

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 21 October 2022

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Attendance Weekly - 93.2%

Attendance Year - 95.1%

*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 7 Friday Newsletter - the last of this half term!

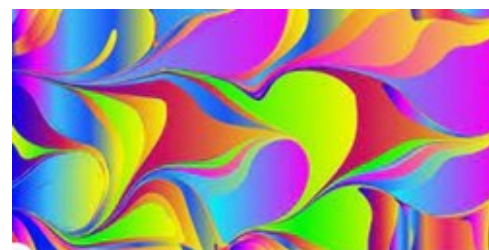
In this week's newsletter I am going to share some information about the upcoming **Light Day**, as well as an article about **Mental Health Awareness**. There is also some further information about school attendance in **Attendance Matters**. I am also going to give you some more information about our St Mary's curriculum in our **School Website Focus**. 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, please don't forget to check out our fantastic 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). This week's Class Updates will include some information about the **Teddy Bear Fun Run** (which took place yesterday) as well as the **Intra-house Clubbercise competition**, both of which took place this week!

Enjoy this week's newsletter and don't forget that the school breaks up for the half term today at 3.15pm and pupils will **return to school** on **Tuesday 1st November at 8.30am** (as Monday 31st is a teaching staff INSET day).

## **Light Day!**

We will be having our annual Light Day Festival to celebrate All Saints' Day on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**. Each class will be looking at Light Festivals from around the world and will come together at the end of the day to share what they have learnt. On this day, please send your children into school wearing, bright, light clothing! This can be light up, sparkly or neon. The brighter the better!



## **Attendance Information:**

Important information regarding your child/ren's attendance will be coming home via book bags today, including information about their up-to-date school attendance over the course of this first half term of the academic year. We have also included a helpful leaflet which explains the Government's new School Attendance Code.

If you have any concerns/questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and request a telephone call with our Welfare and Support Officer Jo Crocker.

## Mental Health Awareness

Following on from world mental health day on 10<sup>th</sup> October we wanted to raise awareness of the **Adult Mental Health & Wellbeing Team**.

The team works with people who are experiencing low level mental health problems such as anxiety and depression which are causing a social care need. They can work with you over a period of 3 to 6 months, to enable you improve your mental health so you can achieve your goals.

This could include finding ways to help you:

- feel better
- manage your mood
- get out and about without feeling anxious or stressed
- get back into work or education
- access community services
- meet new people



If you look after someone with mental health problems, the team can help you explore the impact of your caring role and let you know what support may be available.

You can contact the Adult Mental Health and wellbeing team directly to talk about the support they offer.

Telephone: 0333 032 2958

Email: [MH.wellbeingteam@essex.gov.uk](mailto:MH.wellbeingteam@essex.gov.uk)

Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/mental-health/adult-mental-health-and-wellbeing-team>

## School Website Focus: St Mary's Curriculum!



### **Our Curriculum:**

In the Summer Term, in our Parents and Carers Survey, some of our parents and carers questioned where they could find out more about the curriculum at St Mary's; they wanted to know more about how it was structured, what the children learn—both in their current class and also in their time at St Mary's. I am pleased to say that over the last two years we

have been adding **more and more** information to our new school website, so that all of our parents and carers can find out about what their children are learning.

### **Our Curriculum Approach**

All aspects of our curriculum are accessible to all children, irrespective of their ethnic background, gender, disability, religious or linguistic background. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those who are more able, those with special gifts and talents and the children who are learning English as an additional language. We provide a rich, challenging curriculum, which stretches all of our children. Staff are aware of children who have exceptional talents and gifts and monitor or track their progress carefully to ensure their academic potential or talent is continually developed.

There are a number of relevant policies in our school website Policies section, which include our Curriculum policy, Early Years Foundation Stage Policy, PE Policy, Homework Policy (which is due to be updated soon) and our Clubs Policy. You will also find two specific Calculation Policies (for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2), written by Mr Pike (our Curriculum Leader and Maths Leader). Please follow this link to read these important documents: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/>

As we explained in the last School Website Focus article, we have created **13 different sections** in the Our Curriculum section of our school website, ranging from Reading and Phonics at St Mary's – which has further information about our Little Wandle scheme, our unique class Topic Pages, our amazing Forest School lessons (with a fantastic regular newsletter prepared by Mrs McInnes our fantastic Forest School Leader), to the important British Values and much, much more! There is even some specific year group guidance for whichever class your child is in – telling you what they cover in Maths and English across the school year. Don't forget the upcoming Parents/Carers consultations which are coming up after the half term break (8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November) where you can speak to your class teacher about your child's progress and ask them questions about the curriculum.

If you are interested and would like to find out more please visit the Our Curriculum section of our new school website or click on <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/topic/our-curriculum>

Have a great half term.

Kind regards

*Mr C. D. Jarmain*

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

# Diary Dates



- October - Black History Month
- Thursday 13th October - Individual and Sibling Photographs (by Kittle)
- Friday 21st October - Whole school Clubbercise Competition
- 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
- 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)