

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Thursday 22nd October 2020

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Attendance

Weekly – 98.1%

Year to date – 97.7%

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 no doubt be aware, when the pupils return back to St Mary's on **Monday 2nd November** (after a very well-deserved half term break) the school will be holding our Autumn Term Parent & Carer Consultation sessions throughout those first two weeks.

I am sure that you will agree that these are a very valuable opportunity to find out about your child's progress and how you can support their learning – especially with all of the challenges that we have all had to face over the last eight months! Therefore, I am delighted that we have already had an 89% sign up using our online Parents Evening booking system and the feedback so far has been extremely positive. I sincerely hope it has made the process of booking slots for your child's appointment far simpler and easier. Don't forget that there is a 'notes' function on the booking system which allows you to raise questions or add notes etc.

As I am sure you can understand, due to the large number of parents that will be seen, it is vital that parents keep to the 10-minute time scale for their appointment and ensure that they that they are ready, by the telephone, at least 5 minutes in advance so that we can keep to these timings.

We very much look forward to speaking to you and hearing from you all next week. If you have not booked yet please do so as quickly as possible – the closing date and time is at the end of today.

Google Classrooms:

You will also be aware that last week we sent a letter (along with our Friday newsletter) explaining our new Remote Learning platform – Google Classroom. In this letter, the school asked all parents and carers to log in to their child (or children's) Google Classroom account, using the username and password provided. At this time, we still only have about 50% of our pupils who have signed into their Google Classroom accounts to complete the simple quiz activity.

Having completed this activity myself, I know that this should take only 5-10 minutes of time at the very most. Therefore, could I ask any remaining families who have not been able to complete this task yet, that

they take some time of the half term to activate their Google Classrooms account, so that these are ready to use – if we should need them.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Remote Learning Online Survey:

On **Monday**, the school sent out a **brief online survey** for parents and carers to complete. This survey asked parents and carers some targeted questions about remote learning – such as whether our parents/carers have access to computers/ the internet and also about the type of learning support that the school will need to provide if your child’s class needed to be educated from home. Again, I would ask that all parents/carers complete this survey as it will inform our plans for each and every pupil at St Mary’s.

Here is a new link, that should hopefully allow everyone to complete this time!

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJUNjVVUjEzUk9Znk5TTUpXOEJXRE1YVzJYVC4u

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

Please do enjoy your half term break; we look forward to **welcoming you all back to St Mary’s on Monday 2nd November from 8.30am.**

Goodbye and good luck!

Finally, next Friday (30th October) will be Rob Lewin’s last day at St Mary’s – therefore today will be Rob’s last day with the children. I am sure you will join me in wishing him the very best of luck. We look forward to seeing him around!

Have a good half term break.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary’s



Some of our Shining lights!



Forest School

Butterflies and Ladybirds have been really enjoying their Forest School sessions this half of term - they've been so busy learning all sorts of things! They have done lots of exploring, looking at all of the living things: bugs, worms, birds, plants and trees. They've learnt lots of British birds' names and made some bird feeders for them to eat as the weather gets colder. They've climbed, sculpted, twisted, drawn, rolled, dug, carried, swung, washed, splashed, listened, balanced, cooked (mud concoctions), played games and laughed a lot! They have shown that they can use tools such as magnifying bug pots, trowels, digging forks and some children have used secateurs. One of the children's favourite activities has been using the rope swing that Mrs McInnes made - some of the children looked like they were flying! The children have really impressed us with their good behaviour and learning the Forest School routines, especially around the fire circle. They have shown perseverance and resilience, particularly on wet weather days! Have fun getting outside with your children this half term, whatever the weather. Here's a good website with some ideas for activities for the whole family.

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities>



Worship Council

Thank you to our amazing Worship Council who helped to interview two potential new rectors this week via Zoom. The children were incredibly grown up and professional and did a brilliant job of asking and answering the rector's questions during the interview process.

Light Day – Thursday 22nd October

It was great to see so many colours in school today, what a fabulous end to a very long, hard working half term!

Year 2 – A special visitor

Last Friday Year 2 were lucky enough to have a visit from a specialist nurse. Hannah explained to the children how she helps people who are poorly and showed some equipment she uses. We were able to compare how nursing has changed since the Victorian era and found out there are lots of ways and ideas that have been used for many years that we still rely on today. For example, honey and seaweed are still used today in some medicines. Thank you to Nurse Hannah 😊



Reception	<p>Another wonderful week in Reception. It was the last week of our Topic 'Marvellous Me' and we focused on the books Elmer and Elephant. We learnt that it's ok to be different, and in fact, we all are different. We created lots of Elmer patterns and an Elmer themed number graph. The children have enjoyed practising writing letter sounds and most have made progress learning their first set of letter sounds! We have learnt in RE that for Christians, Jesus is special and is known as 'the light of the world' and we can shine our light too in all we do. We decorated candles for our school Light Day, 'let your light shine, as you grow'. Well done Butterflies for working hard and helping to make your first half term of school so much fun! Star of the week - is HA for starting and finishing his tasks!</p> <p>Thank you, parents, too for supporting your children's learning and especially for starting to record your child's reading in their reading records. The reading challenge will begin the first week back, but it is great to get into a routine of reading which you could do during half-term. Ask them plenty of questions about their books. Please remember to write your child's name in their school and forest school clothing. Please ensure they have a spare change of clothing too. Thank you.</p> <p>Pirate day will launch our next half term Topic 'Let's Celebrate'. See our Topic Map for details. Have a lovely relaxing half term and we look forward to seeing some cheerful pirates raring to go on Monday 2nd!</p>
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Year 1	<p>This week Year 1 have enjoyed wrapping up our topic with lots of outdoor activities. Thursday brings the whole school 'Light Day' and we are all dressed brightly to celebrate Light festivals from different countries and religions around the world. Year 1 are focussing on the Thai festival of Loy Krathong. We will be making floating baskets and learning about how the festival is celebrated.</p> <p>Please note - after half-term Y1 will no longer need to bring in a pencil case, as we will provide them with all the stationery that they will need.</p>
Year 2	<p>This week we have enjoyed learning about significant people from history for Black History Month. We have already learnt a lot about Mary Seacole, so we then compared her life with Lewis Hamilton! He is a very inspirational figure and it was very exciting to find out how he perseveres when things are difficult and commits to living life to the full. Lots of us wanted to become racing drivers after watching him on the track!</p>
Year 3	<p>Grasshoppers have had another fantastic, hard working week. We have been celebrating Black History Month in class by looking at famous black men and women from history and today. This has included looking at activists, athletes, actors and musicians. The children then selected somebody to create a fact file about. Ask them all about it. The children have also written some fantastic character descriptions about Rhodopis from our class book, 'The Egyptian Cinderella.' They have used a brilliant range of adjectives, similes and sentence openers to make their character descriptions engaging. During Light Day on Thursday, Year 3 enjoyed learning all about the Jewish festival of light, Hanukkah. They all looked fantastic in their bright, colourful clothing! There will be no spellings or homework over half term, but please continue to read at home and log this in Reading Records. Have a lovely half term break!</p>
Year 4	<p>During this week, the Year 4 class have been very busy! In Science, the pupils created their own string telephone- they then were able to describe how it works using impressive scientific vocabulary! During R.E, we looked at Rangoli patterns. The pupils looked at lots of different examples of this type of pattern, and we looked at how they are all different. The children then were able to design and complete their own! In PE, we continued to practice our cheerleading routine and the pupils were terrific!</p> <p>Please can Year 4's practice their spellings over half-term and also times table rock stars! Have a lovely half-term break!</p>
Year 5	<p>Bees class finished off the half-term by learning about a light festival from the other side of the world: the Chinese Lantern festival!</p> <p>After learning about the backstory of the ancient festival, the class completed lots of fun activities to learn about different aspects of the celebration. Then, we made our own Chinese lanterns out of paper, decorating them with images that referenced what we had learnt earlier!</p> <p>The Bees end the half term having worked incredibly hard: they have made huge progress in maths, not only covering much of what they missed from Year 4 but also learning the new methods for Year 5; their concentration in all lessons has come on leaps and bounds; and they have made huge strides in their English, where their writing is now exploding with the descriptive techniques that they have put a great deal of effort to learn!</p> <p>Have a well-earned break Bees and we'll see you after Halloween!</p>
Year 6	<p>Year 6 have been working really hard this week completing their Yr6 baseline assessments. We have also been looking at Wesak the Buddhist festival for Light Day and we created colourful lanterns to bring some light and colour to the celebration. In English, we have been learning about Black History Month and celebrating key black figure from history. This led us to listening to a range of black musicians and having a sing along to Bob Marley, Beyonce, Stevie Wonder and even Shirley Bassey! In music, the class have finally finished and performed their 'villain theme tune' music to the class and they all managed to encapsulate the idea of creating an atmospheric accompaniment to their villain.</p>

I am so proud of how hard Yr6 have worked this term and the progress they have already made in such a short period of time and after such disruption and challenges. They have taken to the new routines and expectations of Yr6 really well and should be so proud of themselves. Well done Yr6 and let us continue the amazing work next term!

Computing & Safeguarding Advice:

Do you know the apps and websites that your child is using? When did you last ask them? This half term, open a conversation with your child about the sites and apps they access. Children enjoy the chance to share their online world and opening a conversation will make children feel more comfortable if something goes wrong.

Once you have explored some apps and sites together visit <https://www.net-aware.org.uk> which details the positive and negative aspects of different content. Set up by the NSPCC it is a measured and practical resource to support understanding of the online world. For more information, please speak to your class teacher.

Parents & Carers Survey feedback:

As you know, in many of our recent Friday newsletters, we have been focusing on the parents/carers survey – which was carried out in February. 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, Safety and Safeguarding, Attendance, Behaviour, Homework, Sex/Drugs education?***

We also asked you: *Do you know where to find this information?* and *Do you agree with our expectations and policies?*

These were the results with the percentages of parents/carers views next to each of these policies:

Religious Education – 93%

Christian Distinctiveness – 85%

Safety and Safeguarding – 97%

Attendance – 100%

Behaviour – 99%

Homework – 97%

Sex/Drugs education – 83%

Do you know where to find this information – 86%

Do you agree with our expectations and policies – 97%

Even though these are clearly high percentages, there is always room for improvement. Therefore, after half term we will be updating our parents and carers with some of our lesser known policies – Christian Distinctiveness and Sex/Drugs Education and also regularly reminding our parents and carers where they can find these policies – if they wish to read them.

This week I would, therefore, like to draw parents/carers attention to our relationships and Sex Education policy (2020) which can be found on our website and here (if you click this link): <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stmaryschurchofengland/UploadedDocument/72fa15430deb436b8ce0129962346cda/relationships-sex-education-policy-april-2020.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**.



Wellbeing E-safety and Pastoral Care

Pupil Safety and Dark Nights, by Hayley Bloxham, Welfare & Support Officer

This weekend we will be setting the clocks back an hour as summer time ends. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under 16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users. The latest available government statistics show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3 and 7pm. From next Sunday, much of those will happen in darkness. Below are links to some great resources you can use to remind your children (particularly those walking home alone) about road safety and safer cycling.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Royal British Legion Poppy Picture

As you may know there will be no Remembrance Day Parade this year due to the government rules in place but the Royal British Legion in Saffron Walden believe that we should still remember and do we at St. Mary's.



RBL have contacted us and have invited our students to produce a "Remembrance" picture during the half term break. These pictures will then be displayed in a local shop in Saffron Walden for the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday the 8th of November.

The picture can be anything really, obviously poppies and soldier silhouettes will be popular but the war memorial may offer inspiration and they could even colour in the RBL poppy picture that is attached to this newsletter. Pictures can be dropped off at the Saffron Walden Tourist Information Office or brought back to school after half-term.



KS1 Pirates Day – Monday 2nd November

Ahoy shipmates! The children (and staff) in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will all be taking part in a **Pirate day** on Monday 2nd November, the first day back after half term.

The children will be taking part in fun activities to help bring some of their topic to life!

Activities the children will be joining in with include: Pirate phonics; maths activities hunting for buried treasure; investigative skills looking for clues; walking the plank in PE; geography-based activities such as orienteering and map reading; pirate themed puzzles and craft activities; the history of Pirates and of course plenty of fun pirate role-play!

It will be a great opportunity for friendships to be strengthened across the year groups now that they are able to play together at break and lunchtimes.

There is no need to rush out and buy a new pirate outfit if you do not want to, as children can wear a pair of old trousers or an old t-shirt cut up and any stripy t-shirt will also do. You can look online for some simple costumes made very cheaply.

Thank you for all of your support encouraging your child to take part in the pirate fun! We are sure we are going to have a fab day.

Upcoming Events:

October 2020	
WHOLE MONTH	Black History Month
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October	Half Term Holiday

November 2020	
Monday 2 nd November	Pirates Day for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Monday 2 nd November – Thursday 5 th November	Parent Consultations by telephone in the mornings
Friday 6 th November	Flu Jabs – Online consent forms to be completed online before Wed 4th Nov – using the following link: https://immsconsent.eput.nhs.uk/FluConsent/Form1/#!/Page1 You will need our school URN, which is 115 155
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 onsies and bring £1 for charity
Monday 16 th - 20 th November	Anti-bullying week
Wednesday 18 th November	Open Morning for September 2021 intake
Thursday 19 th November	KS1 Spirit of the Wild Visit to school

