

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 2nd October 2020

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance

Weekly – 97.3%

Year to date – 97.3%

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

Friendship

Trust

Truthfulness

Compassion

Perseverance

Respect

Dear Parents/Carers,

Messages from the Headteacher:



Census Day!

Firstly, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all of the parents and carers as we managed to total **184 meals** yesterday for our first Census Day of the year – this is without a doubt **our highest number ever!!!** As I am sure you all know, each school receives a large proportion of its funding each Census Day – and there are two which record the numbers of our pupils enjoying a healthy and delicious cooked school meal over the course of each academic year. The first is always in October and the second takes place in January. Yesterday's impressive school meal numbers means that this term the school will receive a higher amount of funding – which will be used towards every single pupil at St Mary's. Well done Riina (our Kitchen Manager) and Sonya (our Office Administrator) and our Midday team for all of your hard work in making the day go so smoothly!

Changes to Drop off Arrangements:

We have been delighted with how well the school community have supported our school with our new arrangements for dropping off and picking up pupils at the start and the end of the school day, that we put into place at the start of September. This includes the new one-way system, class lines and also the recently adopted wearing of face masks for adults at the start and end of the school day.



However, from Monday, we are going to make a few further changes. Firstly, as a trial, we are going to **suspend the staggered start times** for early morning drop off. This means, when arriving at school in the morning, pupils from all classes should arrive **from 8.30am** (as we used to do in previous academic years), but **pupils must be in school before the registration time of 8.50am**, after which time they will then be marked as late – as per our usual arrangements.

Pupils should continue to follow the one-way system on entry and walk along their normal class line and then enter through their classroom entry and exit door. **Therefore, queuing will not be necessary!**

Year 4 and year 5 pupils should **enter** through the **side gate**, where they are normally collected by their class teacher.

However, the following things will **still remain the same**:

- The new one-way system will remain in place;
- Parents and carers and their children must still use the Caton's Lane and Front School Main gate as entry points and exit points as they do currently;
- Parents/carers and school staff must continue to wear face masks on pick up and drop off;
- The end of the day will still remain as staggered finish times: Butterfly class (Reception), Ladybird class (Year 1) and Grasshopper class (Year 3) will still need to be picked up at 3.15pm using the line system on the school playground. Caterpillars (Year 2) and Fireflies (Year 4) will need to be picked up at 3.20pm and Busybee class (Year 5) and Dragonfly class (Year 6) will need to be picked up at 3.25pm;
- Firefly class (Year 4) and Busybee class (Year 5) will still be brought to the school playground to be collected.
- Parents and Carers should still refrain from entering the classrooms and school office and contact the school office using info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk if a communication with the school is needed.

Class Bubbles:

As we are now heading into our sixth week of term, we are also going to be making some changes to our class bubbles.

From next week, we are going to merge some of our class bubbles together. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will become one bubble. Year 3 and Year 6 will become one bubble and, finally, Year 4 and Year 5 will also become one bubble together.

Please note that the children will still spend the majority of their time in their own classrooms with their own class teacher; however, so that the school can target the appropriate level of 'catchup' support and tailored intervention groups more effectively (particularly around reading, phonics and number work) it is important that we now use our teachers, teaching assistants and learning support assistants more efficiently and that we adapt the organisation structures that we put in place at the start of September.

Currently we have been using the school field for lunchtimes and breaktimes. However, we are very aware that very soon, due to the poor weather which occurs in the Autumn and Winter months, these new arrangements will enable us to use the school site even more effectively.

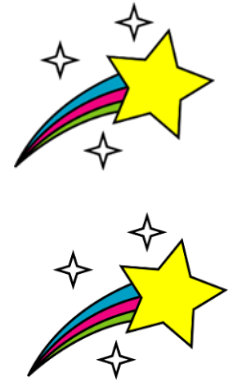
From Monday, each of these class bubbles will now be able to share areas of the school playground which will help us considerably with our staffing capacity leading into the Winter months.

Thank you, once again, for your continued support of the school.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's

Our Shining lights!



<p>Reception</p>	<p>Well done Butterflies for another super week in school. The children have been learning new phonic sounds s,a,t,p and we have been looking for things that begin with these sounds. We have been writing patterns and the letters in our names. The children are practising the alphabet and recognising numbers. Please sing any alphabet or number songs with them at home as well and look forward letters and numbers to reinforce their learning. The children are getting more and more confident in class and are beginning to share their thoughts and ideas. This week we have learnt a lot about owls; making owl creations; listening to and acting out the Owl Babies story; thinking about how the owls were feeling and how we would feel too. We created some food for a harvest basket, learnt about Harvest Festival and harvest songs, playing a range of musical instruments. What a busy week we've had!</p> <p>Our Butterfly Star of the Week is for Harley, for wonderful work sharing his interest and knowledge of nature. Well done Harley!</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>This week Year 1 have been preparing for Harvest Festival, singing 'Dingly Dangly Scarecrow' and making their own scarecrow faces out of craft materials to share with the rest of the school in a virtual assembly on Friday. We are making good progress with our topic 'What Makes Me a Me', making movable me puppets which we will use next week to inspire some instruction writing. In Maths they have been building on number skills, looking at subtraction from 10. In Science this week we had fun learning all about our senses and testing how they work.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Caterpillars have crammed a lot in this week! We have again been enjoying using our imaginations to create funny stories, challenging ourselves to use creative vocabulary. Our topic work has also been lots of fun - we have learnt about Florence Nightingale and how she changed the way we look after people today. Perhaps you chat about when your child last went to the doctor - what did the doctor do to help? What are we doing at the moment to keep ourselves safe?</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>This week in class Grasshoppers have enjoyed creating their own harvest baskets and learning about the importance of harvest and how it takes place every year. They have also written their names and some secret messages in hieroglyphs. See if they can remember any of the letters at home! We have also</p>

	been further researching the Ancient Egyptians and have carried on learning more about mummification and Ancient Egyptian daily life ready for writing non-chronological reports. In music this week, the children practised keeping the rhythm and playing glockenspiels. Their passing and catching accuracy is really improving in our netball lessons too!
Year 4	Fireflies have worked extremely hard this week. During PE, we focused on completing some teamwork challenges which the pupils enjoyed. They used their communication skills to complete this challenge. During our Science lessons, we have been focusing on making predictions before experimenting. The pupils managed to write incredibly impressive predictions where they used their knowledge of sound and what they think will happen. During RE, we learnt about the Harvest festival; the pupils created a prayer and some artwork to show what they are grateful for. Keep up the excellent work!
Year 5	This week, the Bees have been having a great time finding out more information about the Greek daily life. They've looked at the food Ancient Greeks ate, the homes they lived in and how unfair it was for women in almost every aspect of life! And, of course, they've broadened their knowledge of Greek myths, learning the story of Theseus and the Minotaur; Icarus (in Science, we designed a parachute that could have saved Icarus' life); and how the King of Corinth outwitted the Gods. The children have also done fantastic work in their writing, where they've learnt how to add description to their sentences with expanded noun phrases and adverbial phrases! Some of their ideas have been truly inspired. They've also stormed through place value in Maths, learning to put large numbers in order of size, use negative numbers and round numbers up to the millions! Finally, in Art, they children have designed the shape of their Greek pots - the last step before we get to make them (which we're all very excited about!).
Year 6	Year 6 have moved onto adding and subtracting decimals and fractions in maths and the class have worked really hard to evidence each step of their learning. In writing we have moved onto focusing on speech and how to correctly present it in our writing. We have linked this to our class book 'The Wonder Emporium'. In science we have been learning about chromatography and how forensic scientists using this technique to compare fabric samples. To do this we used coloured pens, filter paper and water and observed what components were within each ink sample. In French the children have been learning about autumn and singing songs. In R.E we have written poems linked to Harvest Festival and have recorded a few to share with the other classes. Another busy week where the children have continued to work really hard.

A message from the Chair of Governors

I would like to start by saying it has been wonderful to see everyone back at St Mary's. Although COVID19 has affected the School in many ways, I feel confident in the School's ability to nurture and educate St Mary's pupils at this time.

Over the last few months, the Governors have spent time with the Senior Leadership Team reviewing the return to School plans, talking through all the different possible scenarios for the coming weeks and how the School continues and will continue to deliver education. I would like to add that I believe we have a very capable head in Mr Jarman and although he's had a baptism of fire in his first year, he has risen to the challenge demonstrating a level of hard work and commitment that we are grateful for.

I would like to welcome two new Church Governors to the team - Liz Holyomes and Carey Dickinson. They are both a most welcome addition bringing with them a valuable skillset and we all look forward to working with them in the future. I would also like to thank Alastair Knights, who stepped down in September 2020 for all his diligent hard work as Governor over the last couple of years.

My term as Parent Governor comes to an end in November 2020, and while I'm happy to serve another term, the School must invite nominations from the entire parent body. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, could you please contact either the office or me and we can give you more details. I'd like to reassure any prospective Governors that while it can sometimes be time consuming, it is also very rewarding.

The Listening Post

We are really pleased to welcome Stort Valley Schools Trust (SVST) into school on Mondays during this time. SVST is a Christian organisation working with several local Primary and Secondary Schools. They are aware that many children and young people have suffered and struggled with losses over lockdown and have ongoing anxieties and worries about returning to school, friends, and family. They provide a listening service to support local schools and address the needs of their students.



The Trust is made up of professional and experienced ex teachers and youth workers, with many years of pastoral care and mentoring. They offer a non-judgemental, caring, and sensitive support service along with a friendly, kind and listening ear. They will be working with pupils and staff within St Mary's.



Secondary School Admissions

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round is now open for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2020.

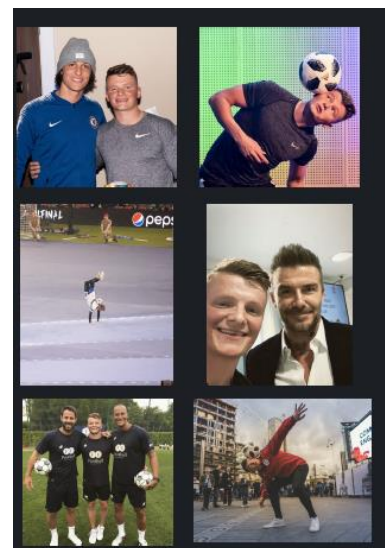
The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2020. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Essex do not send letters out anymore so please do go to their website for further information. The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2021-22 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

Football Workshop – Monday 5th October 2020

Just a quick reminder that on this coming Monday (5th October), we will be welcoming Jamie Knight (top 10 world football freestyler) to St Mary's to run a fabulous workshop for the children. Jamie's inspirational workshops have been well received by hundreds of other schools over the UK, offering an opportunity to learn some fun football skills with plenty of social and physical benefits as well as reinforcing the all-important lessons of hard work and perseverance which is so important to us as a school. This is good timing as the children prepare for our virtual football competition with USSP and we will be able to continue practising the skills we learn with Jamie in PE.

Please note that all children in years 1 – 6 should come to school on Monday in their PE kit.



Harvest

Thank you for all the amazing harvest donations which have come into school for Jimmy's Night Shelter. All of these kind donations are really appreciated. To celebrate harvest in school this week, each class has produced offerings. This has included arts and crafts, poetry and songs! Each class filmed what they had been up to when celebrating harvest and this was shared as part of a brilliant Harvest Festival with the whole school in their classroom via a video, allowing us all to feel as one and share as a school from our separate classroom bubbles! You can watch the video here: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/harvest-celebration/>

Wellbeing E-safety and Pastoral Care:



Uniform Donations by Hayley Bloxham, Welfare and Support Officer

We have been very fortunate to receive lots of second-hand uniform donations recently, including shoes. With current restrictions in place we're unable to put it out on display for parents and carers to come and look through, so if you need any particular items for your children please send an email to info@st.maryscofe.essex.sch.uk with the item/size request and we will do our best to find it for you.

All clothes donations we receive are washed and quarantined for a minimum of 72 hours to avoid cross contamination, however we recommend you wash your hands after handling anything received from the school and launder all second-hand uniform before use.

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

Tel. 01799 523 384 Mob. 07542 084 558

Skipping fun and fitness! By Miss Driscoll, Sports Leader



Thank you to everyone for supporting our school during the National skipping day. It was a great day and the rain didn't dampen our fun. A huge thank you to Carron Shaw who came and spent the afternoon with us (in the pouring rain), helping us tackle those more difficult skipping skills. If your child is in year 2 please



keep them skipping. They will be taking part in a big skip competition throughout Uttlesford. Medals will be awarded to the top three boys and girls.

Over the next few weeks our KS2 children will be taking part in a virtual football competition. It will be a great way to showboat some of children's fancy footwork and great ball skills. The closing date is later this month. I look forward to sharing the results with you before half term.

Earrings and Jewellery:



Just a quick reminder about earrings and jewellery. Essex guidelines and our school policy state that children should not wear earrings and items of jewellery during PE lessons and during sports clubs held during the school day. This is due to the Health and Safety risk that they pose. We therefore recommend that children do not wear these items at all on these days, unless they are able to take them out and put them back in independently, as members of staff are not permitted to do it for them. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Fire Drill:

This week we achieved a **record time** for our first fire drill practice of the term. I am proud to say that the whole school vacated their classrooms quietly and in an orderly fashion and then lined up quietly and sensibly in the impressive time of 2minutes and 15 seconds! With nearly 250 children and adults present in the school at that time this is, undoubtedly, a tremendous achievement! Well done everyone involved!



A sad goodbye:

At the end of this half term we are going to say a sad goodbye to Rob Lewin, our Site Manager, who will be leaving us for some new challenges. As many of you will know, Rob joined us in January 2017,

CARETAKER



and has been working his magic at the school for nearly four years. Anyone who has worked with Rob since this time will recognise that Rob is blessed with and has steadfastly nurtured an incredible Growth Mindset – he really can put his mind to anything he wants and has a level of practical skills that are literally second to none! In fact, those of you who remember the television character MacGyver (from the late 1980s and 1990s) would be

hard pressed to find a more accurate replica!

Good luck Rob – I am sure that we will be seeing you around town spreading your good work and kindness!

Therefore, the school is **currently recruiting for a new Site Manager**. If you are interested then please visit the Essex School Jobs website and take a look at the advert and job description by clicking on the following link: <http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=61025>

Face Masks:

Thank you so much for your support this week in helping us to stop the spread of COVID-19 by wearing face masks when dropping off and picking up your children. It is so appreciated!



Don't forget that if you wish to speak to a member of the school staff please ensure that you are not blocking the pathways so that other people can pass you safely and also make sure that you don't enter the classrooms, for obvious reasons.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Upcoming Events:

October 2020	
WHOLE MONTH	Black History Month
Monday 5 th October	Football Workshop with Jamie Knight All children in years 1 – 6 to wear P.E kits
Wednesday 14 th October (9am)	Individual Photographs
Friday 16 th October (am)	Nurse Rayner coming in to talk about nursing.
Monday 12 th October	Firework Assembly
Friday 23 rd October	INSET Day
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
Friday 6th November	Flu Jabs
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.

