March               | - Year 1 Dance Festival   |
| Tuesday 26th March              | - Year 4 Parent & Carer Presentation (School Hall) - 9.00am   |
|                                 | - KS1/KS2 Music Concert (5.00pm—6.15pm)   |
| Wednesday 27th March            | - Year 5 School Trip—Wellcome Genome Campus   |
| 9.30am—10.00am                  | - Year 3 Parent & Carer Presentation (School Hall)  |
|                                 | - <b>PTA Easter Bonnet Parade</b>   |
| Thursday 28th March             | - Easter Service in St Mary's Church at 11.00am   |
| Friday 29th March—12th April    | - END OF TERM HOLIDAYS— finish at 1.30pm  |
| Monday 15th April               | - INSET DAY   |

