

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 4th November 2022

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: [info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk)

Website: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk)



Attendance Weekly - 97.9%

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,

Megan, Lewis and Rachel (from Essex County Council) visited our school to talk to Year 5 about air quality and pollution. Rachel became 'Doctor Rosemary Ayre', and she had a workshop/ laboratory in her garden shed. She told us what air is made up from: Nitrogen, Oxygen, and small amounts of other gases like carbon dioxide. Sometimes air contains other things such as: Nitrogen Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Sulphur Dioxide and Particulate Matter. All of these things shouldn't really be in our air, and are pollution. Theo, Emma, Molly, Logan and Lucas were chosen to 'use tongs to clean up the air' (move balls from one basket to another). The point was that everyone did a little bit, and together they made a difference. Together they managed to clean the air.



There was a scale of different pollutants for children to organise from least polluting to most polluting. Children found out that 1. Walking was least polluting. 2. LED lighting was still not very polluting. 3. Planes were slightly more polluting. 4. Factories were more polluting. 5. Traffic was the most polluting of all (it accounts for 70% of all air pollution).

Children were encouraged to walk to school where they can, and walk when they can, rather than taking a car to go to places, although the crew did recognise that we do live in a rural area so sometimes we need to drive.

All in all it was an excellent show and we really enjoyed it. We were able to talk about the things we have been learning about Sustainability and Food Miles so it was nice to add to our prior knowledge.



## WhatsApp

With over 1.5 billion users, WhatsApp has become one of the most used messaging apps. As you probably know, WhatsApp is a free messaging app for users of 16 and above. However there is no age verification. 33% of 5-7-year-olds, 64% of 8-11-year-olds, and 91% of 12-15-year-olds use messaging apps/sites ([Ofcom, 2020](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/whatsapp/whatsapp_2020.pdf)).



An article on [Kidscape.org.uk](https://www.kidscape.org.uk) highlighted that the most common risk with WhatsApp is bullying, and accessing/sharing inappropriate and explicit content. Most bullying is group behaviour, and the use of 'groups' to communicate can mean trouble. There are rarely agreed 'group rules'. Children can be supportive and brilliant to one another, but they can also be unkind and get a kick out of embarrassing each other. You also cannot control what others talk about or send around the group.

If your child is using WhatsApp, the best way you can keep them safe is to have lots of conversations about how they and others are using WhatsApp, what they have seen, anything that has surprised or worried them, and what the risks might be. Encourage them to be kind to others, and to think carefully about what they share.

Whilst we continue to educate the children regarding e-safety in school, as a parent / carer you also have a duty to keep your child safe, and that includes closely monitoring how they are using their phones and devices, what they see and share, and setting appropriate boundaries for your child.

If you haven't already visited the 2Johns website please do, information can be found here [www.esafetytraining.org](http://www.esafetytraining.org) or search for them on Facebook - EST E safety Training and sign up for their free training session.

### Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies, one for a **Midday Assistant** and one for a **Kitchen Assistant**. If you are interested and would like to apply you can find more information on the website [here](#) .



### What a Sporty term!

What an impressive half term we had for sports. Every pupil took part in a sports activity at least once. We created **602 active opportunities for our pupils to represent the school**, we are extremely proud of this and them.

We started the sports season with football, attending festivals to enhance our skills that allowed Yrs 5 & 6 boys and girls to play in a tournament at Herberts Farm. Both teams did extremely well and faced some challenging matches.



We have also hosted sports events and invited other schools to join us on the meadow for multi-skills fun, led by our very own Year 6 class. Both Year 3 & 4 had a blast in the sunshine and our Yr 6 students found a new appreciation of their teachers.

KS1 and Early Years have been busy learning to keep safe on their scooters and completing a Teddy Bear Run. They had so much energy and were such super stars with their running. They definitely had the cute factor!

This week we had 46 children across KS2 take part in a Cross-Country Running event at Herberts Farm, the weather was windy and not an easy task at all. A huge congratulations to Bertie Skipper and Maisy Andrews who qualified for the next level in this event. An amazing whole team effort from all our pupils, no one gave up and we all completed the run. A great afternoon making sports memories.

Thank you for supporting our first Inter House competition, the children looked amazing dressed in their bright neon colours. It was a fantastic way to end the half term, everyone laughed and danced their way into half term. The Winner of the Event were Green group!

Finally, a special thank you to Mrs Carron Shaw who helps and supports our school, Carron and Jackie Coleman work tirelessly to create these opportunities for our children.



### Clubbercise competition:

On the last afternoon before the half term break, the whole school took part in an inter-house Clubbercise challenge with Mrs Shackleton. It was a lovely opportunity for all the year groups to work together to earn points for their house group, whilst also being active and having a good time. One by one, each colour group joined Mrs Shackleton in the hall as she led them through five different songs and dance routines. With disco lights and glowsticks the danced and sang as the older children supported the younger children and encouraged them to join in.



The Year 6 pupils did a fantastic job of gathering everybody up so that they were in the hall at the right time, and they also helped to judge the competition. Houses were awarded points for arriving in the hall safely, behaving with respect all the way through and putting in lots of effort.

In the end, it was decided by the Year 6's that the winning house was the Green House with an amazing 76 points - congratulations to them and thank you to everybody for making it such a fun afternoon.



### Egyptian Day for Year 3!

Today in Year 3, we had a fantastic Ancient Egyptian day. The children came in amazing costumes and fully immersed themselves in this fun learning event led by Portals to the Past! To start, the children learnt some of the history of Ancient Egypt and the importance of the River Nile. Once the children had completed this, they then completed a quiz involving lots of important parts of Ancient Egypt. The children came up with some fantastic answers and I was amazed with their knowledge of this civilization.

The next part of the day involved looking at lots of incredible artefacts from Ancient Egypt. The children looked at pots, real life mummification linen and arrow heads all from this time period. We then studied different pictures and learning more about the Egyptian way of life.

Finally, the children played a game called Hounds and Jackals. They learned the rules and played exactly like they would have all of those years ago! The children enjoyed the competitive aspect of the game and took the rules



## Light Day

We had a fantastic day for Light Day on Thursday. The children looked amazing in their brightly coloured clothing and enjoyed spending the day learning about light festivals from different religions and from around the world. Reception looked at our school motto, 'Let your light shine...as you grow', Year 1 created a very impressive Chinese dragon, fans and lanterns for Chinese New Year, Year 2 learnt about the Jewish festival of Hannukah and created their own menorahs and dreidels, Year 3 created rangoli patterns using coloured rice to celebrate the Hindu celebration of Diwali, Year 4 looked at the Sikh version of Diwali and created lanterns, Year 5 shared beautiful, bright cathedral pictures French Fête des Lumières and Year 6 created lotus flowers to celebrate the Buddhist festival of Wesak. It was brilliant to have all the children together in the afternoon for a special Collective Worship where they could share with the other years what they had been learning and creating throughout the day and could sing our special light song, City on a Hill.



lanterns for Chinese New Year, Year 2 learnt about the Jewish festival of Hannukah and created their own menorahs and dreidels, Year 3 created rangoli patterns using coloured rice to celebrate the Hindu celebration of Diwali, Year 4 looked at the Sikh version of Diwali and created lanterns, Year 5 shared beautiful, bright cathedral pictures

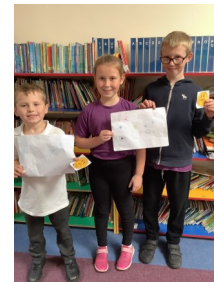
French Fête des Lumières and Year 6 created lotus flowers to celebrate the Buddhist festival of Wesak. It was brilliant to have all the children together in the afternoon for a special Collective Worship where they could share with the other years what they had been learning and creating throughout the day and could sing our special light song, City on a Hill.

French Fête des Lumières and Year 6 created lotus flowers to celebrate the Buddhist festival of Wesak. It was brilliant to have all the children together in the afternoon for a special Collective Worship where they could share with the other years what they had been learning and creating throughout the day and could sing our special light song, City on a Hill.



## Firework Art Competition

The winners of the firework competition were TJ and Lilly from KS2 and Alfie from KS1.



## Kemi Badenoch MP e-Christmas card competition

In the run up to the festive season this year, Kemi Badenoch is inviting pupils at St Mary's Primary School to take part in an e-Christmas card competition for children up to the age of 11 in the Saffron Walden constituency.

The winning design will feature on her e-Christmas card to residents, businesses and colleagues in Parliament, including the Prime Minister and they will receive a hand-signed certificate. The top 3 entries will feature on the website and all school's that take part will receive a certificate.

If you would like to take part entry forms can be collected from the office. The deadline to return these to the school office is Monday 5th December to enable us to send on in time.

Have a great weekend!

Kind regards

*Mr C. D. Jarmain*

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



# Diary Dates



- Mon 24th - Fri 28th October - Half-Term
- Monday 31st October - INSET day for teachers (no school)
- Friday 4th November - Bonfire menu (see the link below)
- <https://stmaryschurchofengland.secure-primariesite.net/school-dinnerhealthy-snacks/>
- 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
- Wednesday 16th November - Governors Day (Autumn Term)
- 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 KS2 pupils (after school)
- 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 (please note this was previously shown for Monday 19th December)
- 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)