

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 16th September 2022

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Attendance Weekly - 96.6%

Attendance Year - 97.2%

*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,

As we reach the end of the second week of the term (and this academic year) I am delighted by how well the children are all settling in to their new classes and getting to know their new classroom staff and I am continuing to receive very positive feedback from the staff about the children's behaviour in school, how well they are listening and how hard they are working since the start of term. A great start to the term!

Next week, Mr Brown will be returning to St Mary's to join his new Year 3 class - Grasshoppers - following his paternity leave and we are excited to be welcoming him back. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Miss Gilmour, who has been teaching the class over the last few weeks and who has really enjoyed her time with the class; lots of the children have told me that they have enjoyed having her. I would also like to say thank you to Mrs Tickle and Miss Dye who have been brilliantly supporting the class whilst Mr Brown has been away.

Finally, please do enjoy this week's newsletter and separate Class Update (which we trialled and adopted last year, so that parents, carers and friends of the school can keep track of what our pupils are learning—and enjoying, whilst in school. Please also note that there is a special message on page 3 of this newsletter from our Chair of Governors Mr John Westnedge.

## Responsibility and Leadership:

At the start of each academic year St Mary's holds class elections for a number of areas of responsibility giving our pupils the opportunity to show leadership and to represent their fellow peers; these include School Councillors, Worship Councillors, Sports Ambassadors, House Captains, Hall Monitors, Librarians and Playleaders and this year—our newest area of responsibility—Class Reporters (further information to follow!).



This week, during Thursday's Daily Worship assembly, Mr Pike (our Curriculum Leader) talked to all of the children at St Mary's about one of the 5 important British Values—Democracy. After a good discussion about what this means, including some good questions and answers from the children, at the end of the assembly, Mr Pike and I then presented special badges to a number of children for two of these areas of responsibility - Sports Ambassadors and House Captains. These first awards of the school year were presented to some of our Year 6 pupils, who had been voted for and therefore chosen by their peers, in class elections earlier this week. Before the children found out who had been nominated I reminded the children about what we do when



receiving a special award: saying thank you –clearly, shaking the hand of the person presenting the award and holding eye contact throughout. I also talked about the importance of wearing these badges, proudly, at **all** times.

Therefore, I am delighted to announce that this year’s Sports Ambassadors from Year 6 are: **Mac, Anna, Isoa and Ruby!** Furthermore, I am pleased to report that the House Captains voted into their positions are:

**Lily and Scarlett F** (Red House), **Freya L and Buddy** (Blue House), **Will and Barney** (Green House) and **Daisy and Aishat** (Yellow House). Congratulations to all of these children, who were voted into these positions by their peers. I know that they will all do a great job of representing, organising and galvanising each of their Houses and driving sports at St Mary’s to even higher heights!

Over the next few weeks I will be revealing some more Responsibility and Leadership positions, as these are voted for in school and awarded in upcoming assemblies. Watch this space!

### Youtube Kids and Rainbow Friends videos:

Please see the National Online safety guidance [here](#) for YouTube Kids.

We have been made aware that some children are accessing the Rainbow Friends videos on YouTube Kids.



**Rainbow Friends is a Roblox horror experience** that joins games like Piggy, Five Nights at Freddy's, Poppy Playtime, and others, in taking something seemingly nice and friendly and turning it into a terrifying nightmare.

Further information can be found here: [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

### Appeal for toys:

If anyone has any good quality toys to donate for Reception and Y1 it would be very much appreciated. We are especially keen to receive any small world toys eg. people, cars, animals and building blocks. Please drop off any donations to the office.



### Bank Holiday:

I am sure that there is no way that you would all be unaware of this... but just to remind you all that the school closes today for the weekend and reopens again at 8.30am on Tuesday 20th September, due to the bank holiday on Monday 19th September, recently created for Queen Elizabeth II’s state funeral.

Have a great bank holiday weekend - I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 20th September from 8.30am.

Kind regards

*Mr C. D. Jarmain*

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



*Our motto is: ‘Let your light shine as you grow’, (taken from Matthew 5: 15-16)*

*Our vision is: ‘We aspire for our pupils to be the best they can be, in an inclusive Christian learning environment’*

A letter from the Chair of Governors.

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the school,

I hope you all had fantastic summer holidays with your children and enjoyed the wonderful weather and I would like to welcome you back at the start of the new school term. It's always exciting to see the new starters finding their way around and being helped by those returning for the new academic year. And what a start it's been!



Against the backdrop of COVID still being amongst us and the dreadful war in Ukraine we now have soaring food and energy prices, floods in Pakistan and the passing of our very special Queen. We also have a new Prime Minister, a new King and Prince and Princess of Wales and believe it or not, our 5th government Secretary of Education in just over a year. I cannot remember so much significant change hitting us all in such a short period of time. It's been a very testing time. Let's hope a return to steady state is not far away and we can catch our breath.

Please let me assure you that the governors and all the school staff will do their level best to ensure your children's education progresses as it should and that going to school is a highlight amongst the many other things we have to cope with. Providing a calm and encouraging atmosphere in school in these turbulent times will be high on our agenda.

Best Wishes

*John Westnedge* - Chair of Governors.

We will be celebrating Harvest with a **Harvest Festival Service** in St Mary's Church on **Tuesday 20th October 2022 (next week)**. As well as the children creating artwork, poems and prayers to share, as part of this Harvest Festival Service, we will be, once again, collecting donations for Jimmy's Night Shelter. Jimmy's has been providing care to those experiencing homelessness for 25 years and work with local communities to provide 24/7 care. Any dried and tinned food donations would be **greatly appreciated**. **Thank you for your support of this important cause.**

## Diary Dates



Thu 1st & Fri 2nd Sept	-	INSET Days
Monday 5th Sept	-	Autumn Term Begins - Pupils Return
Monday 5th Sept	-	Parents Picnic for New Reception Class
Monday 19th Sept	-	Bank Holiday, Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II
Tuesday 20th Sept	-	School re-opens at 8.30am
Mon 24th - Fri 28th Oct	-	Half-Term
Monday 31st October	-	INSET day for teachers (no school)
Tuesday 20th Dec	-	Last Day of Term (1.30pm finish)