

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 16th February 2024

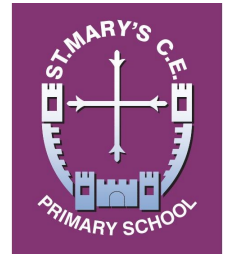
Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 88.4%

Attendance Year 94.4%



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,



It's been another fun and productive week here at St Mary's, with the brilliant Children's Mental Health Week Art Exhibition, the brainchild of our Curriculum and Art Leader, Mr Pike who organised this brilliant event and set up the hall after school on Monday and Tuesday to display the children's amazing art work. Please take a look at page 3 to see some examples of the pupils beautiful creations. We've also hosted our One Plan Meetings for the Spring Term and it was lovely to see lots of our parents/carers in school this week to discuss their child's progress—thank you to Mrs North Our Inclusion Leader and SENDCo and all of our class teachers for organising and facilitating these meetings. Finally, today we also welcomed the team from Little City, who hosted a fun and Interactive workshop for the EYFS and Key Stage 1 classes in the school hall. The children had a whale of a time—check out their photos on the Class Update Pages (which, as you know, comes as a separate document).



Public Speaking Event

Year 4 were delighted to be invited to the Great Chesterford Primary School public speaking event last Friday 9th February. Blake, Chloe, Sydney and Marcel chose to speak about the impact of fossil fuels on our environment. They wrote their own speech and delivered it to a roomful of local schools. We were so proud of them speaking confidently about an issue that they felt passionate about. Well done to them!!



Stars of the week

Mabel - for a positive attitude to her learning
Oscar - for excellent use of commas in sentence writing
Casey - for excellent effort in writing and phonics
Sofia - for a creative piece of narrative writing

Walking to school

We often get asked about the age a child can walk to school on their own. While there is no legal age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own, we believe that pupils in EYFS, KS1 and Year 3 and 4 should still be brought to and collected from school by an adult. Therefore, as regards pupils in Year 5 and 6, we believe that you as parents / carers need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone as this very much depends on their maturity and confidence and that you are satisfied they are safe to do so. There is more information, things to consider and guidance in the walking to school policy which can be found here: www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies

We have had a couple of reports of some unkind and threatening behaviour to some of our pupils who walk home alone by older siblings and older children. If this happens to your child, please make us aware as we work closely with the local secondary schools and can work together to investigate these incidents.

Scholastic Travelling Book Fair

We will start our World Book Day celebrations by having Scholastic Travelling Books visiting St Marys from **Wednesday 28th February – Monday 4th March**. The book fair will be held in the school hall from 3.15pm – 3.30pm. Books can be purchased either by cash payments or by scanning a QR code to make online payments. The Children will be bringing a £1.00 book token home on Monday 26th February which can be used against purchases.



Book Fair Invitation/Information

https://images.scholastic.co.uk/assets/a/99/0b/scholastic-book-fair-invite-spring-24-2238488.pdf?_gl=1*13n0wbq*_ga*Njc3NzA0NjlxLjE3MDY3OTY3NDQ.*_ga_NB70H7NPT8*MTcwODA3NjE1Ny40LjEuMTcwODA3NjQ5MS42MC4wLjA

We look forward to seeing you all at the fair.

Parent/Carers Consultation Meetings (5th March and 7th March)

Appointments for the parent consultations are available to book from **Monday 26th February** via our Parent's Evening System which can be found at <https://stmarys.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.



Please arrive promptly for your meeting. The meetings will be face to face and held in the main school hall from 3.30pm - 6.30pm, with each family having the opportunity to make a 10 minute appointment per child. Please book your appointment before the **booking system closes on Monday 4th March at 12.00pm.**

If your child has already had a One Plan meeting then there is no requirement to book an appointment, as you would have already had your 30 minute meeting.

In order to log on securely parents/carers will need to put in their name as given to the school, your child's given name (or chosen first name as given to the office) and your child's date of birth as an 8 digit number e.g. 25/09/2008. If you need any assistance with booking your appointment, please contact the school office on 01799 523384.

Have a great half term!

I look forwards to seeing you all back in school on Monday 26th February from 8.30am.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

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

Easter Bonnet Parade – March 27

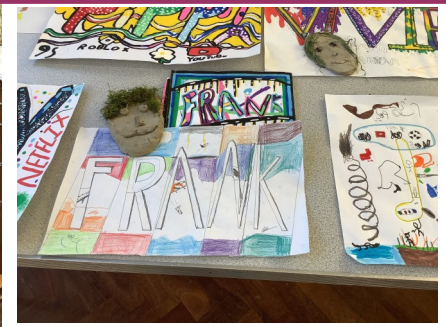
Children are invited to make an Easter Bonnet at home and bring it with them into school on March 27. They will wear them at different points throughout the day, with each class nominating their two favourites. There is no 'fee' to take part and the PTA will select the overall winners. This event responds 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

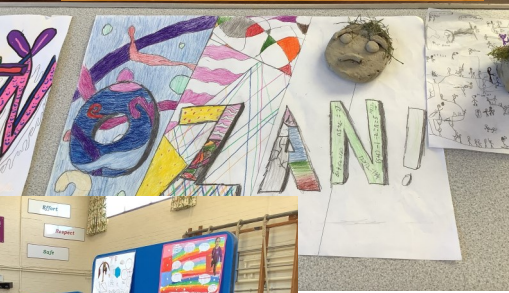
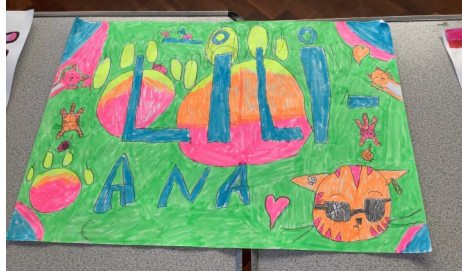
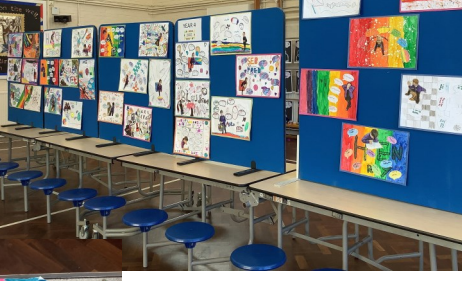
We are pleased to announce that Mr Williamson will be returning with KS2 On-Track after half term. Club will run from **Wednesday 28th February - Wednesday 27th March** after school finishing at 4pm. This is a free club, please email the office (info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) to register your child.

Kind Regards
Miss Driscoll
Sports Co-ordinator





Art Gallery 2024



Do you like drawing?

Want to try something new this half term?

Join us for **Zentangle** a FREE 90-minute mindful drawing session where participants can enjoy creating a unique and beautiful piece of art.

Fri / 23 / Feb
4.30pm to 6pm

No artistic ability needed!

You only need a scrap of paper and pencil and can join from your phone!

Online via Zoom
FREE

To book visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/818208763437?aff=oddtcreator>



Join us at our Get into Teaching Coffee & Chat event

Monday 26th February
5 pm - 6 pm



A chance to ask
what teacher training is really like

Book this free informal via Eventbrite

Contact scitt@catrust.co.uk

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/829876211687>

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February WHAT'S ON... Half Term



Alice In Wonderland

Mon 19th Feb
2pm | £15 | £13 Concs.
£52 Family

Follow Alice and the White Rabbit as they set off on a colourful, topsy-turvy adventure and meet a host of outlandish characters!



Kids Craft - Dragons

Tue 20th | Wed 21st & Thu 22nd Feb | 10am - 2pm | 4+ | £1 per child

Make a Chinese Dragon Celebrate the new Chinese year of the Dragon. Drop in between 10am and 2pm. No need to book tickets.



Exciting Science

Wed 21st Feb
11am & 2pm | £16.50
4+

This Brand New, Exciting & Educational show will amaze & astound all ages from 4 years & upwards, as we put the "Exciting" back into "Science"!



The Amazing Bubble Man

Thu 22nd Feb
2pm | £16.50 | £14.50
Concs. | £58 Family

"It's a fantastic show. Louis Pearl playfully forms bubbles beyond imagination, and engages the audience with his easygoing slapstick."

Family Cinema



Wonka

Tue 20th Feb
11am & 2pm | £8 | £6
Concs. | PG

An impoverished chocolate-maker with big dreams befriends a young orphan. Wonderful and vivid prequel to the much loved classic.



Aquaman and The Lost Kingdom

Sun 25th Feb
11am & 2pm
£8 | £6 Concs. | 12A

Aquaman battles Black Manta who threatens his family and undersea kingdom in this action packed adventure sequel.

To book your tickets please visit
southmillarts.co.uk
or call our Box Office: 01279 710 200





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024:

February	- LGBTQ+ Month
W/C Monday 12th February	- One Plan Meetings this week
3.15pm—4.00pm	- St Mary's Mental Health Art Exhibition—School Hall
Tuesday 13th February	- Shrove Tuesday - Pancake lunch
3.15pm—4.00pm	- St Mary's Mental Health Art Exhibition—School Hall
Friday 16th February	- Year 4 Swimming (16/2/2024—22/3/2024)
Friday 16th February	- Reception & Year 1 'Little City' visitors/event - TBC
Friday 16th February	- last day of term
Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February	- Half Term Holiday
Monday 26th February	- Start of second half of Spring Term
Tuesday 27th February	- Year 5 USSP Dance Show at Saffron Hall (4.15pm-6.00pm)
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
Thursday 7th March	- 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
Friday 15th March	- PTA Quiz (7.00pm—10.30pm, School Hall)
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 – 3.00pm; staff – 4.00pm to 5.15pm; parents/carers – 8.00pm to 9.30pm).
1.30pm to to	
Friday 22nd March	- Year 1 Dance Festival
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
Monday 15th April	- INSET DAY