

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 26th January 2024

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Attendance Weekly 93.6%

Attendance Year 95.1%



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

Friendship

Trust

Truthfulness

Compassion

Perseverance

Respect

Dear parents and carers and friends of the school,

As we approach the end of our third week of the Spring Term (where has the time gone?!) St Mary's continues to be a productive and purposeful place for our pupils to learn. In this week's newsletter we have included some information about our amazing performance at Wednesday's Year 5 and 6 **Indoor Athletics tournament** held at Dame Bradbury's; our **Key Stage 2 Shining Stars of the Week**; some **E-Safety advice** leading up to our 2 Johns **Online Safety sessions** on 21st March (including a special workshop for parents and carers; some **Medical Updates** about **Measles and Chickenpox**; the **Wiggle Church** and a gentle reminder about **Pokemon cards**. **Diary Dates for the Spring Term** can be found on the final page—please do check these out! As ever, don't forget to have a good read of our **Class Updates** (sent out separately) so you can find out what your child (or children) have been learning about in class this week. I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

Indoor Athletics Tournament at Dame Bradbury's—article by Miss Driscoll

WOW....the Year 5&6 Indoor athletics team had an astonishing afternoon this week! They finished with a very well deserved 2nd place. Our athletes competed against nine other teams and ran their track events in the second heat, which almost makes the race that bit harder, as all the races are timed to determine your finishing place. Our athletes gave it everything they had in all the races, winning all of our heats and striving to push through to secure the best finishing time they could. The support given from the rest of the team on the side-lines was second to none! St Mary's took the roof off. It's safe to say we all had sore throats and sweaty palms from the excitement and tension. The nerves were real! They had all trained hard, turned up to trials and extra training in the weeks leading up and their hard work and dedication paid off in bundles. As well as an awesome display of technique, speed and stamina on the track a few of our children finished in the top three on their field events. A huge shout out to Theo, Sammy, Lily W, Lena, Jesse and Freya on your field events. As always I am immensely proud of all our pupils and the spirit they have BUT this event was like nothing I have ever seen before and was incredible. In the words of the team " WE BROKE THE CURSE, WE FINALLY BROKE THE CURSE!" My heart is bursting with so much pride. Wednesday will be a moment I cherish for a very long time. I would personally like to say a HUGE thank you to Miss Driscoll for all of the work she has put in over the last few months training up these pupils to perform so brilliantly this tournament. I was there to witness their races and activities and I was extremely impressed and proud of them all as a team.



Stars of the Week!

Well done to this week's Key Stage Shining Stars—who have clearly excelled themselves with their academic achievements this week, also demonstrating our 3 Core Skills: Safe, Effort and Respect

Year 3 : Zachary - for persevering in his reading and completing 50 quizzes

Mohana - for settling in well at St Mary's

Year 4 : Bertie - for better focus and effort in Maths.

Henry - for being supportive of his peers and working well in a team



Year 5 : Penny - for always putting in 100% effort and working hard

Oscar - for applying himself to his work

Year 6 : Anna-Leigh - for being more independent and taking initiative in her work

Nathan - for working hard on his punctuation in English

Pokemon cards

Reminder to parents—please do not let your children bring in Pokemon cards into school as we have had some issues with these going missing, leading to some squabbling amongst some of the children. Thank you!



2John's training—21st March 2024

When you think about Stranger Danger are you thinking of a white van outside a school or a man with a dog that has just had puppies?

Far too many parents are preparing their children for life as it was in 1990 and not life as it is today. Most children over the age of 8 would be able to design an 'E Safety' poster that would cover all of the points required by their Parent's but would this knowledge keep our children safe online?

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.

If a child today were walking to school and a man in a white van pulled up and offered them sweet's, then every one of them would immediately recognise this as a risk. Identifying the risk every child in the country would then have no fear whatsoever telling their parent or school about the incident. It is inconceivable that a child would be punished for this disclosure.



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 week before

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

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/>

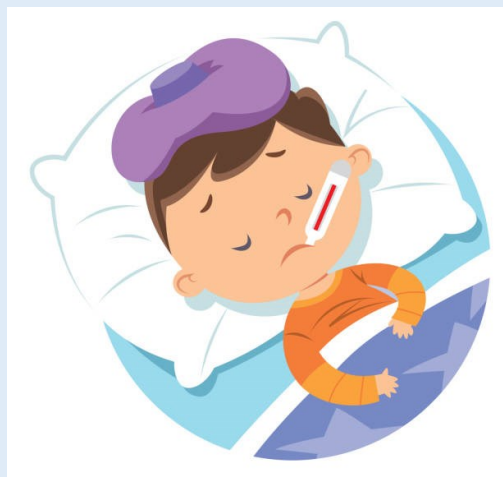
Chickenpox

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:

Wednesday 24th January	-	Years 5 & 6 Indoor Athletics Tournament (12.30—4.00pm). (Teams to be confirmed)
Friday 26th January	-	Year 6 visiting the Holocaust Memorial Day workshop (pm)
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
Thursday 7th March	-	World Book Day
Friday 8th March	-	Bringing Books to Life Workshops (Whole School)
Monday 11th – Friday 15th March	-	British Science Week
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
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