

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 2nd February 2024

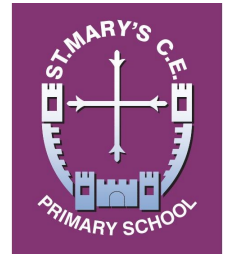
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Attendance Weekly 88%

Attendance Year 94.7%



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 has been another busy and productive week here at St Mary's. On Wednesday morning we had a visit from Gillian and Hazel, from the Saffron Walden Assembly Team (SWAT) who delivered a whole school assembly based on the Bible story of Zacchaeus. This important Christian story drew on one of our 6 Key School Values—Compassion. Lots of children helped Gillian and Hazel tell this story, helping to narrate, play some of the key roles as well as answering lots of questions. I was really impressed with the children's behaviour—they sat quietly and respectfully throughout. I was also really impressed with the children's speaking and listening skills—they were encouraged to project their voices, and they certainly did this brilliantly. This week has seen another triumphant success at indoor



athletics for Year 3 Year 4—our athletes ran their socks off and claimed some top finishing positions in the field events. Our two teams competed against eight other teams from local schools. Year 4 finished in 2nd place, they were incredibly nervous and after their first few races they found their stride, their overwhelming nerves slipped away and they smashed it! They let their potential and determination shine, leaving some other competitors blown away. Our Year 3 team had their first experience of this event, they finished in 5th place. We are incredibly proud of them. They were competing against Year 4 teams (what an achievement). This didn't seem to phase them in

the slightest. They had some super finishes in the running events, their relay teams finishing in first place for the 1 x 2 and 4 x 4. They showed great team spirit and will only grow in confidence from the experience. They have been an absolute pleasure. We look forward to sharing the field event achievements with them once we have received the details of their individual scores and distances. A HUGE well done to all of the pupils for working so hard to develop their sporting skills and especially to Miss Driscoll for all of the hard work she has been putting in to developing the Athletics Teams.

Stars of the week

Year 1 Archie for his excellent effort in reading and English, and Lily for being respectful and helpful in the classroom.

Year 2 Teddy for excellent effort in creative writing and Alycia for always challenging herself.

PTA Update! Report by Ada, Hayley & Neil, on behalf of the PTA

Belated happy new year wishes! We've been working hard since the break to come up with our plans for fundraising and 'making school memories' ideas. We're happy to be back in touch with you to give you advance notice of what we have in store! Below you will find some key dates for your diary, brief details on each activity (more will come nearer the time), as well as a couple of important notices right at the end. Thanks in advance for reading!



First, what are we here for? Well, the PTA helps the school by raising money for the extras that the regular school budget doesn't cover. Things like the in-school pantomime, additional equipment or other recreational items. We are currently raising money to purchase soft furnishings for the new buildings (beanbags, stools, etc.), as well as building up a reserve to contribute towards classroom tech and outdoor renovations to the playground. And now to this term's activities...

Spring Term Diary Dates

- March 8: World Book Day Sponsored Run/Read
- March 15: PTA Quiz
- March 27: Easter Bonnet Parade

We have decided to centre our annual sponsored event around World Book Day. On March 8, children can come dressed as a character from their favourite book and can raise money by either taking part in a run or by reading books. The run will be held in school and reading can take place any time. Sponsor forms and other details will come soon. Which year group will claim this year's trophy?! It was hotly contested last year with Year 4 (our current Year 5 pupils) proving victorious and claiming the inaugural trophy.

Our now-famous PTA quiz is back for the 2024 edition on March 15. Last year, the parents finally beat the teachers, so the real question is, who will take the crown this time? We've heard the Governors want to get in on the action this year, so mark the date and buy your tickets as soon as they go on sale!

And we've heard from some families that they'd appreciate a more creative endeavour, so we will help to organise an Easter Bonnet parade in school on March 27. Children will make their bonnets at home and bring them into school for the parade, with each class nominating two winners. More details to come.

Your help is needed! We would really like to organise a summer fair this year, as we think it would be a great community-building event, as well as a great way to help with weekend plans! We cannot do it alone, so we need to form an organizing committee. If you can help out in organizing this, please get in touch with pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk. If we don't get the volunteers, we won't be able to pull it off, so hopefully we can pull a team together to make it happen.

And finally, Classlist! This is our primary method of communication with parents and carers. **Please make sure you have this app and have added your child to the right year group.** If you are new to Classlist, follow this link to get started: <https://classlist.page.link/J5Ci5fJrWwBkX7>

We strongly advise that you download and use the mobile app, but you can use the Classlist website if you prefer to log in on a browser. Your username and password can be used on both. All parents need to be approved by the PTA team, so it's very much a closed group, however, relatives can be added if you would like. We are pretty sure not everyone is on here yet, so please go and add yourself.

Thanks for reading this far. We appreciate your support, as always - Ada, Hayley and Neil.

TIME TO TALK - Time to Talk Day took place this week, it is the nation's biggest mental health conversation. Happening every year, it's a day for friends, families, communities, and workplaces to come together to talk, listen and change lives. The more conversations we have, the better life is for everyone. Talking about mental health isn't always easy and sometimes it's even harder to say how you really feel. But a conversation has the power to change lives.

Talking about mental health reduces stigma, helping to create supportive communities where we can talk openly about mental health and feel empowered to seek help when we need it. For more information visit: www.timetotalkday.co.uk



Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Garmain

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

Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Show



We have had a request from a parent to sign up to this year's Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show. I have therefore registered the school, which means children who attend our school can submit their artwork from home if they would like to have the chance to be part of the exhibition.

If your child wants to submit a piece of art for the show (this would need to be a piece created at home) then please click on the link below and follow the instructions for submitting work.

'Submitting artwork is completely free and is done online. First, a teacher needs to register your school. Once the school is registered, your artwork can be submitted. If you're 12 or under, a teacher or parent/guardian will need to enter for you; if you're 13 or over you can submit artwork yourself.'

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/get-involved#howitworks>

Medical Updates

Measles

Cases of measles are increasing in England currently. If your child has not been fully vaccinated with the MMR vaccine it is a good time to get this done to protect them. This can be arranged through the child's GP practice. You can check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations by looking at their personal health record (Red Book) or by asking their GP.

The early symptoms of measles can look like other illnesses: runny nose; cough; conjunctivitis. The child may also have a high fever. The distinctive rash of measles begins around day 3 of the illness, a rash of flat red or brown blotches appear, beginning on the face, behind the ears and spreading over the body. Any child thought to have measles should not be sent to school. Where possible NHS 111 or the GP should be phoned for advice, rather than visiting the surgery or A&E. This is to avoid passing the infection on to others. Further details about measles can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Chickenpox

We have a number of confirmed cases of Chickenpox across the school. It is advised by Essex County Council that children must stay off school at least 5 days after the on-set of the rash and all spots have scabbed over.

Symptoms of Chickenpox

- An itchy, spotty rash is the main symptom of chickenpox.
- Before or after the rash appears, children might experience:
 - a high temperature
 - aches and pains, and generally feeling unwell
 - loss of appetite



For full information about symptoms and how to treat Chickenpox please see NHS link below

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO**

Sharing
God's
Love

St Mary's
Saffron Walden

WIGGLE CHURCH

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH

AT 9:15AM

ST MARY'S PARISH ROOMS

**JOIN US ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
FOR A FUN FILLED 30 MINUTES WITH SONGS,
STORIES, AND ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 0-7.**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
YOUTH@STMARYSSAFFRONWALDEN.ORG**



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024:

Monday 29th January	-	Year 6 Bikeability (29/1/2024—1/2/2024)
Wednesday 31st January	-	Years 3 & 4 Indoor Athletics Tournament (9.30—11.45am) (Teams to be confirmed)
February	-	LGBTQ+ Month
Friday 2nd February	-	Year 1 Learn to Ride
Monday 5th to Friday 9th February	-	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
Tuesday 6th February	-	Safer Internet Day
W/C Monday 12th February	-	One Plan Meetings this week
Tuesday 13th February	-	Shrove Tuesday - Pancake lunch
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)
Monday 11th – Friday 15th March	-	British Science Week
Friday 15th March	-	PTA Quiz
Thursday 21st March	-	2Johns Online Safety sessions today (Yrs 1&2 – 9.30am to 10.15am; Yrs 3&4 – 11am to 12.05pm; Yrs 5&6 – 1.30pm to 3pm; staff – 4pm to 5.15pm; parents/carers – 8pm to 9.30pm).
Friday 22nd March	-	Year 1 Dance Festival
Wednesday 27th March	-	Year 3 Parent Presentation
Wednesday 27th March	-	Easter Bonnet Parade
Thursday 28th March	-	Easter Service in St Mary's Church at 11am
Friday 29th March—12th April	-	END OF TERM HOLIDAYS
Monday 15th April	-	INSET DAY