

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 7 October 2022

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Attendance Weekly - 95.04%

Attendance Year - 95.64 %

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 5 Friday Newsletter! In this week's newsletter I am going to give you lots of information about St Mary's curriculum in the first of our series called 'Website Focus', which is taken from the **Our Curriculum** section of our school website. There is also a final reminder about the **Parent/Carer Governor vacancy**, as the closing date for this is **on Monday next week**. There is also some further information about school attendance in **Attendance Matters (in a special article on page 4)** and the **individual and sibling photographs** which are taking place on Thursday next week (13th October). 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. 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).

School Website Focus: St Mary's Curriculum!

Our Curriculum:

Recently, in our Parents and Carers Survey, some of our parents and carers have asked us if they could find out a bit 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. Over the last two years we have been adding **more and more** information to our new school website, so that parents and carers can find out about what their children are learning. 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>

As you will see when you click on this link, we have created **13 different sections**, ranging from Reading and Phonics, our Topic Pages, our Forest School lessons, to the British Values and much, much more!

In today's newsletter I have chosen some of the key sections from the Our Curriculum website area to tell you more about our fantastic St Mary's curriculum.

Skills progression documents:

In the Our Curriculum section of our website you will also find a section named **Skills Progression Documents**. In this section you will find the curriculum skills progressions carefully mapped out for each of our subjects and explain the key/core skills which are taught to our children in every class as they progress through the school. For example if you are interested in what your child (or children) are taught in Computing then click on the Skills Progression document for Computing and you will see what they are taught from Reception to Year 6. You will be impressed—believe me! Please note that there are now **29 different Skills Progression documents**—enough to keep all of our parents and carers occupied up to Christmas!

Click on this link if you wish to be taken directly to this section of the website. <https://stmaryschurhofengland.secure-primarysite.net/skills-progression-documents/>

Subject Leader Skills Progression		
Subject: Computing Subject Leader: Conor Clarke		
A Reception Computer Scientist		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I can understand and verbalise e-safety.I can use the internet with adult supervision to find and retrieve information of interest to themI can know that information can be retrieved from digital devices and the internetI can develop digital literacy skills by being able to access, understand, and interact with a range of technologiesI can select and use technology for different purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I can understand that there is a range of technology in places such as home and schools (computer, phone, camera, iPad, laptop and tv)I can use a mouse and keyboardI can create a video recording or draw a picture on a screen using an appI can take a photograph on a digital camera and/or on iPadI can operate simple equipment such as a DVD player, use a remote control and use touch screen devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I can make toys move or the sound or picture images on toys work by pressing switches or touching the screen I can cause things to happen in computer softwareI can complete a simple programme on an electronic device (such as beebots)I can use a simple programme that is put on an interactive whiteboard for me
A Year 1 Computer Scientist	A Year 2 Computer Scientist	A Year 3 Computer Scientist
Computing Systems and Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none">I can identify what technology is and how it is used in schoolI can explain the uses of technologyI can name the parts of a computerI can log onto a computerI can use the mouse to click and dragI can type using the keyboardI can save my work to a fileI can open my work from a fileI can delete letters on the keyboardI can explain how to stay safe online	Computing Systems and Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none">I can identify examples of computersI can describe some uses of computersI can sort school IT by its useI can identify that some IT can be used in more than one wayI can use more than one IT device togetherI can list rules for using IT safely Creating Media - Pictures and Music <ul style="list-style-type: none">I can take a clear picture on a deviceI can use different lighting to alter a pictureI can add effects to a pictureI can recognise when pictures have been altered	Computing Systems and Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none">I can explain that digital devices accept inputsI can explain that digital devices produce outputsI can follow a processI can classify input and output devicesI can describe a simple processI can recognise different connectionsI can explain how messages are passed through multiple connectionsI can discuss why we need a network switchI can recognise that a computer network is made up of a number of devicesI can demonstrate how information can be passed between devices
Creating Media - Drawing <ul style="list-style-type: none">I can use a mouse to draw a pictureI can use the shape and line tools to draw		

Subject Leader Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact Overview		
Subjects: Art & DT		Subject Leader: Sam Pike
<p>At St Mary's our intent for art and design & technology to teach a rich, creative and progressive curriculum using a wide range of resources, mediums and inspirations.</p>		
Intent	Implementation	Impact
<p>Here, at St Mary's Primary School, we value and are dedicated to the teaching of Art and Design Technology. We see this as a fundamental part of school life.</p> <p>We are committed to providing an 'arts rich curriculum' for our children. We believe that by developing this, we can contribute to the quality of our children's lives, both within and beyond school. We want our children to be amazed and thrilled by the world around them and be inspired to use these influences creatively.</p> <p>We see art and design as a means to support learning in a range of ways. The skills that are developed in these subjects can be transferred across the curriculum and thus aid learning.</p> <p>The planning and monitoring shows clear progression of skills in both art and design technology.</p>	<p>As a school and in accordance with the National Curriculum's expectations, we aim to ensure that all pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques including: sketching, shading, creating tone, use of colour, model-making and finishes learn, evaluate, analyse and be inspired by a wide range of great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms and specific vocabulary show clear progression of skills from EYFS up to year 6 in line with the skills progression document evaluate and develop children's own work and support others in developing their work further <p>Class teachers are usually responsible for teaching art and design technology, although there will be times when professional artists/helpers will be involved in the teaching of the topic. We take every opportunity to develop links with outside agencies and experts, inviting artists and designers into the school to work with our children.</p> <p>Throughout the year key days (including topic days) will be in place in all year groups, where creativity and design is of high priority and focus.</p>	<p>Our children enjoy the self-expression that they experience in both art and design technology and can speak confidently about their learning and experiences.</p> <p>They are always keen to learn new skills and work hard to perfect those shown to them. They take peer evaluation well and thrive to develop their own skills. The children's art is very often cross-curricular helping them to express feelings and emotions in PSHE, as well as showing their knowledge and understanding in history, geography (topic) and science.</p> <p>Through their art and design, the children are able to reach out into the community, with our pupil's artwork proudly submitted to competitions and shared in the local newspapers.</p>

Intent, Impact and Implementation documents:
In the **Our Curriculum** section of our school website you will discover these important documents. For each subject our St Mary's Subject Leader has clearly set out what we want our children to learn (**intent**), how we specifically teach these skills to our pupils (**implementation**) and then how we assess what they have retained and are able to apply in their everyday learning (**impact**).

As you will see, we have **15** of these detailed documents available for our parents and carers to read through.

An example of a Intent, Implementation and Impact document for Art/DT

Topic Pages!

Also available in the **Our Curriculum** section of the St Mary's school website you will find our very latest Topic Pages – and there is a different Topic Page for every class in the school. These topic pages act as a useful summary so that parents and carers can see what pupils are learning in each subject throughout the term (or half term).

This half term our seven classes are focussing on the following topics:

- Reception (butterfly class) – **Marvellous Me!**
- Year 1 (Ladybird class) – **Me and My Town**
- Year 2 (Caterpillar class) – **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**
- Year 3 (Grasshopper class) – **Tomb Raiders!**
- Year 4 (Firefly class) – **Ancient Greeks!**
- Year 5 (Busybee class) – **Space... The Final Frontier**
- Year 6 (Dragonfly class) – **A Whole New World**

<p>ENGLISH – myths and legends, instructions, non-chronological reports</p> <p>READING FOCUS</p>	<p>ENRICHMENT</p> <p>Read an adventure set in Ancient Greece such as Percy Jackson or Who Let the Gods Out! Visit a The British Museum in London and see what you can discover about Ancient Greece. What can you find out about the Ancient Greeks over the Summer holiday?</p>	<p>PSHCE</p> <p>Anti-bullying E-Safety Emotions – Zones of Regulation Healthy & Safer Lifestyles Myself & My Relationships</p>	<p>P.E</p> <p>Football, Dodgeball Gymnastics, Athletics</p>
<p>ART – collage, painting, mixed media, clay, mosaics, sketching, portraits</p> <p>DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – product research, design, make, test and evaluate</p> <p>Jewellery design</p>	<p>AUTUMN TERM (Year 4)</p> <p>Ancient Greeks</p> <p>GEOGRAPHY</p> <p>Greece Study – What is Greece like? Look at landmarks and geographical features. Mapwork – identify landmarks and where in the world. Compare weather to UK. How does it differ to England?</p> <p>HISTORY</p> <p>Who were the Ancient Greeks? Ancient Greek timelines. The battle of Marathon. Gods and Goddesses. Source reliability. Lasting legacy.</p>	<p>FRENCH</p> <p><i>numbers 1-31</i> <i>days, months & seasons</i> <i>answering simple questions</i></p>	<p>MUSIC - SINGING</p> <p>Heroes of Troy -BBC Music</p>
		<p>RE</p> <p>Creation - What do Christians learn from the creation story? Incarnation - What is the Trinity?</p>	<p>SCIENCE – ELECTRICITY</p> <p>Identify common appliances that run on electricity. Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit. Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit.</p>

Please note that in most of our classes the topic (along with the Topic Page) will change half termly or termly (at the very least). **n example of an Autumn Term Topic Map (from Year 4)**

Feel free to take a look at last year's Topic Pages which are also saved in the same section of our school website. Please follow the link below to find out more! <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/autumn-september-2022-december-2022/>

I hope that you have found the information in this week's newsletter to be useful. In next week's newsletter I will share some more information from the Our Curriculum section, and focus on the **British Values, Home Learning Plans, Forest School** and **Phonics** sections.

Book Looks: 4th November

The upcoming Parents & Carers Consultations after the half term break (on the 8th and 10th of November) will be focussed on giving parents/carers and their new class teacher the opportunity to talk about how their child is settling into their new class, as well as class teachers having the opportunity to share a range of academic and social targets.

Last year we trialled a new Book Look (Share our work) event. In these Book Looks, parents and carers have a separate opportunity to come into school to have a longer look at their children's work in advance of these meetings—so that you can discuss some of this work—if you wish to do so. These sessions will be a brilliant opportunity for children to share work and then if you have any questions these can be discussed with the class teacher at the upcoming Parents/Carers Consultations sessions after half term.

The first Book Look of this academic year will take place on **Friday 4th November**. The first will be between **8.30am and 9.00am** and the second will be between **3.15pm and 4.00pm**. Keep an eye out in your child's book bag next week for the special invitations from your child.



Individual and Sibling photographs (with Kittle):

Next week **(on Thursday 13th October)** the Kittle photographers will be visiting St Mary's to take the annual individual and sibling photos.

Don't forget to make sure that your child is dressed extra smartly on that day. Afterwards your child will be coming home with a photocard from Kittle Photography. Last year Kittle advised that the photos usually take a week to be loaded on to their website so have a check online at the end of the following week. Further information to follow!

New Governor Vacancy:

As communicated to all parents and carers last week, our fantastic Vice Chair and Chair of the Finance Committee, Ellen Ricketts, has come to the end of her term and, due to work commitments, will not be renewing her governorship. I would like to thank Ellen for all of her many contributions and steadfast commitment to the school in what has been an extremely challenging last few years.



Therefore, St Mary's is now looking to recruit a new parent or carer for a position on our Governing Board. Governors fulfil a vital role in the strategic leadership of the school and are closely involved in a number of key areas, which include the curriculum, finance, safeguarding and personnel matters, in addition to premises management. Currently, Governors also attend two Full Governing Board meetings each term, as well as a number of Committee meetings - in addition to monitoring meetings/visits, linked to their area/s of responsibility.

If you would be interested in taking up this important position on the governing board, we would ask that you email the school **by 12pm on Monday 10th October**, on the school's info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk email address to register your interest. We would particularly like to hear from any parents or carers with a finance background; however, we would welcome interest in this position from any candidates with other areas of experience. If the school has more than one candidate who would like to take up this role, then the school will need to carry out a Parent/Carers Governor Election - which would involve the candidate producing a short description of themselves, including some simple personal information and also, most importantly, why they would like to take on the role of a Parent/Carer Governor at St Mary's. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email the school on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk or email the chair of Governors (John Westnedge) on chairofgovernors@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk and we would be delighted to answer any questions that you may have.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Attendance Matters!

At St Mary's (VA) primary school, we believe in developing good patterns of attendance and set high expectations for the attendance and punctuality for all our pupils. It is a central part of our school's vision, values, ethos, and day to day life. We recognise the connections between attendance, attainment, safeguarding and wellbeing.

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. **It is a rule of this school that pupils must attend every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances and it is the headteacher, not the parent, who can authorise the absence.**

Our overall school attendance up until today is 95.04 %

We currently have 38 pupils who have attendance below 90%.

Please can we remind you that the times of the start and close of the school day for all pupils are:

Gates open: 8.30am

Registration is taken at 8:45am

End of the school day: 3.15pm

Please note that the Attendance Policy has been updated, please visit the school website to see the full document.

www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/

Every School Day Counts



Every Minute Counts

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 Minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 Minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 Minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 Minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!

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
- Wednesday 14 December - Christmas Lunch (please note this was previously shown for Monday 19th December)
- Tuesday 20th December - Last Day of Term (1.30pm finish)