

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 14 October 2022

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Attendance Weekly - 95.3%

Attendance Year - 95.5%

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 6 Friday Newsletter! In this week's newsletter I am going to share some information about the recent **School Dinner Survey**, an Eco-garden competition; I will also talk about the upcoming **Teddy Bear Fun Run** and the **Intra House Clubbercise** Competition, as well as a reminder about how to order your **individual and sibling photographs** from Kittle! There is also some further information about school attendance in **Attendance Matters**. Due to the amount of information in this week's newsletter I am also going to give you some more information about **St Mary's curriculum** in the following week's newsletter—on Friday 21st October. 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 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).

Do enjoy this week's newsletter!

Eco-garden competition:

Calling all St Mary's pupils and families! We have just discovered that there is a competition being run by Stansted Airport to create an eco-garden for schools in the area and we'd love to take part. Only problem is that we have a week left of school and then a few days in the half term holiday to compile our entries (the deadline is 28th October) so we need to get our skates on!



Good news is that the judges want to hear from you, the children, and we know that you always have the best ideas. We have already spoken to a few year 6s and they are on board to help organise all of the wonderful ideas that we know you will come up with.

Please see attached a guide to help you get started. We have a few areas in school where you could focus your ideas as a starting point: the gardening club area (which is very run down and needs lots of TLC); the forest school area (which has plenty of room for additional spaces that could be devoted to biodiversity) and the pond at the front of the school (again this needs some TLC!)

Think about what you would like to have in your eco-garden at school and why. What are the best ways to help the environment and the world around us with this space? Research which plants/trees would be interesting to grow in an area and why. Think about how we can maintain this area and maybe how we could reach out to the local community to help us with this. Reflect on the changing climate and how our garden could survive/support that. How could we boost pupil well-being at school with this garden? How will the whole school be involved once it is made? Do you have anyone in your family who loves gardening and might be able to help you with your designs? Remember with all of this, your ideas don't have to be over-complicated, they just have to be creative, engaging, practical and thoughtful.

Here are some useful links for more information including videos which might be helpful:

<https://www.stanstedairport.com/community/community-support/eco-garden/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llg3P0tSLxM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ep4nBnEmo30>

We will send out some photos of the gardening, forest school and pond areas at the start of the week to help guide you with your plans. Please hand in any ideas that you have to the office by the 20th October. We will then compile the ideas with the wonderful year 6s and post the application online. Thanks in advance and good luck!

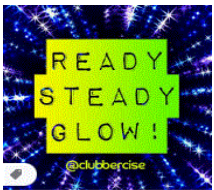
School Dinner Survey:

Thank you so much to all of our parents and carers who kindly completed our recent online School Dinner Survey. We received an amazing 127 responses! Our office and kitchen team are currently poring through the myriad of statistics and ideas, as we are always looking for ways to improve what we do in all areas of school life. However, it has also been lovely to note all of the lovely comments from parents and carers (and pupils) which include lots of, *'very tasty'* and *'really tasty'* and *'yummy,'* as well as *'great quality, wide range of ingredients'*, to *'thumbs up here!'* and *'for our child 50/50'* (for the question: how tasty are the lunches at school?) There have also been some interesting ideas and suggestions—which we will look at closely and implement where we can over the course of this year. Watch this space!



As ever, thanks to Riina, Emma and Sian for all of their hard work in the school kitchen. We are lucky to have such a fab, dedicated team!

Clubbercise Intra House Competition – Friday 21st October 2022



On Friday 21st October all St. Marys children will be taking part in an intra house competition! We shall be dancing the afternoon away with Mrs Shackleton in the school hall. All children are invited to wear their house colour sports day T-shirt, or another top of that colour should they not have one. Please could these be worn with **black coloured bottoms** the same as they would for a PE lesson with trainers. Should your child have any neon accessories for example, neon face paint, bright socks, tutus, hairbands, sweat bands etc that they would like to wear they are more than welcome. Many thanks, to Miss Driscoll (Sports Coordinator) for organising this fun and active event.

Teddy Bear Run

Next week, the Key Stage 1 classes will be taking part in a Teddy Bear run. Each of the three classes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) will be running around the meadow (joined by some of our very fittest staff members!) - with the added fun of running with their very own Teddy Bears. The pupils in these three classes will need to come to school in their full PE kit on that day, and they will obviously need to be accompanied by their favourite Teddy Bear!



Individual & Sibling Photographs:



As you will know, the children had their individual and sibling photographs taken at school with the Kittle Photography Company on Thursday this week. In your child's bookbag you will have received a slip with an explanation of how to order these photographs, which involves using a QR code or alternatively visiting the Kittle Website and entering the photo ID code and password (which is on the slip).

Secondary School Applications for September 2023 – Reminder for Year 6 Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2023) is **31 October 2022**. **If you have yet to submit an application, that you have until this deadline to do so.** Applications can be made via the Essex Admissions website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.



Attendance Matters!

Please note that we will be sending out an overview of your child's attendance for this half term. A short attendance flyer will accompany this report. We strive for 100% attendance from all of our pupils.

Community School Nurse Drop in Sessions - Uttlesford



Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service are reintroducing their Community School Nurse Drop in

Sessions. These will be held on a monthly basis around the Uttlesford District, the sessions are run by a School Nurse and the 5-19 Healthy Family Support Practitioner.

Parents/carers can ask advice about behaviour and emotional needs, bed wetting and soiling issues plus other health needs that may be impacting on both home and school life.

The date for the Autumn Term drop in is **November 1st 2022** from 3:30pm – 5pm and will be held at the Clinic Room Saffron Walden Hospital, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3HY.

Contact phone number for 5-19 team 0300 247 0122

For further details on Essex Child and Family Well-being Service please visit:

www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

Science Workshop (article by Evie, Sammy, Jessie and Emma)

On Monday, Year 5 Busybee class had a science workshop, where they learned about space and robots! The morning started with an assembly where Mario and Freya delivered a whole school assembly; they taught us about how rockets get into space and how much fuel to need just to get there! They also spoke to us about how astronauts use technology to fix rips - inside and outside of the space craft. Then (and this was really fun) in groups of 4-6 we controlled a special robot called a claw and tried to pick up some figures (the pupil with the controller was blindfolded, so their team mates had to tell them which buttons to press! After this we then looked at how different materials would absorb the most water which was also eye-opening! All in all it was really fun and we want something like this to happen again!



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!

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Diary Dates



- October - Black History Month
- Thursday 6th October - Census Day
- 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 - 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)