

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 4th December 2020

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance

Weekly - **99.3%**

Year to date - **98.1%**

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

Good afternoon,

As we approach the final two week's of this Autumn and Winter term our St Mary's pupils and staff members continue to be as busy as ever. Class teachers are now finalising their class assembly videos (as we cannot currently host class assemblies in person for our school community) and we are aiming to send out the separate links to these next week.

Our Year 2 pupils have just completed their Phonics Assessment checks and we are **extremely** proud of their amazing results; we believe these could be our highest ever scores! Thanks to all of the staff and pupils for all of their hard work in this area!

Our reception and Key Stage 1 classes are busily practising the songs and parts to our upcoming Nativity performances. These will also be filmed and put together at school and sent out for our parents and carers to enjoy and will be a super memory to be treasured.

On Tuesday, Howard Carter (the famous archaeologist and Egyptologist) visited our Year 3 Grasshoppers class and was given a thorough grilling and there were lots of interesting questions posed. Pupils got to see where the tomb of Tutankhamun was located, what artefacts were found in the tomb and lots of other fascinating facts. Interestingly, the children thought that he was younger than they thought! Howard fed back to me that he was very impressed with how knowledgeable the pupils were and he is looking forward to coming back again in the future (in his special time machine). **See pictures on page 5.**

Throughout this week we have been conducting our class assessments (which we always do during this term) and we are all very proud with how much hard work the pupils have been putting in. These will be used to target future learning and address gaps in knowledge.

Key stage 1 and reception pupils also had fun with Scootfit and there was also an Inclusion sports event on Thursday (hosted by Jackie Colman) which the children absolutely loved! Thanks to Miss Driscoll for organising this.

This coming Monday, our Year 3 class will be taking part in an Egyptian Day - where they will be dressing as Egyptians and finding out what life was like back then! Do keep an eye out for the photos and article in next week's newsletter and also on our website.

Next Wednesday, the PTA have organised an amazing Panto for all of the St Mary's pupils to enjoy (as they will be watching these in their three separate bubbles over the course of the day). What an exciting end to the term! Thank you to Ruth and Gemma (who co-chair the PTA), all of the dedicated members of the PTA and also Miss Allin - our PTA liaison member of staff for all of your combined efforts in this vital area of school life.

Finally, thank you to Victoria Boraster-Sharpe and the school governors, who very kindly donated the large Christmas tree which was, earlier this week, decorated by the pupils from St Mary's.

Once again, thank you all very much for your continued support for the school. Please don't forget that the last day of term is on Friday 18th December and school finishes at 1.30pm.

Have a great weekend!

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's

Christmas Jumper Day , Santa Dash & PTA Raffle - Friday 11th December

Next Friday will be a very busy day at St. Mary's, we have 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day, a Santa Dash Run and the PTA Christmas Raffle. Children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumper with their school uniform for a small donation of £2(min £1).



KS1 Phonics

The next 2 Phonics videos are now live on the school website under Parents, Phonics. -

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/st-marys-phonics-page/>



Christingle Service Video - Sunday 6th December

We are unable to physically welcome families into St Mary's Church for our Christingle Service this year as COVID restrictions place a limit on the number of people able to be in the building at any one time. Instead we are pre-recording the service and this will go live on Sunday 6th at 4pm for all to watch on YouTube. To join in with the service in this way, please go to our website <https://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org> and click on the red tab on the homepage which says; 'Christingle and Advent Carol Services'. Here you will find the link to the YouTube video. It is sad that we can't give you a Christingle this year but as a compromise we are pleased to have been able to provide the materials for each child at St Mary's to make their own. The Children's Society have also created a Christingle Window Picture which children can decorate and display in a window at home. The template is attached.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Christmas lunch will be served on **Thursday 17th December**. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch, please email the school office – info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk indicating your child/ren's name, year group, main course and dessert option and if there are any dietary requirements. Please also email even if your child will be bringing a packed lunch that day.

We need to have all replies back by **Friday 11th December**.

All KS1 children (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) and Free School Meal children are entitled to a free school meal as usual, please do still email though indicating their choice to help our kitchen with numbers.

For KS2 pupils the cost is the same as for a standard school dinner - £2.30. Please pay online via School Money on **17th December**. Thank you.

Online Gaming/The 2 Johns



Online gaming means children can play with people across the world through a computer games console, tablet or smartphone connected to the internet. Games can offer children a world of adventure to immerse themselves in, but it's important to understand how children can stay safe and what games are appropriate for their age. 'The 2 Johns' eSafety experts have published a useful guide on what parents need to know about various consoles/platforms as well as a parents guide to some of the most popular games. **Please click on the link to access this information:** <https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/gaming/>

Childline: nobody is normal campaign

Source: NSPCC



Childline has launched a new campaign - Nobody is Normal - which aims to help children understand that lacking confidence, feeling not good enough or that you don't fit in, is a shared experience. Statistics show that Childline has delivered 42,953 counselling sessions to children about their mental and emotional health across the UK since lockdown was first put in place. Figures also show that the monthly average number of Childline counselling sessions about eating and body image disorders increased by 32% on the pre-lockdown average; and the monthly average number of sessions about sexuality and gender identity increased by 16% compared with the pre-lockdown average.

Visit the webpage: [Nobody is Normal](#)



Reverse Advent Calendar:

This year at St Mary's, we will be supporting **Uttlesford Foodbank** with their Reverse Advent Calendar. Every year, Uttlesford Foodbank give out Christmas hampers full of both basics and Christmas treats to families and individuals living in isolation or poverty.

The Reverse Advent Calendar is a way for our children and families to give to others and let their light shine, as well as enabling children to join in with the true spirit of Christmas. To ensure they receive the correct items they have provided us with information to help us. If you could donate some of the items, we would be really grateful. Please find the list of items attached to this email. Children can bring their donations to their classroom to donate. Thank you.

How?

From Wednesday 25th November to Thursday 10th December, please bring in the suggested items from our list. Uttlesford Foodbank require us to deliver the donations by Friday 11th December latest.

What?

- Wednesday 25th November - Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Potatoes or Tinned Soup. ✓
- Thursday 26th November - Long Life Fruit Juice, Coffee or Tea. ✓
- Friday 27th November - Custard, Jelly or Christmas Puddings. ✓
- Monday 30th November - Cooking Sauces, Gravy or Stuffing. ✓
- Tuesday 1st December - Savoury Crackers or Crisps. ✓
- Wednesday 2nd December – Tinned Salmon, Ham, Sardines etc. ✓
- Thursday 3rd December - Christmas Cake or Yule log, Boxes of Xmas Chocolates or Boxes of Biscuits. ✓
- Friday 4th December - Mince Pies or Rice Pudding. ✓
- Monday 7th December – Christmas Crackers.
- Tuesday 8th December – Part Baked Bread Rolls.
- Wednesday 9th December – Small Toiletry Items (shower gel, shampoo, hand sanitiser etc).
- Thursday 10th December – Jams and Spreads.

Where?

Collective Worship, St Mary's C of E Primary School. Items will be collected during class Collective Worship.

When?

Please make sure all food is with us by **Thursday 10th December 2020**.

Thank you for your continued support for these important causes.

Friendship

Truthfulness

Perseverance

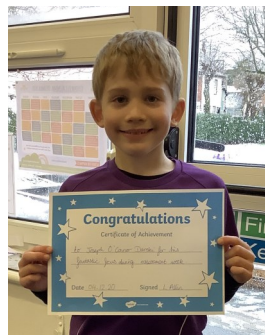
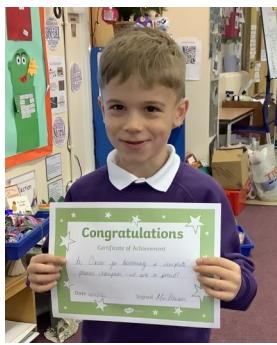
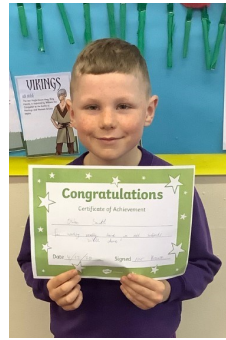
Trust

Compassion

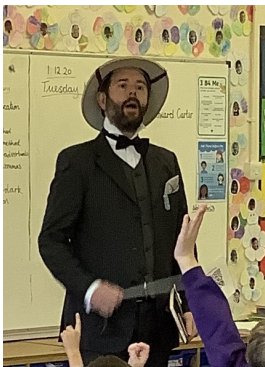
Respect



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





Neville the naughty Elf visiting Year 1



Year 3 had a visit from Howard Carter who told them all about his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. They listened brilliantly and asked some fantastic questions!

Weekly Class Update

Reception	<p>Wow, what another busy week!</p> <p>The children are very excited that we are in the season of Advent and counting down to Christmas. Butterfly class is very Christmassy much to the delight of the children on Tuesday morning.</p> <p>This week the children learnt have about Advent in Collective Worship and in class. The children were also able to make their own Christingle's thanks to the donation of all the resources to make a Christingle from St Mary's Church.</p> <p>The children have been learning their first set of Phase 3 sounds and learning to write CVC words or initial letter sounds. In maths the children have been adding multilink together then most have been attempting to write a number sentence. The next two Phonic videos are now on the school website and Tapestry for you to watch with your child.</p> <p>In maths sessions the children are continuing to recognise numbers to 20 and learn what is one more or one less than a number between 1 and 10.</p> <p>The children have enjoyed our story this week 'Stick Man', looking for sticks in the playground and on the meadow so that they could make their own stick characters. The children were also challenged to use sticks to make shapes and to think about which shape they were the not able to make?</p> <p>The children have really enjoyed creating Christmas drawings that will be given to people in our local care homes, to give them some joy this Christmas. The children have been practising songs for their Nativity and where they stand and when! Thank you to the parents for sending in their costumes! Also, many thanks to the wonderful generous gifts for Foodbank, they will be much appreciated.</p> <p>The children were great during Scooter Fit and were so well behaved.</p>   <p>Thank you to Mr Andrews (Libby's dad) for a wonderful PE lesson today the children are developing their throwing and aiming skills.</p> <p>Date for your diary - Friday 8th January will be Superhero day in Reception to launch our Spring 1 Topic 'Let's Be Superheroes'.</p>
Year 1	<p>In celebration of the start of December and the build up to Christmas, we have been very busy with all things FESTIVE! We started to read The Polar Express in English where we focussed on the visual aspects of both the book and scenes from the film. We made our own train tickets, boarded the train and looked out the window to see what scenes we could describe. We've made great progress with our Nativity and have started making some lovely Christmas crafts! We had a very special visitor join us on Tuesday, Neville the Naughty Elf. He escaped from Miss Nicholson's house and has come to play tricks on us. We have to keep an eye out for him every morning to see what he has been up to at night. There's a lot going on in Year 1 and we're having a wonderful time!</p>

Year 2	<p>What a week we've had! Your children are absolute superstars and have smashed their Phonic Assessments. We are so proud of all the hard work they have put in and they are all rightly feeling like the bees knees. To celebrate we are going to have a class party next Wednesday afternoon. If you would like to send your child in with a bag of prewrapped sweets, then we will share them out. There is no expectation of this at all - goodies will be brought in regardless. We have also had huge (if chilly) fun on our scooters practising safety skills and we hope you enjoyed the flapjacks!</p>
Year 3	<p>This week, Year 3 had a very exciting visit for a famous Egyptologist, Howard Carter. They learned all about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and the treasures which were found inside. The Grasshoppers were impeccably behaved for their visitor and asked lots of fantastic questions! On Wednesday afternoon, we looked at the history of Christingles and what each part of a Christingle represents. We then all created our own Christingles to take home. We are also beginning to get into the Christmas mood with our new class book, 'The Christmasaurus.' The children have also worked incredibly hard with their end of term assessments this week. Well done, Year 3! We are really excited for our Ancient Egyptian Day on Monday. Please remember to dress up for the day!</p>
Year 4	<p>The pupils in Year 4 have been working incredibly hard again this week. During RE, we made Christingles and learnt about what each part symbolises. For our PE lessons this week, we have continued to work on our cross-country skills and have been focusing on building up our stamina by using pacing; this has helped us to not use all our energy at the beginning of the race! In Literacy, we have been looking at diary entries, and next week we are going to start writing a diary entry from the perspective of a Viking child. We have also been busy making Christmas tree decorations for the school Christmas tree. Well done on a good week, please have a good rest over the weekend!</p>
Year 5	<p>Year 5 have had a week full of hard week - they have sat Assessments in Reading, Maths and Grammar. However, they showed great perseverance and all of them have improved from their previous scores in earlier assessments!</p> <p>Yet the whole week wasn't taken up with tests; the Bees have been very practical, creating their own phases of the moon wheels, Torah scrolls and Christingle oranges! They have also enjoyed learning some verbs in French; writing a story set in space in English; and practising their shooting, dribbling and tacking in PE!</p> <p>The class have also been shooting parts of their class assembly. Mr Clarke will now attempt to stitch all the separate parts together...wish him (lots of) luck!</p>
Year 6	<p>This week Y6 have been working really hard on their assessments completing 3 math's papers, a reading paper and a spelling, punctuation and grammar paper. It has been so lovely to see the progress the children have made already and for them to see their hard work paying off. In writing, we completed our flashbacks. The children coped remarkably well alternating between the present and past tenses as this is notoriously tricky! In P.E, the children have been perfecting their balances, this time using equipment to raise their balances off the floor. The class have started to get a bit Christmassy, making decorations for the trees and writing Christmas cards to their buddies. The children have worked really hard filming for their class assembly. We can't wait for you to see it on Monday!</p>

Diary Dates



Thursday 3rd December	-	Scouting - Reception, Year 1 & 2
Monday 7 th December	-	Year 3 Egyptian Day (Dress Up)
Wednesday 9th December	-	Sleeping Beauty Pantomime
Friday 11th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with school uniform & Bring £1 or £2 Donation for 'Save the Children' Charity)
Friday 11th December	-	Santa Dash
Friday 11th December	-	PTA Christmas Raffle
Thursday 17th December	-	Christmas Lunch
December (Date TBC)	-	Year 5 Christmas Unwrapped (Virtual and prerecorded)
December (Date TBC)	-	Reception Virtual Nativity (Video will be emailed to parents)
December (Date TB)	-	Year 1 Virtual Nativity (Video will be emailed to parents) (Bring Christmas jumper in a named carrier bag by Monday 7th December to wear in the film)
December (Date TBC)	-	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 6th 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
Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr	-	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Tuesday 13h April	-	First Day of Summer Term