

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 9th October 2020

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Attendance

Weekly – 98.5%

Year to date – 97.6%

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

Friendship

Truthfulness

Perseverance

Trust

Compassion

Respect

Dear Parents/Carers,

Messages from the Headteacher:

Changes to Drop off Arrangements:

I am delighted to report that it has been going really well with our new drop off and end of day arrangements. Thank you so much for all of your support on this. Just a reminder for parents and carers not to gather at the school gates on pick up, as this causes blockages on the pavement and also makes it really difficult for teachers and teaching assistants to be sent to the correct adult (especially whilst adults are now wearing masks).



Class Bubbles:

Our new class bubbles are also working really well. The additional capacity that we have now managed to create has really helped things to run even more smoothly – particularly at lunchtimes and breaktimes. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Class swimming:

Today our Year 3 pupils started the year off as our first year-group to go swimming. As you may be aware, I accompanied the pupils for the first part of the session to have a close look at the facilities and see all of the new organisation in action. I have got to say that I was very impressed with how the centre had followed through with their risk assessment and how clean the facilities were; they have clearly put some impressive systems in place. The children's behaviour was simply fantastic and they were a pleasure to behold. In fact, when they returned to school I asked them to tell how they found it and every single one of them put their hand up to tell me they had a great time! Jessica even told me it was, 'well... really brilliant!'

I fully understand that some parents and carers may feel anxious about sending their children swimming at this time; however, I would like to assure you all that I will continue to closely monitor this situation on a weekly basis and if I feel I need to make changes going forward, I will do so. The health and safety and wellbeing of my pupils and staff is of the utmost importance to me.

Parents & Carers Survey feedback:

As you know, in our Friday newsletters, we have been focusing on the parents/carers survey – which was carried out in February. At the end of the newsletter we have again looked at the question: **Are you familiar with the**

school curriculum? Please do have a look at some of the other developments that we have been making to the curriculum since September 2019.

Class Assemblies:

This term, as we are sadly not able to welcome our wonderful parents and carers through our doors, so we have taken the decision to film (using our newly discovered filming talents) each of our classes doing a class assembly at school. These assemblies will be filmed by the class teachers (and their support staff) over the course of this term and will then be sent out as a series of links on Friday 27th November (the date that we would normally have completed our round of assemblies for the Autumn Term.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's

Our Shining lights!



Reception	Another busy week for Butterfly class. We have been reading and acting out the stories The Very Helpful Hedgehog, and It Was A Cold Dark Night, Don't Hog the Hedge and another nocturnal animal - hedgehogs and foxes. We went on an Autumn walk looking for Autumn finds for an Autumn display and to use for making different hedgehog pictures. We learnt about how hedgehogs hibernate. The children looked for birds and pinecone hedgehogs in Forest school. In Phonics we learnt some more letters & sounds - i, n, g and o. In PSHE we learnt about How to be a Good friend and about looking after our mental health. In maths we have been finding what is big, bigger or biggest and seeing who is the tallest or shortest in class. The children are developing their cutting skills, please let your child practise at home cutting strips of paper or card, making snips with child scissors. Thank you.
Year 1	On Monday the week got off to a great start with a visit from footballer Jamie knight. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed learning how to spin a ball on their finger as well as other amazing football tricks. In Art the children have completed their me puppets, adding facial expressions and hair. They used this experience to write instructions in English, explaining how to make your own puppet. We have continued building on subtraction skills in Maths using lots of different strategies to support their understanding. Friday is World Mental Health day and we will be trying some mindfulness activities and talking about how we can better understand our feelings.
Year 2	We've had a cracking week this week! The children have loved having a special visitor from the past and have created some vivid descriptions about hospitals in the past. In PE this week we enjoyed creating movements of travelling through the forest and begun to think about animals we might discover there - perhaps you could make some up together!
Year 3	Year 3 have had a busy week this week and have been working fantastically. They loved learning football tricks on Monday as part of our Freestyle Football Workshop. I wonder if any of them have mastered some of the tricks yet? We also worked with watercolours to create sunset

	washes ready for our Ancient Egyptian scenery paintings. The children did a fantastic job of blending their colours careful to create beautiful sunsets. This week in science, the Grasshoppers all created their own magnetic games which they then trialled and tested out in class. We had fishing games, racing tracks and mazes! Year 3 have also been working amazingly hard on their non-chronological reports about Ancient Egyptians times. They have been carefully editing their work, really focussed on their handwriting, and have produced some fantastic writing. Keep up the hard work Year 3!
Year 4	Fireflies have had an excellent week. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visit from 'freestyle' footballer (Jamie Knight). The pupils learnt lots of new skills and had the opportunity to practise these in pairs. In Science, we created our own pan pipe to explore pitch and how different sounds are produced. The pupils then created excellent an excellent conclusion section, including lots of Scientific vocabulary. During our PSHE lessons, we have been learning about emotions and creating a 'toolbox' for when we feel specific ways.
Year 5	This week started off with a real bang; the school was visited by the freestyle footballer Jamie Wright, who took the class for a trick-filled lesson! Many of the children have come in saying they've been practising their skills at home, hoping to be able to do the tough 'around the world' trick. Bees have followed this up with lots of creative lessons this week, creating pictures in an image editing program in Computing and then making their 2D Ancient Greek Pots (they'll be making the 3D one in the coming weeks too!), ready for painting next week. The children have also dived into fractions in Maths (and have picked up adding fractions with different denominators extremely quickly!) and writing speech in English!
Year 6	This week year 6 have been focusing on dialogue and how to convey character through what they say. We have used our class book 'The Wonder Emporium' and its characters to inspire us. In maths we have been focusing on long multiplication as this will be a key element in their SATS tests later in the year. This week in science we went about answering the question 'A large shoe print has been found at the crime scene, statistically is it more likely to be from a male or female?'. To answer this we went outside and made muddy shoe prints, we then measured the length and width and recorded the classes data. Using this data we produced graphs and concluded that the males in the class (as an average) had bigger feet so therefore the perpetrator was more likely to be male. In music the children have been writing a musical score for their 'villain's theme tune'.

A Visitor from the Past:

Year 2 were incredibly lucky to have a special visitor this week. Thanks to the magic of time travel, a soldier from the Crimean War was teleported into the future to tell the children all about the disgusting



conditions that were found in hospitals before the arrival of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. The children asked interesting and relevant questions and went on to create written descriptions as if they were soldiers entering a hospital there for the first time. **Gruesome stuff!**

Wellbeing E-safety and Pastoral Care:

World Mental Health Day, by Hayley Bloxham, Welfare and Support Officer

The theme for this year's World Mental Health Day on Saturday 10th October is 'mental health for all'. This is a time to focus on inclusivity and celebrate our differences - all with a mental health focus. It is a chance for everyone to open up about mental health, to talk and to listen.



At St Mary's we believe everyone deserves to feel safe about their mental health and in school the children have been discussing issues around diversity and mental health as part of our continued work to promote young people's wellbeing and children's rights.

Lots of resources, information and advice can be found on the mental health website:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/world-mental-health-day>

Football Workshop – Monday 5th October 2020



We were so lucky to have international freestyle footballer Jamie Knight join us for the day on Monday. The kids and adults alike loved the workshops. Jamie engaged really well with the children across the year groups, inspiring them with his advice on how to work hard and dedicate hours and hours of time to practise a skill in order to become as good as he is. His freestyling skills were amazing and the children loved having a go at the tricks that he taught them. Favourites included the Finger Spin, Around the World, the Neckstall and the Rocket Launcher! Please encourage your children to carry on practising these at home and you could even have a go yourself...



The children, as always, did us proud and it was wonderful to receive such glowing feedback from a visitor who described the children as 'great and super well behaved'. He also sent

this: "I spent the day carrying out freestyle football performances & workshops at St Marys Primary and it was easily one of the smoothest days at a school I've had. Organisation by the staff prior to my visit was



superb. The well thought-out timetable and use of a great sized hall made my work a lot easier. As for the pupils, they were highly engaged, attentive and super eager to give all the tricks a go even if football wasn't their strong point. Overall a great day and I hope to visit again soon!

Nut Free School/Healthy Snacks

We are concerned at the number of unhealthy snacks that children are bringing in, please can you ensure the snack is healthy – fruit is the best snack. Please also remember we are a nut free school, some cereal bars that children are bringing in have nuts in, please check the ingredients.

Kittle Photographs – Thursday 15th October

Our individual school photographs will be taken next Thursday 15th October, if your child has P.E on this day please do make sure they have the correct P.E top on. If you would like them to wear their school jumper on the photograph then please send them in with their jumper.

Light Day – Thursday 22nd October

We are looking forward to celebrating our annual Light Day in school on 22nd October this year. 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!

PTA Christmas Cards Designs

We have had some fabulous Christmas card designs come in, don't forget to hand them into your class teacher by Thursday 15th October (next week!)

Parent & Carer Survey - Curriculum Developments:

Each week we have been focusing on the parents/carers survey – which was carried out in February. For the final week we have focussed on the question: **Are you familiar with the school curriculum?**

Please do have a look at some of the other developments that we have been making to the curriculum since September 2019. Thank you to Mr Pike, our Curriculum Leader, who compiled this list.



St Mary's Curriculum Development 2019 -20

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- We doubled P.E sessions to 2 hours per week and upskilled all our teachers
- We implemented our new P.E scheme of work 'Complete P.E'
- We created the 'Healthy Selfie' display to encourage a healthy lifestyle
- Our lovely pupils attended regular P.E events including dodgeball, tag rugby, multi-skills, cross-country, archery, athletics and football
- Our Yr1 & Yr3 pupils competed in the Dance Festival with other local schools
- WE hosted an amazing Family Fun Run!
- We extended and focused our teaching during Anti-Bullying week and Mental Health week



- A whole school 'Zones of Regulation' programme was implemented and used to support mental well-being
- Our Relationships and sex education (RSE) scheme of work updated and implemented across the school



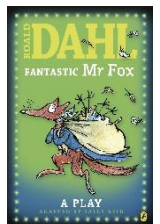
CURRICULUM SPECIFIC

- We started with our Topic days – Vikings, Superheroes, Pirates
- We held extra recorder sessions for Pupil Premium children by Miss Bennett
- Regular piano assemblies for school and the parents and guardians were hosted
- Our 'Get Caught Reading' initiative was implemented and celebrated
- We introduced a Kindness Calendar & Reverse Advent Calendar in the lead up to Christmas
- Our exciting new Topic maps were implemented and shared with parents and guardians
- Furthermore, there were Entry and Exit events planned for each new topic
- We also targeted and focussed on cross-curricular teaching across all age groups
- Our KS1 parents were invited into school for phonics and maths sessions
- Parent readers/volunteers encouraged and increased across the school



VISITS AND VISITORS

- WE took part in lots of class visits/trips – Colchester Castle, fire station, WW2 trail, Anglo Saxon village, Saffron Walden Museum to name a few
- Year 5 were thrilled when they went to watch the SWCHS performance of Fantastic Mr Fox
- WE held a Divergent Drama workshop with geography focus for Yr5
- Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils were amazed to take part in a Graffiti artist workshop
- There was a series of visits by professionals including: a doctor, a pilot, a police officer
- There was a Healthy Me workshops for all members of the school community
- Year 3 attended 'The Big Sing' and sang for the elderly at a local care home for Christmas
- Year 5 attended 'Christmas Cracked' and 'Easter Cracked' at the Baptist Church
- YrR, Yr1 and Yr4 attended weekly Godly Play at St Mary's church
- Whole school attendance at our Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church



So, if you bear in mind that most of this happened up to the lockdown in late March – then this is a pretty impressive set of achievements. Well done everyone!

Next week in our survey we will focus on some of our policies, which some parents wanted to know more about! Watch this space!

Upcoming Events:

October 2020	
WHOLE MONTH	Black History Month
Monday 12th October	Firework Assembly
Thursday 15 th October (9am)	Individual Photographs – note new date
Friday 16 th October (pm)	Nurse Rayner coming in to talk about nursing.
Wednesday 21 st October	National Child Measurement Programme (Reception)
Thursday 22 nd October	Light Day – dress in bright colours for the day
Thursday 22 nd October	National Child Measurement Programme (Year 1)
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day
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 6th November	Flu Jabs
Monday 9 th November – Thursday 12 th November	Parent Consultations by telephone in the afternoons
Friday 13th November	Children in Need Day
Monday 16th - 20th November	Anti-bullying week
Wednesday 18th November	Open Morning for September 2021 intake

Have a lovely weekend.

