

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 6th November 2020

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance

Weekly – 98.1%

Year to date – 99.2%

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

Friendship

Truthfulness

Perseverance

Trust

Compassion

Respect

Dear Parents/Carers,

Messages from the Headteacher:

Parent and Carer Consultation sessions:

As you will be aware, this week we began our Parent & Carers Consultation session – which this term we have been hosting by telephone. I am pleased to say that these have been going really well and it has been so lovely to hear from so many members of our school community. These will be continuing next week – with these sessions starting in the afternoon.

Remote Learning Online Survey:

We have had 46 surveys completed so far, if you haven't managed to complete the survey please do just click on the link there are only 8 questions so it is very quick to fill in.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOefe9kU2WJpJUNjVVUjEzUk9ZnK5TTUpXOEJXRE1YVzJYVC4u

Thank you if you have been able to complete this survey – your feedback is very much appreciated!

PTA Christmas cards:

Thank you to those who ordered Christmas cards, etc! We can confirm we raised £108 for the school and your orders are now on their way.

Next, look out for sponsorship forms coming home on Monday, as we are preparing for the St Mary's 7 Marathons! Yes, you read that correctly, on Tuesday 17th November, the whole school between them will run the equivalent of 7 Marathons! Each child will be completing a mile to contribute to this school record and will receive a medal upon completion! As always, your support of any events we run, is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Gemma and Ruth (St Mary's Events and Fundraising Team) 😊

A big thanks also to Gemma and Ruth for their sterling work running the PTA and their all-round fundraising efforts – they are appreciated by everyone at the school. Thank you!

Hello and welcome!

I am delighted to welcome a number of new members of staff to the St Mary's team. Firstly, I would like to welcome our new Office Assistant, Xenia Madill – who will be taking over from Sonya Johnson – who has stepped into the School Business Manager position from Monday next week.

Secondly, I would like to welcome Emma Saville and Sian Owen to our Catering team. Sian and Emma have been working in our school kitchen for a few weeks now and they have been doing an outstanding job preparing delicious and nutritious food, alongside Riina Driscoll – our Catering Manager.

Finally, I would like to welcome John Tait – who is going to be taking on our Site Manager's position from next week.

I am sure you will all join me in sending them our very best wishes and welcoming them all to the wonderful St Mary's.

Goodbye and good luck!



Sadly, today was Lorraine Chedzoy's last day at St Mary's as our School Business Manager. As you may be aware, Lorraine has been at the school for just over 3 years and has had an extremely positive impact on our lovely school through her supreme organisation, passion and dedication (in addition to a multitude of other skills). I know that Lorraine has left the office team in a very strong position going forwards and she will be greatly missed by everyone here at St Mary's.

The very best of luck at Saffron Walden County High, Lorraine. I know you will undoubtedly prove yourself to be an invaluable asset there. Please join me in keeping Lorraine in our thoughts and prayers as she embarks on her next challenge!


Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's

Some of our Shining lights!



<p>Reception</p>	<p>Pirate day! Wow, we all had a wonderful day with lots of pirate themed activities including iSpy pirate sounds hunt, pirate missing numbers, making a treasure map, walking the plank and a hunt for Pirate Pete's coins. Thank you, parents, for your support with the children's pirate outfits.</p>  <p>We have been learning about why we wear poppies for Remembrance in November, and we made our own poppies, poppy cards, a hand poppy wreath and laid our wreath on our cenotaph.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>We started the second half of our Autumn term with Pirate Day! It was lovely to see all the children dressed in beautiful costumes. We had a fantastic time learning some interesting facts about pirates and their way of life. We thoroughly enjoyed making our own pirate hats, searching for Pirate Pete's golden coins and practising our gross motor skills on the climbing equipment. We danced to a pirate song and read a pirate adventure story. It was a wonderful start to the term! We have also made a start to this term's new topic "A Toy's Story", investigating what is in the "messy, messy toy box" and writing our own class book.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Caterpillars have come back to school firing on all cylinders! They absolutely loved Pirate Day which was jam packed full of fun activities including messages in a bottle, a hidden treasure hunt to retrieve Captain Pete's gold, drawing treasure maps, playing tug of war, sketching our own pirate ships (thanks Draw with Rob), reading a fabulous pirate tale and last but not least walking our own planks and swinging on the ropes like seasoned sailors! We are doing lots of phonics practice so please also keep this up at home - every little helps. Lastly watch out for the Times Tables Rockstars logins and passwords - all of the information has been sent out in a separate email.</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Grasshoppers have had another brilliant, hardworking week. They have enjoyed designing their own Ancient Egyptian amulets and have thought carefully about what designs the Ancient Egyptian's might have worn. We can't wait to start creating them for real! They have also been using fantastic descriptive language during our English lessons to create setting descriptions for an Ancient Egyptian sunset. In PE this week, Year 3 loved creating symmetrical balances both individually and in pairs. They came up with some really creative ideas! During maths this week, we have started looking at grid multiplication to multiply larger numbers. Please keep practising your times tables at home.</p> <p>This half term, the Year 3s will continue to receive their spellings on a Friday and will then be tested on these the following Friday. Please do practise these and bring them in so I can see. I will also continue to check reading records on a Friday. Children should be reading at home</p>

	every day and should either have a parent write in their reading record at least 3 times a week or can write in 3 times a week themselves, or they will have to read during Golden Time. Each read in the reading record counts as a dojo too!
Year 4	 <p>Fireflies have been very busy this week. We have started looking at the Vikings as the second part of our topic. We have looked at the origins of the Vikings in more depth and where they came from. During this week, we have learnt about the meaning of Remembrance and created our poppies. The children also created their own acrostic poems which were fantastic! Well done on a brilliant first week back after half term!</p> <p>They've also been super busy mastering their cheerleading routine – which they have all been really, really enjoying – as you can see from the photograph below! The final recording has been edited and submitted. Miss Driscoll would like to wish them the best of luck in the competition. If you would like to see them in action, please do let Miss Driscoll know.</p>
Year 5	<p>The Bees class have hit the ground running this half term, launching into their new topic: Space! Our first lesson saw a deluge of questions come from the class; we'll try to get to them all over the topic!</p> <p>The children had a fantastic time finding out facts about the planets and the order they are from the sun. They also found out how the planets got their names and how those names linked back to our Greek Topic via the Gods. In Music, we looked at how the composer Holst was inspired by the Greek/Roman gods and created pieces for all the planets - analysing how he used dynamics, tempo and pitch to emote very different feelings for Mars and Venus!</p>
Year 6	<p>This week in maths, Y6 have been estimating calculations to check the accuracy of their answers as well as practising long multiplication and long division. In English, the children have been writing biographies about key black figures from history and modern-day including Chadwick Boseman, Michelle Obama, Stevie Wonder, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman. We have started our new 'Electricity' unit in Science researching the origins of electricity. On Monday, we made poppies and Remembrance posters to commemorate Remembrance Day - some of which are now being displayed in town in the old Cook Shop! In PSHE, we read and analysed Martin Luther King's famous 'I have a Dream' speech and wrote our own using our own dreams and aspirations for ourselves and our country.</p>

Wellbeing E-safety and Pastoral Care

Parenting Support, by Hayley Bloxham, Welfare & Support Officer

We all need a little extra help sometimes...whether you're finding parenting a bit of a struggle or just looking for some new ideas, here are some useful parenting support networks and courses passed on to us by the wonderful Uttlesford Healthy Family Team:

Parenting Together Support Programme:

Support to address conflict within your relationship, as well as strengthening your parenting skills please visit: www.parentingtogethersupportprogramme.org.uk

Family Lives:

Support and advice for families before they reach crisis point at www.familylives.org.uk

Parenting Alone:

Befriender support and advice specifically for single parents. You can self-refer for a Befriender by emailing parents@mindinwestessex.org.uk

Triple P Parenting Programme:

Support specifically for parents of children with special educational needs at: <https://www.tripleparenting.uk.net/uk/triple-p/>

Advanced Parenting Skills:

Free Online Course <https://alison.com/course/advanced-parenting-skills>

Hayley Bloxham, Welfare & Support Officer, St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School,

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Royal British Legion Poppy Picture

Thank you so much to the students who gave in their "Remembrance" pictures – these are now being displayed around town.



On the right is a picture of two of our Ladybird pupils (from Year 1) who have helped to make a huge purple poppy picture to commemorate animals that serve in the forces.



On the left is a lovely handprint wreath from our Butterflies class. Wow!

Here is a lovely photo of our Fireflies showing the creative poppies that they have made. Well done Year 4!



Learn to Ride with our Year 2 Caterpillars:

This week Year 2 have taken part in learn to ride. It was a fantastic day and many of our children who could not ride, confidently conquered their fears and wobbles by the end of the day. I felt very privileged to spend some time with them all and I could not be prouder of how they represented the school throughout the day. We have a talented bunch of cyclists in the making. I hope they continue to enjoy cycling out of school. The school does have a bike rack if they wish to ride to school in the future.



Parents & Carers Survey feedback:

Recently, in our Friday newsletters, we have been focusing on feeding back the results of the parents/carers survey – which was carried out in February.

Once again, in today's newsletter, we have a looked at survey question number 3: **Do you feel you have a clear understanding of the school policies and expectations for: Religious Education & Christian Distinctiveness.**

In the last survey, 93% of parents and carers were aware of the policy around Religious Education and this dropped to 85% for Christian Distinctiveness. This week we have included a link to the school's policy



on RE, so that parents and carers can gain a greater understanding of this vital area of St Mary's school life.

Please follow the following link to this policy, which is saved on our school website:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stmaryschurchofengland/UploadedDocument/6a61e3313a8449c1864049fda-deccb31/re-policy-jan-2019.pdf>

If you wish to read any of the statutory policies which parents/carers should have access to, please visit this link to our website: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/> or visit our school website and take a look at the **Key Information** section, where you will find our **key policies**.

Pirate Day

Some more pirate day photos from Year 2!

What fun they had on the open seas!





Upcoming Events:

November 2020	
Monday 9 th November – Thursday 12 th November	Parent Consultations by telephone in the afternoons
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Day – children to wear onesies and bring £1 for charity
Monday 16 th - 20 th November	Anti-bullying week
Tuesday 17 th November	Sponsored mini marathon
Wednesday 18 th November	Open Morning for September 2021 intake
Thursday 19 th November	KS1 Spirit of the Wild Visit to school
Friday 27 th November	PTA non-uniform day – children to bring in chocolate for the PTA raffle and chocolate tombola on Friday 11th December
December 2020	
Friday 4 th December	Year 5 Xmas Unwrapped
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11 th December	PTA Raffle
Monday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term – school finishes at 13.30

Have a lovely weekend!