

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 11th November 2022

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Attendance Weekly - 96.2%

Attendance Year - 95.8%

*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,

## Children in Need 18th November 2022

Next Friday is the charity fundraiser Children in Need! Here at St Mary's we are encouraging the children to come in their own clothes with a 'spots' theme if possible! The children will learn about some of the good things Children in Need does across the country. They will also do activities around charity and friendship throughout the day. For St Mary's Children in Need fundraising, we are requesting a voluntary donation of **£1 per child**, but children can still come and show their support in spots even without the donation!



## Reading, Phonics and encouraging independence in young children training event for Parents & Carers



On Tuesday 15th November, Mrs Jeewan, our KS1 Reading and Phonics Leader, and Mr Jarman (Headteacher) will be holding a short talk about our new Reading / Phonics programme '**Little Wandle: Revised Letters & Sounds**' and a short session on encouraging independence in young pupils. This will be for current Reception/KS1 parents. This will be a great opportunity to find out more about the scheme and to have a look at the new books and new resources we are using in school, and to see how we are teaching phonics and early reading in school. It will also be a useful opportunity (if you are interested) in finding out ways to further develop independence in our youngest pupils.

We will be holding these two sessions at **9am in the morning** and **6pm in the evening**. We anticipate that both sessions will last approximately one hour. We look forwards to seeing you there!

## School Attendance

The DFE are keeping a very close eye on school attendance this year. May I please remind you not to book routine medical appointments or family holidays, including long weekends during term time. Also, please remember that registers are taken at 8.45am, please do be punctual.

Attendance Matters



## Safeguarding

It is everyone's responsibility to make sure our children are safe and cared for.

All of St Mary's staff have yearly safeguarding training that follows the governments guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. This is a large document that covers all the alarming things that sadly have happened to children if they have not been kept safe and gives guidance on the good practice that staff should be aware of to avoid these situations. Please be supportive and not alarmed if members of staff ask politely about such things as your child's absence or lack of coat or any new bruise they may have. We have to adopt an attitude of 'It could happen here' and be prepared to support our children and their families through any difficulties they may be encountering.

If your family is experiencing difficulties that may affect the welfare of your child, please speak to your child's class teacher or arrange a confidential meeting with Mrs Crocker our Welfare and Support Officer.

**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

## Remembrance Service

This morning, at 9.30am, St Mary's hosted our annual Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church. I started the service off by talking to all of the children about the origins of Remembrance Day—which started back in 1919—a year after the Great War had ended, and we also talked about the reasons why we mark this special day in this country each year. We also discussed what remembrance means and how this links to our everyday lives. Then, class by class, pupils shared a wide variety of special art work, poems and prayers around the theme of Remembrance. You could tell that the children were very proud of their efforts!



A number of children from Year 6 read each of the verses from Laurence Binyon's famous war poem For The Fallen; Reverend Jeremy Trew shared a memory of a great uncle who had served in the Great War, had survived, but had been sadly impacted by what he had experienced in the Battle of the Somme.



Towards the end, some members of the School Council and Worship Council read some prayers, written in school and then we took part in a one-minute silence so that we could reflect on what we had learnt during the school week and also during this service. The children were engaged and respectful throughout and a number of our visitors remarked upon how well behaved all of the children were.

After another minute silence held at 11am in each classroom, I then accompanied the members of the School Council and Worship Council up to the memorial in Saffron Walden, along with Mr John Westnedge (our Chair of Governors) and Jo Crocker (our Welfare and Support Officer). At the memorial we talked about the history behind these memorials and monuments and what they tell us about our past and the children asked and answered a wide number of questions—as ever they really did the school proud. We finished off by reading a shared prayer altogether which was very poignant.

## Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2023

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 7 November 2022**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2023.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2023**.

**From 7 November 2022**, applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above. Please note that if a parent already has a sibling at school you will still need to apply if you have a child due to start Reception next September. The website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2023-24 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

## Support for Ukraine

The Rotary Club of Saffron Walden is working with Essex charity UK-Aid to collect food and other much needed items which UK-Aid transports to Rotary Clubs in Chisinau, Lviv and Kyiv (and others) who then distribute the goods to the those in need. If you are able to help and donate a list of what is needed can be found at <https://www.uk-aid.org/news/article/ukraine-crisis.html>. Please leave any donations with the school office any time up until Friday 25th November. Thank you in advance.

## Lunchtime Shining Light

Freddie in Year 1 received a lunchtime pass and a midday smiley for being a wonderful friend to his sick classmate. He gets to pick a buddie to take for lunch and go to the front of the line. Well done Freddie!

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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





# Children in Need



Next Friday we  
will be raising  
money for chil-  
dren in need.

Designed and created by Hayden and  
Grace (School council)

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>  
November

Wear  
spots!

# Diary Dates



- Friday 4th November - Bonfire menu
- Friday 4th November - Book Look (8.30am to 9.00am and 3.15pm to 4.00pm)
- Tuesday 8th November - Parents/Carers Consultations
- Wednesday 10th November - Year 5 Road Safety
- Thursday 10th November - Parents/Carers Consultations
- 14th-18th November - Anti-Bullying Week
- Tuesday 15th November - EYFS/KS1 Little Wandle Phonics/Early Reading workshops at 9.00am and 6.00pm
- Wednesday 16th November - Governors Day (Autumn Term)
- Friday 18th November - Children in Need— non uniform day
- Wednesday 23rd November - Open Morning for New Reception Parents/Carers
- Tuesday 29th November - Flu Immunisation for Reception—Year 6 pupils
- Friday 2nd December - School Disco for KS1 pupils 2pm—3pm  
School Disco for KS2 pupils 5pm—6.30pm
- 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
- 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)