

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 25th November 2022

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Attendance Weekly - 92.1%

Attendance Year - 95 %

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

Friendship

Trust

Truthfulness

Compassion

Perseverance

Respect

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Good afternoon and welcome to the Week 11 Friday Newsletter!

In this week's newsletter I am going to share some interesting information about the **Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme**, talk about the upcoming **Visits to Saffron Walden Library**, tell you about our **Reverse Advent Calendar**, as well as saying a huge thank you to a leaving governor as well as welcoming a new governor to our school. There is also some vital information about **Road Safety** and a poster for the **Stansted Fire Station Open Day** on Friday 2nd December! There is also a note about our **Nativities** and **PTA Panto** (both of which are scheduled in for December) and **After School Clubs**. Once again, we have also added to our ever-growing list of diary dates of events taking place this term, which you will find on the very last page of this Friday Newsletter.

Finally, as ever, please don't forget to check out our weekly curriculum **Class Updates** (which comes out as a separate attachment and includes information from each class teacher as well as a range of photos of our fantastic pupils taking part in school life).

Enjoy this week's newsletter!

Reverse Advent Calendar

Every year, Uttlesford Foodbank give out Christmas hampers full of both basics and Christmas treats to families and individuals living in isolation or poverty. The Reverse Advent Calendar is a way for our children and families to give to others and let their light shine, as well as enabling children to join in with the true spirit of Christmas. To ensure they receive the correct items they have provided us with information to help us. If you could donate some of the items on the list that was sent out earlier this week via email, we would be really grateful.

Calling all Essex Horseriders—Can you Help?

Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership were approached by Essex Police Citizens In Policing Team to pilot their brand new Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme, following the success of the Reaching Our Rural Communities.

Over the last few months, Essex Police have been working with Uttlesford District Council on this new concept. As a result, the Essex Horse Rider Volunteers Scheme (EHRV) is now ready to launch as a trial, initially in Uttlesford, with a view to opening it up further within Essex in 2023.

The idea is simple- horse riders regularly use bridleways, footpaths and narrow country lanes that are not easily accessible by vehicles. They are in a unique position to spot signs of suspicious activity related to illegal activity such as hare coursing, stolen agricultural vehicles, unlawful metal detecting or theft of lead from protected heritage buildings. Rural crime such as those affecting farms, livestock or wildlife specifically target individuals and businesses connected to rural communities and can have a unique and significant impact. Putting right the damage caused to heritage and faith assets is expensive, and the cost to communities can be enormous. In addition, the loss of historical artefacts can lead to the loss of our heritage forever. Horse Rider Volunteers can be the eyes and ears in the rural areas and will be encouraged to report any suspicious activity or behaviour *they see*.

Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme | Essex Police. Training is to be provided both in person at London Road and virtually with the first session taking place on Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 10am-12pm. More information can be found on the website [here](#) on the newsletter page.

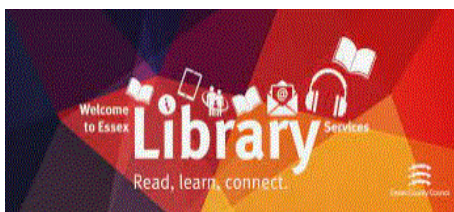
Nativities:

As we rapidly approach the Christmas season (yes, I know, where **has** this year gone!) just a reminder that this year's Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance to Parents and Carers will be taking place on **Tuesday 13th December at 6pm in St Mary's Church**. All parents, carers and friends of the school are very, very welcome! The children are already practising their Christmas songs and lines ready for their performance.



PTA Panto!

Whilst we are talking about Christmas... Thank you to Ruth of the PTA who has organised the annual PTA-funded Christmas Panto—which will be coming to the school on Monday 5th December. The Stage-ed Theatre Company will be delivering two performances to our lovely pupils—one for Key Stage 1 and another for Key Stage 2 of Aladdin. How exciting and a fun treat leading up to Christmas!



Visits to Saffron Walden Library:

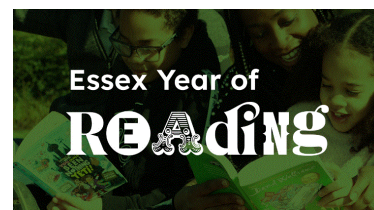
The Essex Year of Reading is a countywide campaign created to help children and young people discover a love of reading and ensure every Essex child can read at their age level or better. The campaign is part of a programme to address the short and long-term impact of Covid-19 on children and young people's education and the missed opportunities caused by the pandemic.

Essex County Council is funding the [Essex Education Task Force](#) to work with education providers and stakeholders to deliver the programme. Over £1million will be invested in a programme of reading during 2022.

To support this incredibly important initiative, and as you will note from the dates list at the end of this newsletter, Mr Brown (our English Leader) has arranged for each class to visit Saffron Walden Library over the course of the next few weeks—leading up to Christmas. Each class will visit once each term—so each of our children will be experiencing a library visit 3 times over the course of the year.

When each class visits they will get an opportunity to:

- Find out about the systems that the library staff use to organise fiction and non-fiction books;
- Learn how books are organised into different subjects and categories;
- Complete fun quizzes and challenges, including locating books in different areas of the library;
- Enjoy reading texts linked to the topics they are learning in class;
- Take home forms so that each pupil can become a member of the Essex Library Service.



Governor Goodbyes and Hellos

This week, Ellen Ricketts, our Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the Finance Committee came to the end of her term of office as a Parent Governor at St Mary's school. I would like to say a warm thank you to Ellen for all of her support and contributions to St Mary's during her time - particularly in what has been an extremely eventful last couple of years!

I would therefore like to officially welcome Doron Solomon to the vacant position of Parent/Carer Governor at the school. I met with Doron this morning, along with John Westnedge—our Chair of Governors—to speak to him about his new role. I am sure that you will join me in wishing him a warm welcome to our wonderful school.

After School Clubs:

After school Clubs have all now finished this week (apart from karate on Friday 2nd December with Chelsea Sydes being the final one). Information regarding spring clubs are currently being coordinated and will be communicated shortly.

Have a great weekend!

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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



Road Safety

With the nights getting darker it's important that we remind ourselves about road safety. Please can we encourage you to cross the road with the help of Jed, Jed is the crossing guard (lollypop man) who stands at the top of Castle Street, if your child / children have walked on ahead please encourage them to wait for you at the roadside and when crossing with younger children please hold their hand. If you are scooting or cycling please remember to wear a helmet and we would also like to remind you to walk scooters and bikes into the school grounds to avoid unnecessary accidents on site.

The Government's Think! campaign is internationally recognised as being instrumental in raising awareness on how drivers and pedestrians of all ages can stay safe. The [Think!](http://www.think.gov.uk) website has number of useful road safety teaching resources for young children and parent/carers, for more information please visit: www.think.gov.uk



Road Safety Checklist



Explain to children that they should tick each box when they see each item on their walk:

Zebra crossing

Traffic light

Yellow or white zig zag road markings – Cars or other vehicles are not allowed to park anywhere on these lines, to let young people nearby to see clearly left and right when crossing the road. These lines are often placed on roads around schools.

20 mph sign – These signs tell drivers to reduce their speed to less than 20 mph because there is likely to be young people on the pavements and crossing roads where this sign is shown. The lower speed helps drivers and pedestrians to be more aware of each other.

Children crossing sign - This sign indicates to drivers that they should watch for children crossing the road in this area.



STANSTED

FIRE STATION OPEN DAY

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER

4pm - 8pm



Diary Dates



- Wednesday 23rd November - Open Morning for New Reception Parents/Carers
- Friday 25th November - Library visit to for Year 2 (10am—11am)
- Monday 28th November - Library visit to for Year 1 (10am—11am)
- Tuesday 29th November - Flu Immunisation for Reception—Year 6 pupils
- Thursday 1st December - Library visit to for Year 3 (10am—11am)
- Friday 2nd December - Library visit to for Reception (11am—12pm)
- Friday 2nd December - School Disco for KS1 pupils (2pm—3pm)
School Disco for KS2 pupils (5pm—6.30pm)
- Thursday 8th December - Library visit to for Year 5 (1pm—2pm)
- Friday 9th December - Library visit to for Year 6 (10am—11am)
- Friday 9th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- Monday 12th December - Nativity rehearsal to the school at 9.30am
- Tuesday 13th December - Nativity Performance for parents/carers in St Mary's Church (at 6pm)
- Wednesday 14 December - Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 15th December - Library visit to for Year 4 (10am—11am)
- Monday 19th December - Christmas Service in St Mary's Church at 1.30pm
(Parents/Carers welcome)
- Tuesday 20th December - Last Day of Term (1.30pm finish)
- Thursday 5th January - Spring Term Commences
- Friday 13th January - Year 4 Swimming commences