

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 18th December 2020

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance

Weekly - **98.5%**

Year to date – **98.1%**

Let Your Light Shine as You Grow Matthew 5: 15-16

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon to you all,

I would like to start this final newsletter of this year by saying a huge thank you to every single member of the St Mary's community for your steadfast support for the school over this term. It has been, without a doubt, a term filled with many unusual and rather complex challenges, but I am so proud of the way that **everyone** has ensured that the children have been cared for and how they have had been nurtured, particularly since they returned back to their new classes in September. I would particularly like to thank the staff at St Mary's for ensuring that their children have experienced a term filled with new learning and life-long memories, whilst navigating the myriad of strict guidelines and new processes and procedures designed to keep everyone safe. I can honestly say that if I was going to be in charge of a school during a worldwide pandemic—I am glad that it has been at St Mary's.

Thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful school and its amazing staff and pupils.

Terrific trio!

This morning I was delighted to listen to a pre-recorded recorder recital from three pupils from St Mary's: Aishat, Nashaiya and Scarlett. These three ladies have been diligently working on a recorder piece with Miss Bennett over the last few weeks and I was so impressed with their musicality and the tempo of their performances. I congratulated all three girls and presented them with a special Headteacher's sticker. Keep it up girls!

Christmas Lunch Day:

Yesterday, St Mary's held its annual Christmas Lunch Day in the school hall. I am pleased to say that it went incredibly well and was superbly organised by Mr Pike, Riina Driscoll (our Catering Manager) and her kitchen assistants as well as our head of Midday, Rose Dye and her hard-working team—ably assisted by the teaching team who also helped to serve the food, pass out crackers and other festive treats. Thank you also to all of the parents/carers who signed their children up for this delicious lunch. Everyone had a great day.

Kindness Posters:

We hope you are doing well with your kindness calendar. Remember, if they achieve any of the challenges, please can I ask parents/carers to sign next to the number. Remember: if any child manages to complete all 25 then I will get them a small but special prize and a Headteacher's certificate and sticker in January. Please also remember to share these kind acts with us in January via photos and a quick explanation of what they've been up to. Good luck everyone!

Good news!

I am pleased to announce that next Monday 21st December, Mr Brown, our Year 4 teacher for Fireflies class, is due to be married. It goes without saying that we wish him the very best of luck for the future! I am sure you will join me in keeping in your thoughts and prayers throughout the Christmas period and especially next Monday.

I look forwards to seeing you all at the start of the next term, on **Tuesday 5th January, at 8.30am.**

Please do have a really lovely Christmas and enjoy your break!

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's





Christmas Carol Service

Please enjoy our Christmas Carol Service, which can be found on our school website; <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/christmas-carol-service-dec-2020/>

Christmas Holidays - School Track and Trace procedures:

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**

TEST AND TRACE - Covid positive

· If your child has suspected Covid symptoms, we strongly advise you to **go to a testing centre** as results come back much faster, usually within 24 hours, whereas the postal tests are subject to long delays.

If your child receives a positive result from Friday 18th December until 12midday on Thursday 24th December, please email covid19reporting@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

You are only required to do this if your child's symptoms occurred within 48 hours of being on site. We will have staff on duty to check the emails at 12midday during this period.

· If your child receives a positive result from Thursday 24th December 12midday until pupils return to school on Tuesday 5th January, you will need to follow NHS advice and alert all your close contacts, family and friends directly. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

· Should your child/ren need to self-isolate over the Xmas period on the advice of NHS Track and Trace, you can let us know at the start of term by emailing the office.

Please do remember that **Monday 4th January is a Staff Training day.** Term begins for pupils on **Tuesday 5th January.**

FLU VACCINATIONS



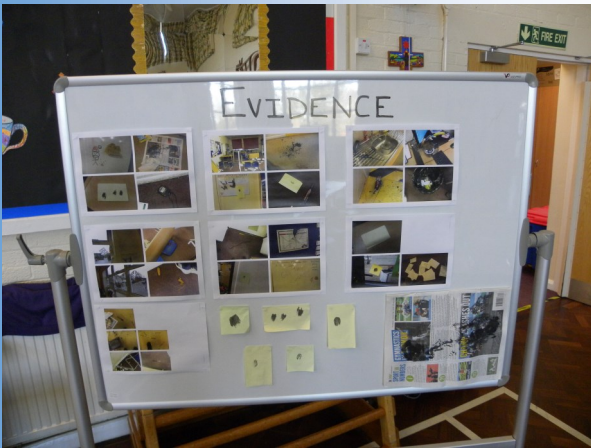
As the flu season is only just starting, parents are invited to still get there child/ren vaccinated, if you haven't done so already. Appointments can still be booked via the community clinic with the Immunisation Team. Clinics are held all over Essex, and will be running during the holidays. To make an appointment, please call **0300 790 0597**

SCHOOL MONEY

Please could all school dinner and residential trip money owing be paid before we return on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

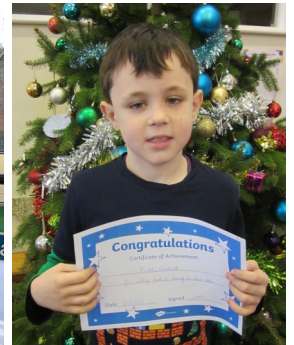
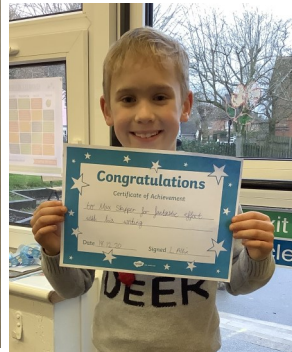


Who Trashed Dragonflies Classroom???





Let Your Light Shine as You Grow Matthew 5: 15-16
Some of our Shining Lights



Weekly Class Update

Reception Happy Christmas to all our wonderful Butterflies and their families. The children are very excited and have enjoyed counting down to the Christmas break and only a few more sleeps till Santa! The children have enjoyed getting creative, making Christmas cards for their families and their Year 6 buddies and decorations to take home. I have been impressed with their continued enthusiasm and progress with their phonics skills and completing the phonics advent calendars. We have enjoyed storytelling various Christmas tales and learning a bit more about the first Christmas.

I am delighted to say a big well done to 17 Reception children who have achieved their first 'Reading Reward', some Bookmarks for their continued reading regularly at home. Well done to: Araoluwa, Barney, Chloe, Edith, Emily, Eva, Harley, Joseph, Layla, Libby, Lili, Linda, Millie, Phoebe, Thomas E, Tomas T and Zachary.

I am sure many more children will receive a Reading Reward next term.

Shining Lights are all of Butterfly class for super first term at school.

Well done Butterflies, have an amazing Christmas and well-deserved rest! Mrs Jeewan and the EYFS team.

Year 1 We are coming to the end of a very busy and successful Autumn term and even the final week is filled with activities and learning. Year 1 have been writing Christmas stories about Santa's long and difficult journey to deliver his toys, solving Maths problems to rescue Santa's reindeer from the stable and creating their own clay teddy bears to round off this term's 'Toy' topic. They had a wonderful time at their last Forest School session, roasting marshmallows around the fire and Mrs Mckinnes was extremely proud of their responsible attitude, showing respect for the rules of Forest School. We rounded off our festive week with a delicious Christmas dinner and lots of Christmas crafts. We are all ready for a well-deserved break and hope everyone has a fun-filled and restful holiday.

All of year 1 a shining stars this week for making through what has been such a busy term.

Year 2 What a wonderful term we have had. It has been crazy busy, but the children have had a brilliant time and shown such a great attitude to their learning. We hope you enjoyed the Nativity performance - we were very proud with how it turned out. Please continue to read with your child during the holidays - some children have been given bookmarks to celebrate regular home reading. Now that we have passed the Phonics Screening assessment so confidently, we need to build on these skills and encourage lots and lots of reading. Watch this space as you will hear more in the new year. Have a brilliant Christmas, however that may look! We are excitedly looking forward to our new topic: Dungeons, Dragons and Castles



Year 3	<p>Grasshoppers have finished their very busy term with plenty of Christmassy activities this week. At the start of the week, they made beautiful Christmas cards using oil pastels to create a nighttime setting and cut out silhouettes of Christmas trees, stables and snowmen. Year 3 have also really enjoyed watching our school carol concert and the KS1 nativities over the week. They were very impressed by everyone's fantastic singing! Grasshoppers have worked hard to complete their newspaper reports about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb following their visit from Howard Carter. Well done for all your hard work this term, Grasshoppers! Merry Christmas and have a safe and well deserved break over the holidays!</p>
Year 4	<p>Year 4 have had an incredibly busy last week. In DT, we have completed our Viking longboats, and the pupils showed some fantastic creativity to complete their designs. During PSHE, we created #HopeRocks, which the pupils will be bringing home. During this lesson, they painted stones; created a positive message with the idea of placing them somewhere for people to see. In our Science lesson, we looked at the environment and the specific issues that we create, such as pollution. I am so pleased with the fantastic progress the children have made this term; they have all done such an AMAZING job adapting back to being in school. I am SO proud of them all. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mr Brown</p> <p>This week, I have selected the whole class for the shining light award. Every pupil has been so fantastic this week; it has been very difficult to choose just one! They have worked so hard this term and adapted back to being at school so well. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mr Brown</p>
Year 5	<p>Bees class finished off their 2020 with a fun-filled Christmas day - they coloured in, played with beebots and iPads and enjoyed being in each other's company for the last time before the winter break.</p> <p>The build-up to this day has been very festive throughout the week, with the children making their Hope rocks and stained-glass-style candleholders. This was in addition to their craftwork in Art, where they worked together to make their own 3D versions of the planets in our solar system!</p> <p>The Year 5 team would like to give the class a big shout-out this week: they have worked extremely hard this term; been diligent with their handwashing; and we have been really impressed with how much their knowledge and quality of work has improved! They truly deserve their break, so bye for now and we'll see you all in 2021!</p>
Year 6	<p>Year 6 have had a busy last week. In Design & Technology the children made maquettes of their 'emotion' sculpture. They then used their chosen medium to make their sculpture (most chose clay and wire). The next step was to put a paint and glue base coat on the create a base for the final painting. In maths, the children have been plotting given co-ordinates to create Christmas themed pictures. They have learnt the rule 'in the house and up/down the stairs' to help them remember how to plot accurately even with negative number axis. In writing (in pairs) we wrote shape poems with a Christmas theme.</p> <p>Finally, today we had a crime scene investigation morning. Unfortunately, when the children arrived in school, someone had trashed the classroom leaving 8 specific clues for the children to solve. All the staff were suspects and the newly appointed detectives/officers had to use their enquired skills to solve 8 tasks. These were: fingerprinting, comparing shoe sizes to a print left by the criminal, identifying which pen was used to leave a note, identifying the staffs' favourite chocolates to match to a discovered wrapper, identifying what time staff members arrived at school and linking it to the time recorded at the crime scene, finding out the height of each staff member and matching it to the discovered hand mark, identifying phone numbers and comparing them to number imprints left at the scene and lastly, identifying suspicious material found at the scene. The children took on their roles amazingly well and after much investigation and interrogation discovered the culprit!</p>

Diary Dates



Monday 4th January	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Tuesday 5th January	-	First Day of Spring Term
Thursday 7th January	-	Year 2 - Saffron Walden Castle Trip (am)
Friday 8th January	-	Reception Class - Superhero Day
Tuesday 12th January	-	KS2 Gymnastics & KS1 Games Club
Thursday 14th January	-	KS2 Gymnastics Club
Thursday 21st January	-	CENSUS Day - Special Lunch (details to follow)
Thursday 28th January	-	KS2 Respect Workshop
Monday 1st February	-	Parent Consultations this week (details to follow)
Mon 15th - Fri 19th Feb	-	Half-term
Thursday 4th March	-	World Book Day (Dress up as your favorite book character)
Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr	-	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Tuesday 13h April	-	First Day of Summer Term

Term Dates 2021-2022

As you are probably aware, the Government have announced that, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Bank Holiday at the end of May 2022 has been moved and an extra day added



The changes are:

- Monday 30 May 2022 – has been moved to Thursday 2 June 2022
- Friday 3 June 2022 has been added as an extra Bank Holiday

Due to these changes to the Bank Holidays, please find attached an updated term date calendar.

Please note that these Bank Holidays fall within the already scheduled Summer half term, so there is not direct impact on school days.

Friendship

Truthfulness

Perseverance

Trust

Compassion

Respect