

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 1st March 2024

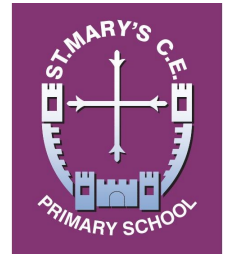
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Attendance Weekly 90%

Attendance Year 94.9%



*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,

I had the pleasure of taking the **KS2 Celebration and Sharing Assembly on Thursday** this week and it was lovely to see what all of the children have been doing in their respective classes and how they had shown our three Core Skills of Safe, Effort and Respect - with an emphasis on the 'Effort' Core Skill.

In Year 3, Zach B-T and Lili P shared some lovely artwork which involved the Year 3 pupils collecting fallen leaves, carefully painting them with small paintbrushes and then using these to print into their artbooks. It was lovely to see all of the details that had been transferred from the leaves.

In Year 4, Blossom C, Teddy F and Isla M shared some wonderful Geography posters, where the pupils had been tasked to create an explanatory poster showing the path and development of a river system. These detailed posters included such words as tributary, meander and delta.

In Year 5, Lily Z and Jesse P shared some elements of their recent creative writing, where they were set the objective of using their five senses to captivate the reader. I asked the pupils sitting and listening if they could name the 5 senses—and the school children were easily able to do that. I was also particularly impressed that a number of pupils could also recognise the hidden personification! Well done to Fraser in Year 6 for the precise 'dictionary' definition that he recounted off by heart to the rest of the school. A very proud headteacher moment—and showing how well taught our St Mary's children really are and how well they pay attention during lessons.

In Year 6, Violet T and Abi W shared some interesting Geography and English work. Violet showed the development of learning carried out in her class progressing from their Year 4 learning, centring on the topic of erosion (well done Sammy for explaining that so well to the whole school) and the formation of bays. Abi then followed this up by sharing some lovely, detailed creative writing from her classwork and some brilliantly chosen vocabulary.

Well done everyone involved—it was great to see the progress these pupils are making with their learning and also giving them the opportunity to practice their speaking and listening skills in front of a live audience.

## Stars of the week

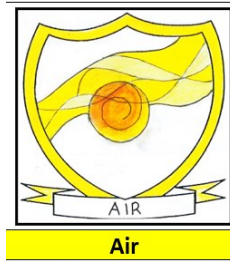
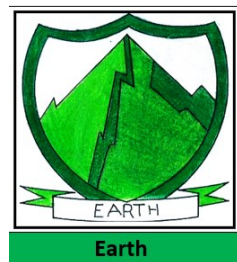
- Theo—consistently putting excellent effort into all lessons
- Tomas— showing more self control, both inside and outside the lessons
- Henry— for amazing effort and focus in RE, reading comprehension and maths.
- Lottie—hard work and commitment to her writing.
- Edith— always showing compassion to other pupils
- Linda— always displaying her work immaculately
- Chloe—excellent and ambitious use of vocabulary in her writing
- Zachary—brilliant focus and attention in class.



## House triumphs!

There was a tie for first place this week for our House trophy.

In joint first place were Water House (blue) and Earth House (green) with 38 points. In third position was Air House (yellow) with 34 points and in fourth position was Fire House (red) with 31 points! A very tight month!



## Separated parents:

We understand that family breakdown can be a difficult and emotional time for parents, carers and children. The school is committed to supporting and assisting families at this difficult time, in a way which promotes the best interests of the children involved. In the circumstances of parental separation, schools play a very important role. At a time when children are often experiencing uncertainty and change, school is a consistent factor in their lives. It is vital that school and parents work together for the best interest of the children.

St Mary's has a Separated Parents Policy and further details can be found here: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/)

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) so that we can have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

Kind regards

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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

## KS2 Girls Football Event—Thursday 7th March



This year International woman football day is Friday 8th of March. Due to other school commitments we will be hosting our event on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.**

All KS2 girls will be taking part in a range of activities on the meadow during lunch time. This will give the girls an opportunity to learn some new skills and try playing football for the first time.

This will not impact your child/ren having lunch, they will eat as normal.

Please can your daughter wear their school PE kit that day. **No football boots are permitted on this occasion.** If you have any questions please do not hesitate to see Miss Driscoll in the Yr5 classroom after school.

## Half-term PTA Announcements: World Book Day Fundraiser, Quiz & Easter Bonnet Parade



First, we hope you have a great half-term and stay bug-free for the week! Given the break, we wanted to share some more details about upcoming PTA-led events that will take place at school in March. Who knows – it might provide a holiday activity/distraction!

### World Book Day Sponsored Run or Read – March 8

To raise money for much-needed IT equipment and playground renovations, we're organizing a sponsored run/read, in connection with World Book Day. Children will come to school dressed as their favourite literary character and choose between a run or a read-a-thon that will be held in school. This responds to parent/carer feedback that sponsored events should not always be physical in nature. Giving the children a choice between running or reading will mean they can pick the activity they prefer to do. Children will bring home sponsor forms and are encouraged to gather as much support as they can from friends and family. As the school's main sponsored event this school year, our target is £3000. The event itself is not a contest, however, the school will encourage light competition between year groups to see which class can raise the most money for the PTA fund. We will hand over the school fundraising trophy to the winning class during a collective worship. Please note that sponsorship forms are coming home with every child in their book bags after half term, with spare copies available from the school office and there will also be a link on the website - if you wish to download and print off a copy yourself at home! Good luck!

### 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](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!

### KS2 On Track Club

We are pleased to announce that Mr Williamson will be returning with KS2 On-Track after half term. This club will run from **Wednesday 28th February - Wednesday 27th March** after school finishing at 4pm. This is a free club, please email the office ([info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk)) to register your child.

Kind Regards  
Miss Driscoll  
Sports Co-ordinator





# Diary Dates



## Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| February                        | - LGBTQ+ Month  |
| Monday 26th February            | - Start of second half of Spring Term   |
| <b>Tuesday 27th February</b>    | - <b>Year 5 USSP Dance Show at Saffron Hall (4.15pm-6.00pm)</b>   |
| Wednesday 28th February         | - Book Fair   |
| Friday 1st March                | - Parents/Carers Book Look (8.30am to 9am & 3.15pm to 4pm)  |
| Tuesday 5th March               | - Parents/Carers Consultations  |
| <b>Thursday 7th March</b>       | - <b>KS2 Girls Football Event</b>   |
|                                 | - Parents/Carers Consultations  |
| Friday 8th March                | - World Book Day  |
|                                 | - Bringing Books to Life Workshops (Whole School)   |
|                                 | - <b>PTA Sponsored Fun Run</b>  |
| Monday 11th – Friday 15th March | - British Science Week  |
| <b>Wednesday 13th March</b>     | - <b>Dolce School Dinner Tasting (2.30pm—3.00pm)</b>  |
| Friday 15th March               | - <b>PTA Quiz (7.00pm—10.30pm, School Hall)</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 19th March</b>     | - <b>Dolce School Dinner Tasting (2.30pm—3.00pm)</b>  |
| 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   |
| <b>Tuesday 26th March</b>       | - <b>Year 4 Parent &amp; Carer Presentation (School Hall)</b>   |
| 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   |