

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 16th October 2020

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Attendance

Weekly – 98.7%

Year to date – 97.8%

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

Friendship

Truthfulness

Perseverance

Trust

Compassion

Respect

Dear Parents/Carers,

Messages from the Headteacher:

It has been another busy and eventful week at St Mary's and I cannot believe that we will be heading into the eighth week of term next week - which will be our final week of this first half term. **Please remember that next Friday (23rd October) St Mary's school will be closed to pupils as it is a Staff INSET day so the last day of half term is Thursday 22nd October at the normal finishing time (3.15pm to 3.25pm – depending on your child's class).** The staff are very excitedly looking forwards to a session with the creative curriculum specialist Chris Quigley – who some of our school community may be familiar with!



Also, accompanying this newsletter you will also receive a special **Google Classrooms letter**. I would urge you all to please read this letter very carefully.

As discussed in this letter, each of our pupils has a very simple 'homework' task this weekend which will involve them logging into Google Classroom, using the username and password that we have been provided with (which is included in their reading record/journal) and completing a simple quiz – set by their class teacher. This simple activity has been created to check that each child's email username login and password is working correctly. Please do not worry if you have any issues and are unable to log in – we will be in contact if we notice that you have not been able to log in over this weekend. There is a special video attached to the letter, which explains how to login to Google Classrooms.

These Google Classroom accounts have been created by the school if the need should arise for the pupils to be home schooled for a brief period of time (as part of our remote learning offer) and the school is now carrying out a series of tests to check that the children can access their Google account if the need should arise for remote learning.

On **Monday, the school will also be sending out a brief online survey** for parents and carers to complete. This survey will ask parents 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.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Mr C. D. Jarmain Headteacher at St Mary's

Our Shining lights!



Kittle Photographs

We had lots of smiles yesterday with everyone looking very smart ready for their school photograph. Your child will have come home with a photocard from Kittle Photography, they have advised that the photos usually take a week to be loaded on to their website so have a check online at the end of next week.

Light Day – Thursday 22nd October

We are looking forward to celebrating our annual Light Day in school next Thursday (22nd October). The children will be looking at a light festival from around the world with their class for the day and will film what they have been learning. We will use this to create a video which can be shared and enjoyed with the whole school after half term and will allow us to feel like one again in our separate bubbles. Children should come into school dressed in bright, light clothing to celebrate. Think neon, light up and super colourful! If your child has P.E or cheerleading on this day wear bright, comfy sportswear!



Happy News and Sad News



In three weeks' time, Mrs Lorraine Chedzoy, our fantastic School Business Manager, will sadly be leaving us for new pastures. I say new pastures, but in reality, she is only heading off up the road as she will be working in her new position in the Teaching School Administration Team at Saffron Walden County High! This is a really great career opportunity for Lorraine – who has been at St Mary' for three amazingly rewarding (but extremely busy) years – and Lorraine now feels that it is the right time for a new challenge. Having worked with Lorraine for just over a year now I know she will prove herself to be an invaluable member of the Teaching School team there.

However, in extremely positive news, Sonya Johnson, who is currently our wonderful and extremely organised Office Administrator, will take over from Lorraine and as of yesterday has been successfully recruited as the School Business Manager and will take over officially from Lorraine in three weeks' time. I know that Sonya is extremely excited to be taking on this new position and St Mary's and she can't wait to get started!

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating both Sonya and Lorraine in their respective promotions and keeping them both in our thoughts and prayers.

Good luck ladies.

Vacancies at St Mary's

We are currently recruiting for a new Administrative Assistant, Caretaker and Mid-Day Assistant, you can apply for any of these roles on Essex School Jobs:

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/SearchResults.aspx?Keyword=CB10%201BQ>

Year 5 – A visit from Hippocrates



We were very fortunate to have a visit from the Ancient Greek doctor Hippocrates, who developed the theory of the 4 humours (that illness comes from too much blood, yellow bile, black bile or phlegm). He taught us how to cure these, though we weren't completely convinced by his methods (he prescribed bleeding someone when they had a nosebleed to get rid of the excess blood!!) He was the first person to start looking at the reasons why we get sick rather than just blaming the gods and the children took the Hippocratic Oath to become qualified Ancient Greek doctors!

Reception	On Monday, we had a very special visitor, the friendly alien from our story this week 'The Way Back Home'. The children listened and joined in with the actions as our alien friend told his story. The children then answered and asked the alien friend some questions and then waved him off in his spaceship. We then acted as astronauts and went on a mission to the moon 🌙 in our rockets.
Year 1	This week Year 1 have been embracing Autumn and all the changes it brings with it. We have explored the school grounds looking for signs of Autumn and seen the changing leaves and the animals getting ready for winter. In Science we have been looking at seasonal changes and talking about how we get less hours of daylight in the Autumn and Winter months. In

	<p>RE the children have been getting familiar with the story of Creation and drawing their own interpretations of the 7 days. Forest school was a huge success, making conker necklaces and leaf crowns.</p>
Year 2	<p>What a busy week Year 2 have had - we have been working with clay to make our own self-portraits which are going to dry and then we will paint them, they look amazing! We have also been working on our Acrostic poems about Florence Nightingale, ask your child about some of the words we have used. We were very lucky to have Nurse Raynor visit us this afternoon. We learned lots and had many questions for her! Thank you Nurse Raynor.</p>
Year 3	<p>Grasshoppers have been working really hard again this week in class. They have produced some beautiful watercolour Ancient Egyptian silhouette painting using washes to create colourful settings. We have also started reading The Egyptian Cinderella in class and Year 3 have worked in groups to create their own playscripts to re-enact the story. In music, the Grasshoppers have continued to listen to a variety of different songs and have been appraising these, thinking carefully about what they can hear and about what their own opinions on the songs are. They have also worked hard transferring their column addition and subtraction skills across to solving word problems. Well done for your fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm during swimming lessons again this week too, Year 3. Keep up the hard work!</p>
Year 4	<p>In Fireflies this week, the pupils have been very busy and have worked SO hard. They have finished their newspaper reports on an Anglo-Saxon invasion and are now starting a non-chronological report. In Maths, the pupils learnt about a formal method of addition and started to master rounding numbers (which is very tricky!)</p> <p>In Science, we continued to explore sound and linked this with music. The pupils created their own music showing the different sounds each instrument makes and explaining how the sound is produced. In our topic, we looked at Anglo-Saxon crime and punishment which they enjoyed.</p> <p>Please could I also just remind the pupils that they need to be practising their times tables and spellings each week to consolidate what is being done at school. This would be very much appreciated.</p>
Year 5	<p>Bees have had a creative week! The children have completed their Greek myths, using the grammar techniques they have learned - expanded noun phrases, rule of 3 and adverbial phrases. In Art, they completed their 2D pots, painting the background in orange; and the detail, depicting their chosen myths, in black.</p> <p>They were also extremely lucky as they were visited by a very famous Greek doctor – Hippocrates (who some have called the Father or Modern Medicine), who had kindly travelled back in time (see the article above in the newsletter). Lucky Busybees!</p>
Year 6	<p>Year 6 have been comparing soil samples to those found at a crime scene in Science, identifying the components the soil is made up of. We have been working really hard to master long division and the children have done an amazing job already! In English, we are just starting our new biography writing unit. We have looked at the key features and started to focus on use of pronouns and active and passive sentences. In PSHE, we have been creating 'positivity posters' to display in our classroom to support our mental health during this difficult time. We then voted on the 7 most uplifting and inspiring and these have been displayed in the class.</p>

Reception Class – Our very own friendly alien

During the week the Reception class took part in many space related challenges including:

- Writing a space Maths story; I Spy space - looking for and counting space items; making Phonics space rockets with the sounds we have learnt s a t p i n;
- creating a paper plate UFO; following instructions to create a play dough alien; completing space puzzles;
- learning about real life astronauts and the planets in our solar system; creating space pictures, as well as thinking about how the alien and the boy felt in our story when they thought they were on the moon all alone.

Wow, what an amazing week we have had! A big thank you to Mr Jarman for being a very convincing friendly alien!!



Wellbeing E-safety and Pastoral Care

The Dangers of Digital Halloween, by Hayley Bloxham, Welfare & Support Officer

* NEW Podcast! The 2 Johns have put together an excellent, frank and informative podcast talking about the dangers of a digital Halloween. Sharing frightening content and harmful online challenges pose a real

risk. Online Child Exploitation is a growing issue, highlighted even more in recent months during the Covid-19 lockdown period. The internet and social media have become so important in our daily lives, as we socialise and work online. For children, the internet has become the new classroom and playground. Sadly, there are people out there that take advantage of this.

It is important to remember that the victim, the child, is NEVER to blame. Victims are always the victims. Online groomers can be very persuasive and children should never be made to feel they did anything to encourage their exploitation. The best response an adult can provide a child who has been a victim of online exploitation is to comfort them, be supportive and help them address the issues they have encountered.

And of course, it's not just about when things go wrong. You can help your child to stay safe by creating an environment in which they feel able to speak openly about concerns they may have. You can do this by making good internet habits a part of your daily lives by limiting screen time, no devices at dinnertime/bedtime and by taking an active interest in the games they're playing. Take a listen to this podcast by The 2 Johns - a general overview of the internet, how we view it, and how our young people are growing up in a world of social media influences.

Upcoming Events:

October 2020	
WHOLE MONTH	Black History Month
Wednesday 21 st October	National Child Measurement Programme (Reception)
Wednesday 21 st October	Year 2 Bikeability – remember to bring your bike, helmet, waterproof jacket, trousers with narrow bottoms or cycle clips, gloves & trainers!
Thursday 22 nd October	Light Day – dress in bright colours for the day If you have P.E or cheerleading on this day, please wear bright comfy sportswear!
Thursday 22 nd October	National Child Measurement Programme (Year 1)
Friday 23 rd October	INSET Day – no school!
Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th 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 4 th Oct – using the following link: https://immsconsent.eput.nhs.uk/FluConsent/Form1/#!/Page1
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

Have a lovely weekend.