

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 30th September 2022

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance Weekly - 93.7%

Attendance Year - 95.6%

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. Welcome to the Week 4 newsletter! In this week's newsletter we are providing you with some information about the upcoming **Census Day**, our new **Governor vacancy** (for later this term) as well as some information about **Safeguarding at St Mary's**. As ever, we have added to our growing list of diary dates of events taking place this term (on the very last page). 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 photos of our fantastic pupils in action!)

Census Day!

Next Thursday 6th October, is the annual Autumn/Winter term Census Day. On this day the school office team completes a detailed statutory census report which records a large amount key information about the school, which is then returned to the government. This Census, includes numbers of pupils at the school, staff members, subjects taught and so forth. One of the key questions on this data return is about school meal numbers taken **on that day**. As I am sure you all know, each school receives a large proportion of its funding from the information entered on each Census Day – and the greater number of our pupils enjoying a healthy and delicious cooked school meal on that day means that the school receives a greater amount of funding later in the school year.

Therefore, please support us by getting your child (or children) to eat a delicious school meal on **Thursday 6th October**, so that we can receive as much funding as we can - especially in these challenging economic times! A special menu for that day will be sent out next week.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

New Governor Vacancy:

As communicated to all parents and carers yesterday, via Parentmail, 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, I am delighted to report that St Mary's is 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 150 word 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.

Safeguarding at St Mary's

The staff and school governors at St Mary's have been busy updating their annual training and updating policies in response to statutory guidance. Part of the role of a school governor is to review and update policies on an annual basis and a lot of work goes on behind the scenes.

Please could we ask all parents and carers to visit the school's website and familiarise yourself with the school's policies: www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies

We would also like to remind parents and carers of the role you play in safeguarding the children at St Mary's and the wider community.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are:

- asked to work hard with the school to establish excellent home-school relationships;
- aware that we have a responsibility for the welfare of all our pupils;
- aware that we have a duty to involve Social Services if we have any concerns about a child;
- aware they will be informed of our actions

Extract taken from St Mary's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2022.

As ever, if you ever have any safeguarding concerns or worries, do make contact with the school as soon as possible. We also have a wealth of safeguarding, wellbeing and e-safety information on the school website. If you would like to know more, please just follow this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/topic/safeguarding-e-safety-wellbeing>.

Have a lovely weekend and please stay safe.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Garmain

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 Oct - Individual and Sibling Photographs (by Kittle)
- Friday 21st Oct - Whole school Clubbercise Competition
- Mon 24th - Fri 28th Oct - Half-Term
- Monday 31st Oct - INSET day for teachers (no school)
- Tuesday 8th Nov - Parents/Carers Consultations
- Wednesday 10th November - Year 5 Road Safety
- Thursday 10th Nov - Parents/Carers Consultations
- 14th-18th November - Anti-Bullying Week
- Wednesday 16th November - Governors Day (Autumn Term)
- Wednesday 23rd Nov - Open Morning for New Reception Parents/Carers
- Friday 9th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
- Wednesday 14 Dec - Christmas Lunch (please note this was previously shown for Monday 19th December)
- Tuesday 20th Dec - Last Day of Term (1.30pm finish)