

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 27th November 2020

Telephone 01799 523384

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



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance

Weekly - **97.7%**

Year to date - **98%**

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Messages from the Headteacher:

Kindness Calendar:

At St Mary's we think that it is really important to be kind and caring - which is why we would like all of our St Mary's pupils to take part in the **Kindness Calendar** initiative (as we did last year) - except this year we have come up with a fun twist! During each day in December (starting on Tuesday 1st December) our pupils should aim to complete a kind act for someone else. We would like them to take a photo of themselves carrying out this kind act and then email it the school (if you are happy to do so) on our email address info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk. These fun photos will then be shared with other pupils in the school in our Monday worship time, on a new display in school and also some of them will be included in our weekly Friday newsletter! Any pupil who completes all of the activities on the Kindness Calendar will receive a special Headteacher's certificate in assembly when the school returns in January. To achieve this, we would ask that parents and carers put their signature for each day that their child completes a kindness activity. Please find attached the Kindness Calendar which you are welcome to print off and display somewhere visible at home.

Please do encourage your child or children to take part as we think this is **very important**. Thank you and good luck! We can't wait to receive their photos!

Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2021

Just a reminder that the statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2021**. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Year/Ladybirds toy shop!

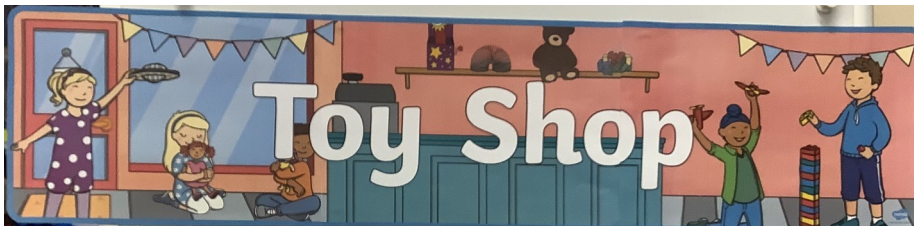
This week our Ladybirds had a lovely afternoon, when a rather eccentric toy museum owner from Austria came to visit. They were even presented with a special voucher where they could buy and make their own toys! The children learned about properties of materials, old and new toys and had a fun question and answer session.

Please read on to see the article and some fab photos later on in this newsletter.

Do have a great weekend!

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's



Year 1 had a special visitor this week; Austrian Toy Shop owner Mr Ruffensburger (aka Mr Jarmain)





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 Christmas 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



E-safety advice:

This week's e-safety advice is once again taken from 'The 2 John's' website <https://esafetytraining.org/> This advice in this week's newsletter is specifically taken from the parents and carers support area which can be found on <https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

This week we are focusing on supporting parents and carers around the subject of online gaming.

Gaming:

Online gaming means you can play in real time 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 popularity of gaming:

Gaming is popular with children, young people and adults across the world. Many games have an interactive online element- whether it's playing against others, chatting or making purchases.

For most children and young people, gaming is a fun way to spend time with friends. Gaming creates opportunities to develop teamwork, concentration skills and problem-solving.

While playing games online is often great fun, it's important you understand what risks there are and what measures you can take to protect them while they're playing their favourite games.

In-game chat.

Online games are social activities. Many games have functions allowing users to chat with one another, which can be risky.

Chatting with people they don't know. Gaming is different to social networks, as players often play against people they don't know, and this may include adults.

Inappropriate or unmoderated chat. While many in-game chat functions are monitored, and players look after each other, chat is in the moment. In some games swearing and insults are common, especially when a player hasn't performed very well. Mean comments or insults can hurt, and competitive criticism might feel like bullying for some children.

Requests to chat in private. Some people online genuinely just want to chat about gaming. But once they move to private chat, your child could be exposed to greater risks. They might share personal information or feel pressured to do something that they don't want to do. If the chat is happening on a different chat or messaging app, then it will no longer be monitored by the game.

Four tips to help you to support your child to stay safe when chatting

- Have ongoing conversations with your child about who they are talking to online. Discuss who they are, whether they know them offline and what they share with them.
- Take time to explore games with your children.
- Ask them to show you what they like about the game and take an interest.
- Speak with them about making their profile private if possible and talk with them about information that is safe to share, for example nicknames as opposed to full names. Read our [article about personal information](#) for more advice.

For more information and advice read our [In-game chat: what parents and carers need to know](#) article created in partnership with Ukie (The Association for UK Interactive Entertainment).



For Parents/ Carers

Enter here to find resources, guidance and tips for parents and carers.

ENTER HERE

E-safety advice continued:

- Be aware of the chat platforms your child is using. Ask your child about what they would do if someone within a game asked to talk to them in private whether that's on another platform or within the game. Help your child to identify this warning sign and explain what they can do can help them to keep safe.
- All young people need support to make safe decisions online. It is recommended that primary aged children remain under adult supervision whilst gaming, for example ensuring an adult is within earshot of conversations and able to see any chat taking place.
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For more information and advice read our [In-game chat: what parents and carers need to know](#) article created in partnership with Ukie (The Association for UK Interactive Entertainment).

Gifts within gaming:

Some games and apps allow users to make purchases. You can buy tools that can be used in the game to give you an advantage such as weapons, coins or cheats.

Many children do not have access to money to make purchases in games, so it can be tempting to accept 'in game currency' to help them progress.

Offering gifts or trades. Some people may offer to trade – or give – your child in-game items or currencies to earn their trust and persuade them to have a separate conversation outside of the game. Remember, if the chat is happening on a different chat or messaging app, then it will no longer be monitored by the game.

Talking to your child about gifts within gaming:

- Speak with your child about bribery and 'too-good to be true' offers. Encourage them to question anything they are offered online from someone they do not know offline, and remind them that it's always better to check in with a parent or carer if they are unsure what to do if offered a reward or gift.
- Speak to your child about 'warning signs'. Talk to your child about the feelings they might get when something doesn't feel right, or be specific with examples. These might be inappropriate words that someone could use in a conversation (for example, sexually explicit language) or behaviours such as asking for lots of personal information.
- Young people can sometimes feel complicit if they have chatted with someone they feel they shouldn't have or accepted a gift and something has gone wrong. Reassure your child that no matter what might have happened you are always there to confide in and it is never their fault. Ongoing reminders that it's never too late to get help are important.

If you are worried that a child is being groomed in a game, or on any other online platform you should seek support. You can contact your local police or [report to CEOP](#). If you believe a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999.

If you would like to talk to a professional about any other online concerns, please call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

If you have any specific safeguarding concerns please speak immediately to your class teacher.





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

Some of our Shining Lights



Christmas Cards

We have had a lot of questions regarding children bringing in Christmas cards this year. After reviewing the Covid guidelines we are happy for cards to be sent in but following the rules below

- all cards must only be for your child/ren's year group.
- all cards to be bought into the year group no later than 14th December
- cards will then be kept in the classroom and quarantined for 3 days
- Remaining cards will be returned on Friday 18th December



Spirit of the Wild Visit

Reception & KS1

A few more photos....



Do you remember our fantastic visit from Spirit of the Wild last week? Well... here are some more photos from our Year 1 children (our Ladybirds) for you to enjoy!

What a great day the children all had!

Weren't they brave!

We can't wait to see them back for our Key Stage 2 children in the new year!

Sports News

Year 4 Cheerleading

St Mary's Year 4 class took part in the USS Partnership Cheerleading competition. This was a virtual event. The whole class learnt a very difficult set of movements. Teams of 3 then entered the partnership event. One group achieved Bronze medals in the overall competition beating a number of schools. The 3 Bronze medal winners were Daisy, Noella and Lilly. A wonderful success.

Virtual Athletics Competition

The USS Partnership sports coaches have been in school this week working with all the classes for the USSP Virtual Athletics competition. The top 5 boys and top 5 girls for every year groups set of results are being put forward to enter the Primary School competition.

Great effort from all the students running, jumping and throwing, some fabulous results.

J. Coleman



Weekly Class Update

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| Reception | <p>This week Butterflies have been learning all about penguins and where they live. Some penguins had been frozen in the ice in class and the children had to investigate how they could melt the ice without hurting the penguins. You can see their attempts on Tapestry. We have been reading the books 'Penguins in the Fridge' and 'Lost & Found', when the penguin is lost then lonely. We have been thinking about how we have felt if we have ever been lost and what we should do if we do get lost.</p> <p>In Maths, Butterflies have been adding one more and then adding 2 groups together. In Phonics we have begun learning some Phase 3 sounds and developing writing initial sounds or CVC words. Look out for another Phonics video soon!</p> <p>The children have been practising singing Christmas carols for our Nativity. Please support them when they are singing at home. Nativity costumes need to be in school in a named bag by Thursday 3rd December as we will have a dress rehearsal. We hope to film the Nativity week beginning the 7th December. Reminder - the film will be uploaded to Tapestry and is for your family to watch only. Please do not share it on any social media. Thank you for your support.</p> <p>Mrs Jeewan & EYFS team.</p> <p>Star of the Week is Sophia A for wonderful effort writing numbers and her name. Well done Sophia!</p> |
| Year 1 | <p>We have had a very exciting week learning about toys! In English, we told stories through roleplay and drawing pictures. We then managed to turn those pictures into words to write our very own toy stories! On Wednesday, we had a very special visit from Austrian toy shop owner, Mr Ruffensburger, who spoke to us about the different toys you might find in a toy shop. We spoke about the materials they were made of and discussed the difference between toys that we play with today and toys that our parents and grandparents played with when they were little. We were then given a gift voucher for the shop and we could buy three toys each! We ended our lesson with a toy scavenger hunt and drawing our favourite toy.</p> <p>Thank you Mr Ruffensburger for flying all the way from Austria (aka Headteacher's office) to share your knowledge of toys with us. (see photo on front page)</p> |
| Year 2 | <p>We have had a great hands on week in Maths. All the children have measured, baked (and maybe even eaten!) flapjacks. If you're feeling adventurous this weekend you could do some baking together - can they help you use the scales and measure how many grams are needed for different ingredients? Next week we will be doing the Phonics Assessment. We could not be more proud of how the children are progressing and regardless of the official outcomes we will celebrate their individual successes. Please continue to help them at home for the final push - we can do this!</p> |
| Year 3 | <p>This week in Year 3, the children have painted and completed their Ancient Egyptian amulets. We have a fantastic, colourful variation of scarab beetles, eyes of Horus and knots of Isis. In French this week, Grasshoppers have been learning how to say different items which they may find in their pencil case. In music, they have been playing the glockenspiels as a class and can't wait to show you their performance in our class assembly video. The Year 3s have also been writing some brilliant endings to our class book 'The Egyptian Cinderella.' They have used a range of adjectives, fronted adverbials and carefully punctuated speech to make sure their writing is really exciting.</p> |

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|--------|--|
| Year 4 | <p>Year 4 have been working very hard this week. During this week, in science, we have learnt about different animals and how to group them based on specific criteria. During Maths, the pupils have been learning about division and how it is the inverse of multiplication. I feel the pupils are making good progress towards learning their times tables, but I would appreciate if they could continue to practice them at home. We have also learnt how to use the bus stop method to solve division questions. During our Literacy lessons, the pupils have completed their Viking myth's based on characters such as Thor and Loki. The children have also really enjoyed learning and singing a Viking saga. Well done on another good week! Star of the week: Ruby Scott- For always working very hard in every lesson and being a fantastic class-mate.</p> |
| Year 5 | <p>This week, the Bees class have been considering some big questions in our space! They've considered why the first four planets in the solar system have rocky crusts, the next two have gas outer layers and why the last two are termed the 'Ice Giants'. We've also been thinking about how gravity has caused all the celestial bodies we can see to be approximately spherical in shape!</p> <p>A little closer to home, the children have combined different types of maps in Geography in order to create their own master map, which displays the rivers and mountainous topography of the United Kingdom!</p> <p>Bees have also turned these thinking skills to their maths, where they have been learning about the properties of shapes and, using these facts, finding missing angles in a range of shapes, from straight lines to parallelograms!</p> |
| Year 6 | <p>This week year 6 have been working hard comparing and ordering fractions as well as converting fractions to decimals and round them to specific place value. In writing, we have been writing about our memories leading up to writing a flashback. It has been really lovely reading about all the exciting and interesting things the class remember. In music, the children have started learning a song on the recorder with Mrs Norman. They have also been learning how to communicate with each other effectively by completing questionnaire about their peers in PSHE. We have also had a big focus on internet safety and how to be safe and kind on all electronic devices. Please ask your child about what we have been discussing and open the conversation as they have been great at sharing their thoughts and feelings on this important area of their lives.</p> |

Diary Dates



| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 3rd December | - | Scouting - Reception, Year 1 & 2 |
| Monday 7 th December | - | Year 3 Egyptian Day |
| Friday 11th December | - | Christmas Jumper Day (Bring £1 Donation for 'Save the Children') |
| Friday 11th December | - | Santa Dash (wear sports kit, Xmas jumper and trainers) |
| Friday 11th December | - | PTA Raffle |
| Thursday 17th December | - | Christmas Lunch (NB changed from Mon 14th) |
| 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 5th January | - | INSET Day (non pupil day) |
| Tuesday 6th January | - | First Day of Spring Term |
| 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 |