

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 11th December 2020

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance

Weekly - 98%

Year to date – 98.5%

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

Dear parents and carers,

With just one more week to go before the school breaks up for a much needed and well-deserved holiday, the children and staff have been as busy as ever!

Sleeping Beauty – the Pantomime!

This week we welcomed the Gary Starr Pantomimes company, who regaled the children with an outstanding performance of Sleeping Beauty. I must say that it was truly heart-warming to see how excited every single year group was as they entered the school hall for their own individual performances. Some of the more nervous children even got to meet some of the actors and actresses post production – and found out that they weren't really that scary in the end! A BIG



thank you to Gemma and Ruth from the PTA who organised this performance for the children and also to the whole of the parent and carer community – whose recent fundraising helped to pay for this amazing event! Also, I must apologise – last week I thanked the school governors for our lovely new Christmas tree (see the picture on the next page) when I should have thanked **the PTA** for this generous donation. Apologies and thank you all, once again.

Kindness calendar and activities:

Just a quick reminder to ask you to support our Kindness Calendar initiative. Later on in the newsletter you can see how Lilia (Y5) has really thought about putting something back into her local neighbourhood. Please don't forget to take pictures of your children completing these activities and then share them with the school (ideally with a comment).

Key Stage 2 assemblies:

Throughout the last week, all of the Key Stage 2 class teachers have been busy putting together their class assemblies for this term, using their newly bought iPads – kindly paid for by our school Governors. I am delighted to say that all of these assemblies are now available to watch on our school website, where you can also follow the link provided below:

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/key-stage-2-class-assemblies/>

Key Stage 1 nativities:

The Reception and Key Stage 1 classes are also busy using their new iPads to film their individual nativity performances. These will be ready to share with our parent and carer community, next week. We cannot wait to share them with you!

It goes without saying that we are very sad that we are currently unable to welcome our parents and carers and friends of the school back into St Mary's, but we hope that watching these performances helps you to feel a much-valued part of our school. We very much look forwards to welcoming you all back into St Mary's sometime soon!

Have a great weekend!

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's



Thank you to the PTA for paying for our Xmas tree.

School Track and Trace procedures and the last day of term:

Just to make you all aware that the school sent an important letter out yesterday about the track and trace procedures for the very start of the Christmas holidays. I have outlined some of the most important facts from this letter here:

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 12 midday 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.

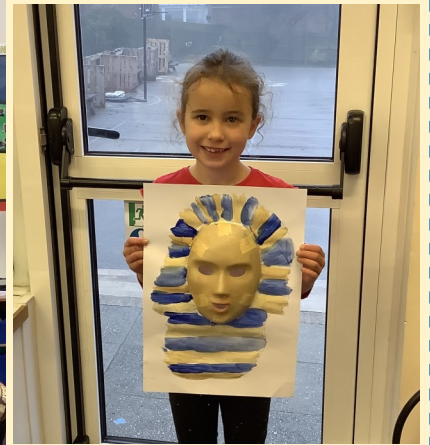
You may have heard in the media that schools have been informed that they may wish to use an INSET day for Friday 18th December, with teaching time made up at another point in the academic year. However, I have taken the decision that we will not be using Friday 18th as an INSET day – therefore our last day of term will remain as **Friday 18th December with a finishing time of 1.30pm.**

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

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**

Christmas Reverse Calendar

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Reverse Advent Calendar this year and made donations for Uttlesford Foodbank. All of the donations are really appreciated.



Year 3 Egyptian Day

On Monday we dressed up as Egyptians and it was very exciting. They wrote in hieroglyphics and used different numbers too. On Egyptian Day, we learnt how to use Ancient Egyptian numbers. We also made our own canopic jars. People used canopic jars to store organs in once they had died. Removing the organs was part of the mummification. They didn't take out the heart because it had to be weighed against a feather. If it was heavier, they couldn't pass to the afterlife, but if it was lighter they could pass to the afterlife. Egyptians also wore death masks once they had died. We made our own death masks on Egyptian Day. *By Evie and Emma (Year 3)*

Wellbeing, E-safety and Pastoral Care, by Hayley Bloxham, Welfare & Support Officer:

Emotional wellbeing at Christmas

Christmas can throw up all sorts of emotions, even during a 'normal' year. With Covid and social restrictions to contend with it's no surprise that young people may be feeling down or worried at this time of year. Know how to support them and where they can get help. <https://www.escb.co.uk/working-with-children/emotional-wellbeing-and-mental-health/>

Think You Know Online Safety At Home Packs



The [Online Safety At Home packs](#) from Think You Know are still available for parents and carers to use at home. These include fun activities, conversation starters and practical tips on topics such as:

[Sharing images](#)

[Watching videos](#)

[Live streaming](#)

TikTok Update Parental Controls with Family Pairing Feature



TikTok is sometimes used by children younger than that 13 despite its terms and conditions. Using the new Family Pairing feature can allow parents to guide their child's TikTok experience in a safer way. Features include:

- Search: Decide what can be searched for. This includes content, users, hashtags, or sounds
- Screen Time Management: Sets how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day
- Discoverability: Decide on the account being private (you decide who can see their content) or public (anyone can search and view content)

To find out more information about TikTok's Family Pairing feature and to download a helpful poster to share with pupils and parents, go to: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

Friendship

Truthfulness

Perseverance

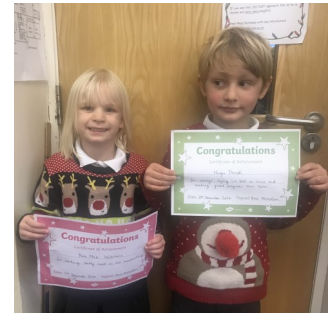
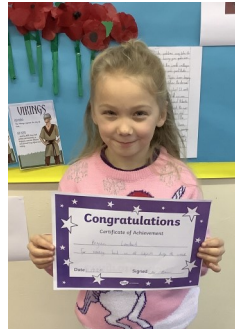
Trust

Compassion

Respect



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



Sleeping Beauty Panto



Kindness calendar activities:

Kindness Calendar activity from 11th December- Be generous. Fed someone with food, love or kindness today:

Lilia G (Y5) has been busy giving a little something back to our local neighbourhood.

Lilia had weighed out all the dry ingredients for the local residents to make gingerbread biscuits and attached the recipe card and advised them to check for any allergies. She also attached various cookie cutters with coloured ribbon. Lilia next mixed up some porridge oats and bird seed to make reindeer food and enjoyed curling the ribbon after sealing the food in decorate bags. Lilia attached a lovely little elf for the residents to decorate and hang on their own trees and attached a little note about the food.

Lastly, Lilia mixed various sweets in little bags for the elf to give to the residents. These were all delivered secretly to all residents on Saturday. We were so glad the snow had melted and had left plenty of puddles for Lilia to jump in!

Lilia has had some lovely positive feedback thanking her for her kindness. One local resident said: I don't suppose you know who our secret Little Walden elf is with the wonderful chocs and gingerbread making bits and reindeer food is from? The kids were utterly amazed by it and we were utterly touched to receive it for them!

Lilia has also treated the children and elderly to Halloween treats! Wow!

Kindness Calendar activity from 8th December- Doing something helpful for a friend or family member:

Here you can also see Pippa-Rose (one of our Key Stage 1 pupils) making her own angel costume for her upcoming nativity performance! Wow – what a grown up and helpful girl – I bet her mummy is extremely proud.




This week's activities and next week's activities:

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|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find | 8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member | 9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead | 10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them | 11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today | 12 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank | 13 See how many different people you can smile at today |
| 14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one | 15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day | 16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to | 17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you | 18 Give away something that you have been holding on to | 19 Buy locally and support independent shops near you | 20 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated |

This week's activities and next week's activities:

Don't forget to take part in next week's activities, which include: **looking for something positive to say to everyone you speak to, giving away something that you have been holding on to and buying something locally to support independent shops near you.** Amongst many, many others. Please don't forget to share these with the

Weekly Class Update

Reception	<p>Well done Butterflies for your first school Nativity performance in the hall. We filmed it but are working on editing it, around the various wardrobe malfunctions, toilet accidents and a few other mishaps. Here is a photo though of them looking amazing!</p>  <p>The children are continuing to make steady progress with letter sounds, key words and their number recognition.</p> <p>Well done and keep up the great work reading and segmenting and blending phonic sounds together to make words.</p> <p>The children have been working on their skills of observation, noticing patterns in our maths and in the environment. They were all challenged to find similarities between objects then pictures. The children had to find the 'odd one out' in a set, and then explain why they thought they were different. This is a great game that you can play at home with them too.</p> <p>Sleeping Beauty Panto - WOW! It was so amazing!! Thank you so much to the PTA for organising, it was a wonderful experience for all the children to enjoy.</p> <p>Eva is our wonderful Star of the Week - Eva always has brilliant behaviour and a wonderful learning ethic, always trying her best. Well done Eva!</p>
Year 1	<p>Year 1 have been getting their festive hats on, preparing for Christmas this week. We have been filming our first virtual nativity, writing letters to Santa and boarding the Polar Express. We have decorated our Hope Rocks in collaboration with Saffron Walden Community Churches, which they will be bringing back to display at home during the holidays. The Panto came to visit on Wednesday and brought some much needed laughter to the end of the year! Friday we are donning our Christmas jumpers and running the Christmas Dash along with many schools around the country.</p>
Year 2	<p>What a busy week we've had! The children are becoming more and more excited as we prepare for our nativity performance. The scenes have been filmed, songs sung and editing taking place so keep your eyes peeled for the great reveal next week (courtesy of YouTube). We were also so lucky to watch a brilliant panto production of Sleeping Beauty - ask your child about which bits they liked best and see if they can describe any of the characters.</p>

Year 3	<p>Year 3 have had a super busy week this week! They started the week with their Ancient Egyptian Day and all looked amazing in their costumes! We learned how to solve maths problems like and Ancient Egyptian, discovered what Canopic jars were used for and created our own and also created our very own death masks! Grasshoppers also had a phone call from Josh at Star Radio this week where they performed Sleeps til Santa. They were fantastic and were praised by Josh for absolute radio stars! As part of our advent celebrations this week, each child has created a hope rock with a message of hope and love for Christmastime to place outside their houses for others to see. Year 3 came up with some very colourful designs for their rocks.</p>
Year 4	<p>It has been another busy week in Year 4!</p> <p>Throughout this week, the pupils have learnt about decimal numbers in maths and their place value. In English and topic lessons, the pupils were given different historical sources to research what things a Viking child would do in a day. In our RE lesson, we learnt about what a pilgrimage is and why it is important in Islam. Also, a big thank you for bringing in so many resources for our Viking longboats at such short notice! Have a great weekend!</p>
Year 5	<p>The Bees' penultimate week has been full of work (with a hint of Christmas sprinkled on too!).</p> <p>The children have been really interested in learning a different number system: the Roman numeral system! They have learnt not only to read these and convert them into our own Arabic numerals, but to also write them too.</p> <p>They have also deepened their knowledge of our planet; in Science, they looked at the five layers of the Earth and how they differ from each other. They were all shocked to find out how thin the outer layer of the Earth actually is compared to the other four layers!</p> <p>Bees also joined in the KS2 letter writing task, drafting and then writing letters to people in homes for the elderly. Members of staff from around the school commented on how hard they were concentrating; all the children really wanted to make sure their letters were of the best quality! They should all be very proud of themselves.</p> <p>The children also wrote some 'Which planet am I?' riddles, which they were very proud of.</p>
Year 6	<p>In maths, the children have had a chance to revisit their assessments from last week to see what questions they got right and where they need a bit more help. We spent 3 sessions going through the papers to help the class understand how to answer each question. On Monday, we wrote Christmas letters to a send to a local care home to spread some Christmas cheer. In the letters, the children shared kind words, their Christmas traditions and hopes for Christmas. We are really excited for the residents of the care home to open and enjoy the letters! We are also gearing up to write some Christmas themed shape poems, so we created a huge word bank to make sure we are using the best vocabulary possible. Although it was freezing, the children finished their basketball unit with a mini tournament. It is so great to see how far their skills and enjoyment in the game has developed. In Science, the class conducted their own experiments testing different aspects of electricity i.e. what metals conduct electricity, does the length of wire affect the brightness of the bulb and can one cell power multiple components?</p> <p>Finally in DT, we made maquettes (small prototypes) of their emotion sculptures and experimented with different materials - clay, wire and mod-rock.</p>

Diary Dates



Thursday 17th December	-	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December	-	Reception Virtual Nativity (Video will be emailed to parents)
	-	Year 1 Virtual Nativity (Video will be emailed to parents)
	-	Year 2 Virtual Xmas Performance (Video will be emailed to parents)
Friday 18th December	-	Last day of term - School finishes at 1.30pm
Monday 4th January	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Tuesday 5th January	-	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 8th January	-	Reception Class - Superhero Day
Thursday 21st January	-	CENSUS Day - Special Lunch (details to follow)
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