

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 9th September 2022

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance Weekly - 97.9 %

Attendance Year - 97.9 %

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,

A Warm Welcome Back!

Well... I cannot believe how quickly this first week has flown by and the Summer holidays feel like a very distant memory now that the new school term has started. I must say that it has been lovely to see some new - as well as familiar - friendly faces from our school community and I am already working hard to try to memorise all of the new children's (and parents!) names. I have set myself the task of learning all of these names by the start of October! Wish me luck! I would also like to thank all of our parents and carers for helping to make this such a calm start to the new term. As ever, you have all helped your children to adapt to their new teaching staff and their classrooms - no easy feat! I thank you all for how well you continue to support both your children and our lovely school. Thank you sincerely.

I would like to say a **huge** well done to all of the children for how well they have done coming into school into their new classes. Having been in education now for over 24 years I never underestimate how apprehensive children can feel on their very first day; nevertheless, I can reassure you all that they are already settling in brilliantly and this will continue to strengthen as the term progresses.

We look forward to welcoming the new reception pupils in Butterfly class who will be joining us for more and more time in school over the next week and we also wish last year's Year 6 pupils (who are now Year 7s) the very best of luck as they continue their new journey at secondary school.

Sad News

As you will all be aware, yesterday evening our monarch for over 70 years - Queen Elizabeth II - passed away rather suddenly at Balmoral, with the majority of her loving family around her. This is obviously very sad news for the whole country, as well as the commonwealth countries (and beyond) and this news will no doubt have a significant impact upon a great many people.

This morning, after their normal Friday daily worship with Miss Nicholson, I spoke to all of the children about this sombre occasion. I shared some pictures of the Queen and how she has changed over the decades; we also shared some important facts about her life and what an important servant she has been throughout her monarchy. At the end, we joined together in a prayer and then held a minute silence. On Monday morning I will also be doing another assembly with the children so that we can join together, once again, in celebrating her life as well as reflecting on her undoubted achievements.

The Reverend Jeremy Trew has also kindly invited the school to visit St Mary's Church so that we can observe and take part in collective prayer, whilst also taking the opportunity to sign the special book of condolence. Therefore, over the course of the next week, each of the classes at St Mary's will be joining the local community in St Mary's Church in quiet reflection during this time of national mourning.

On a happier note, however, I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new King Charles III on his ascent to the throne. Long live the King.

School Uniform and P.E Kit

Thank you so much for what has been the best start to the school year in my time as headteacher, in regards to the children's school uniform. As a whole, the children are looking the smartest than I have ever seen them. Please continue to support us by ensuring that your child (or children) are wearing the correct St Mary's uniform. In regards to footwear the children should wear black shoes, **not trainers** (unless it is PE day). When the children arrive in school in their P.E kit, please can we ask the children to wear their purple P.E top and either their purple school jumper/cardigan or a jumper that is black and **does not have any large logos on**. For health and safety reasons, earrings must be removed by the children before PE. If your child is unable to do this themselves, please make sure they are removed before coming to school. Thank you for your help and support in this matter.

If you have an issue with school footwear (or uniform in general), please contact the school immediately and we will see if we can support you. The school has a huge amount of school uniform which is in excellent condition and is freshly laundered (in our very own washing machine and drier). If you need any specific items of uniform please contact our Welfare Support Officer Jo Crocker on jocrocker@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk and Jo will very gladly try to source any items you need – we even have lots of pairs of boys and girls school shoes and trainers. We will be delighted to help!

Haircuts/hair styles: Finally, just a reminder that: no hair dye, colourful hair extensions, or shaved symbols should be visible in/on children's hair. There should be no ponytails at the front of the head either, and please only use plain black/purple/white hairbands and hairclips.

Further information about our uniform policy is available on our school website by following this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/uniform-information/>

Home Learning

Just a reminder that if your child (or children) are off school for a short period of time, that you can find the class' Home Learning Plan on our school website. Please visit the Curriculum section of our school website, or just click on the following link <https://stmaryschurchofengland.secure-primariesite.net/home-learning-plans/> If you need any help or support, please contact the school on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk where we will be glad to help. These Home Learning Plans provide lots of links to lessons and activities so that your child can continue to learn whilst at home (as long as they are well enough, of course!)

Welcome to our new Reception children and our other new pupils!

A big welcome to our new Reception cohort who have joined us this term. I would also like to say a warm welcome to all of the children who have joined us in other year groups. They have all settled in so beautifully and I cannot believe how well they have settled in to school life at St Mary's. Mrs Jeewan (our Butterfly class Teacher as well as Head of EYFS and Key Stage 1) and Mrs Hunter (our lovely Butterfly class Teaching Assistant) have already told me how well their new starters are already doing and how happy they all are. They are particularly impressed with those pupils who have come into their classrooms independently, bringing in their own bags, snacks, water bottles and coats on their own. Very well done! Can I just take this opportunity to say thank you to the Early Years team.

Term dates

Just a reminder that the school term dates are available on the school website in the Parents and Pupils section. We have also included an electronic copy for this academic year, for your perusal.

As ever, please remember to avoid taking your child out of school for a holiday during term time, as the school is not permitted to authorise such absence and this may well result in a fine by the Local Authority (Essex). If you would like to read our Attendance Policy, please follow this link to the school website <https://primariesite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stmaryschurchofengland/UploadedDocument/133df93a-b96b-4876-905b-b7b140e5862a/attendance-policy-2022.pdf>

Thank you for your support in this matter.

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.



Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

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
- Mon 24th - Fri 28th Oct - Half-Term
- Tuesday 20th Dec - Last Day of Term (1.30pm finish)
- Thursday 5th Jan - Spring Term Begins - Pupils Return