

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 8th March 2024

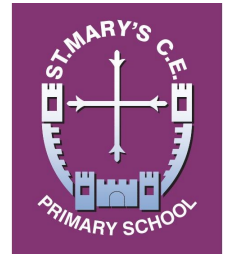
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Attendance Weekly 93.7%

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,

Anti Idling Campaign

Last Tuesday, some pupils in Year 6 learnt about Idling and how it is particularly bad for school children as well as members of the public - particularly those who live in houses close by. We learnt that 'idling' is when a car is in a parking spot, or waiting in traffic with its engine still on. We also learnt that idling pollutes the environment, can make asthma worse and will negatively affect children's lungs. Also, leaving the engine running burns unnecessary amounts of fuel. We circulated the road area around the front of our school and politely asked drivers to stop idling and thanked the people who had their engines off. Luckily, a large number of drivers had switched their engines off - but many had not!

Article written by Maisy A, Fraser H, Logan B and Harlee May G



House triumphs!

In first place this week were Water House (blue) with 35 points! Earth House (green) were in second position with 33 points. In joint third position were Air House (yellow) and Fire House (red) with 31 points! Another very tight month for our House Trophy!



1st place
(35 points)



2nd place
(33 points)



3rd place
(31 points)



3rd place
(31 points)

Stars of the week

CeCe—for making a brilliant effort and showing perseverance

Theo—for making a brilliant effort and showing perseverance

Antoni - for excellent effort in reading and phonics

Mabel—for putting so much effort into her classwork - especially phonics and writing

Maya—for really challenging herself in speaking and listening throughout English



POLITE REMINDERS

Inappropriate Language

We have noticed that some of our pupils are using some inappropriate language in school which is unacceptable and causing some upset within the school community.

If your child uses inappropriate language, please can we ask that you address it directly and immediately. Stay calm and use phrases such as "That's a word we don't use here." If your child asks why, explain in a simple manner why not. For example: "That can hurt someone's feelings" or "Most people do not like those words."

As part of our behaviour policy parents/carers will always be informed of; inappropriate language – including threats and swearing; racist/homophobic/culturally inappropriate insults.

Waiting in line

Please could we ask when waiting at the gate for morning drop off or afternoon pick up that you stand by the railings and encourage the children to wait in line. We are noticing that on occasions those wishing to walk by on the pavement are having to walk on the road, compromising their safety.

Foodshare

You may have noticed that on Tuesday we had a foodshare event at morning drop off. Touchpoint delivered produce from the local Aldi, Tesco and Waitrose to St Mary's for us to distribute to the school community. Tuesday foodshare will now be a weekly event at St Mary's, supported by Touchpoint. All items are free of charge and together we are helping to reduce waste and save the planet.

Touchpoint also hold a foodshare at the Saffron Walden Baptist Church at 10am on a Friday. Staff from school attend regularly and you are welcome to join them.

Please remember, If you are in need of additional support or require a referral to the foodbank please speak to Jo Crocker, Welfare and Support Officer.

Scholastic Travelling Book Fair

Throughout the past two weeks, we have been running our book fair. Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have supported the event so well. We managed to raise over £200 to spend on fantastic new books for our new school library- a tremendous achievement! Secondly, I would like to thank the Year 6 pupils who stayed after school to help run the event. The children used their speaking, listening and maths skills to communicate and earn different amounts of money. The books added up to well done, Year 6! Finally, a big thank you must go to the office staff for helping organise the event and helping to set it up each day!



2John's training—21st March 2024



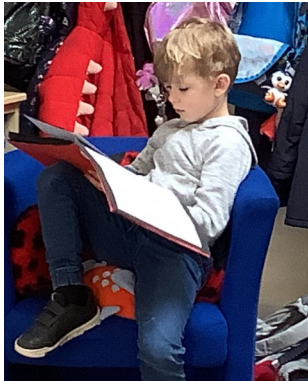
Many parents and professionals honestly believe that they are fully up to date regards Internet Safety and with this assured mindset they then seek to keep children safe. In our experience this mindset leads to a false sense of security and often results in young people being unable to speak to parents and professionals when things go wrong. Fast forward to today. The modern risk is highly likely to play out online. The problem we are up against is that so many children will not spot a risky situation and worse still, even when they know something is wrong, they will not tell their parents as the more likely response will be the loss of whatever medium they were using and a potential 'telling off'. The '2 John's' seek to change everyone's approach to Online Child Exploitation and better enable them to deal with the very real modern-day risks.

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. Links to join the parents session will be sent a next week.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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



A HUGE well done to everyone who took part in our amazing World Book Celebrations today! It was so lovely to see all of the children dressed up in their various outfits and I thoroughly enjoyed greeting them at the school gate in the morning dressed as Sherlock Holmes! Well done if you guessed who I was!

It was also amazing to see how much fun the pupils had whilst taking part in the Sponsored Run and Read events in the morning and the afternoon. Those pupils who took part in the run showed tremendous stamina—a big shout-out to Riley F (in Year 6) who literally continued running for the full 30 minutes! Wow! It was also lovely to see the children jogging or even walking, chatting with friends and some even holding hands as they completed their laps. I talked to the children at the end about how proud I was of their behaviour and also of their efforts. The readers also did a wonderful job of ploughing through pages and pages of texts in their classrooms!

A big thank you must go out to the PTA (thank you Ada and Neil) for organising this brilliant event and for the parents and carers who attended and helped set up and supervise the water stations. We are very excited to find out how much money will have been raised. The sponsorship forms are already being collated and counted as we speak and I am reliably informed that the PTA is giving approximately 10 days for all money to be brought and then we will find out which class has won the coveted St Mary's Fundraising Trophy for this year!

Watch this space for updates over the next few weeks.



Half-term PTA Announcements: Quiz & Easter Bonnet Parade



PTA Quiz Night – March 15

Don't forget to build your team for the Quiz Night on March 15 (19:00 - 22:30)! Join us for a fun evening of trivia as the parents/carers do battle with the teachers (and Governors we hope, too!). We will have a cash bar and all tickets include a delectable cheeseboard. You can only purchase tickets through Classlist: https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1099760686?s=859640953&utm_source=SCHOOL&utm_medium=SHARED_LINK

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!



Dolce School Dinner Survey

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the recent Dolce survey regarding school meals. Dolce and the school are carefully analysing the responses and formulating our next steps.

Therefore, firstly we would like to make all parents and carers aware of the following initiative:

On **Wednesday 13th March and Tuesday 19th March** Dolce would like to invite you to a tasting session at **2.30pm in the school hall** where there will be an opportunity to speak to the Dolce catering and management team about any questions you may have regarding the current Dolce school lunch provision; they will explain the current government dietary guidelines and most importantly you will be able to see portion sizes for pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and also taste their food. You will not need to book this but if you would like to come along, please let the office team know on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk so that we can have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.



More Photos from the Sponsored Run and Read



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



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024:

February	- LGBTQ+ Month
Monday 26th February	- Start of second half of Spring Term
Friday 1st March	- Parents/Carers Book Look (8.30am to 9am & 3.15pm to 4pm)
Tuesday 5th March	- Parents/Carers Consultations
Thursday 7th March	- KS2 Girls Football Event
	- Parents/Carers Consultations
Friday 8th March	- World Book Day
	- Bringing Books to Life Workshops (Whole School)
	- PTA Sponsored Fun Run
Monday 11th – Friday 15th March	- British Science Week
Wednesday 13th March	- Dolce School Dinner Tasting (2.30pm—3.00pm)
Friday 15th March	- PTA Quiz (7.00pm—10.30pm, School Hall)
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)
	- PTA Easter Bonnet Parade
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