

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 18th September 2020

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Attendance

Weekly – 95%

Year to date – 96.6%

Dear Parents/Carers,

Message from the Headteacher:

Another Great Week!

Well done to **everyone** in the St Mary's community for what has been another really busy but productive week. The pupils and their teachers continue to put in their very best efforts in everything they do and each day is so incredibly full – but also full of fun and learning! We'd have it no other way!

Please do read on to find out some of our latest developments and what's been happening at our wonderful school this week – and also what's coming up!

As, ever, thank you for your continued support for the school through these challenging times!

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher at St Mary's



Our Shining Lights



Reception	Well done Butterflies for a super start to full-time school. We have been very impressed again as the children have adapted to their new routines and many have been enjoying school dinners. This week Butterfly Class are all 'Stars of the Week', well done Butterflies!
Year 1	We have had another incredibly busy week at school, focussing on the topic What Makes Me a ME in every subject. In Art we talked what words we can use to describe ourselves and made and decorated our own mirrors. We have been making 'Me' books in our English lessons, all about what makes us special and unique. In P.E we learnt about spatial awareness and keeping to our own bubbles. In Science we have been naming and labelling the parts of the human body and making models from construction toys. We look forward to another productive week and wish you a restful weekend!
Year 2	What absolute troopers' year 2 have been this week getting back into the swing of things. We've enjoyed thinking about our rights and responsibilities and each child is now a monitor to help look after our class. We talked about jobs we have to do at home and we agreed that we should all help our families. With this in mind please chat with your child about ways they could help at home and what they could take responsibility for. We are trying to increase independence in class and this would go a long way to help. Have a great weekend!
Year 3	This week Year 3 have enjoyed creating their own (very messy) mummies as part of our Ancient Egypt topic. They have been writing some fantastic instructions explaining how to make these. They have also discussed Ancient Egyptian life and the differences and

	similarities between this time and their lives today. During P.E, Year 3 have been practising careful footwork and have been looking at how to attack and defend in netball games.
Year 4	We have been learning a variety of different things this week. In Science, we were learning about sound and linking it to vibrations. The pupils did fantastically well to carry out an experiment showing how musical instruments vibrate by using a drum and rice to show further how sound and vibrations are linked. In our PSHE lessons, we reintroduced the zones of regulation and created some finger paintings showing the different emotions that we all experience.
Year 5	Year 5 have had a very busy week! They've been developing their research skills using the iPads and the internet in the run up to writing their own non-chronological report on Ancient Greece - ask them if they've found out some interesting facts! We also planned and carried out an experiment to test how different surfaces create different levels of friction. As well as Science and reports, the children were very happy to get more creative and begin exploring clay in Art too!
Year 6	We have been working hard to plug year 5 gaps in both maths and spelling, punctuation and grammar including: fractions, place value, relative clauses and modal verbs. We are looking at suspense stories and have been writing synonyms and antonyms as well as describing settings. In PSHE we are focusing on our emotions, what triggers these emotions and how best to deal with each situation.



Exciting Curriculum Developments!



NEW - Home Learning Plans!

We are delighted to be able to introduce our New Home Learning Plans which are now available on our school website from today. Please follow this link, which will take you to the Parents section of our website:

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/home-learning-plans/>

The teachers have been working really hard throughout this week to produce these plans and to make them available for each of our families. These new Home Learning Plans are to be used by any parents or carers where a child is off school for a short period of time – whether it is because a child, sibling or parent/carer is awaiting a test result and whilst the rest of the class is still in school and getting taught by their class teacher.

There are a series of links which will take our pupils to English, Maths, Science, Topic and PE and fitness activities, including videos to watch, and online activities to complete. All the pupils will need are some simple stationery (paper/pens/rulers etc) and some paper to record their work and ideally a computer or laptop (or another device where they can access the internet).

Please do encourage your child/children to show their working (in Maths) and to use their very best handwriting (in every subject)! Furthermore, please do contact the school if you have no access to the internet and are unable to use these Home Learning Plans from home.

Home Learning Tasks for Y2	
<p>This home learning letter provides your child with learning activities from various areas of the curriculum to complete at home. Each area of learning will have a link which you can use to access the work. Please ensure the maths and English tasks are completed in the morning and the foundation activities (science and topic) in the afternoon, as it would be in school. One maths, English and phonics task should be completed every day. One foundation activity must be completed each day, your child can choose between science and topic. Please ensure your child reads every day.</p> <p>To access Phonics Play click on this link and you can use the website resources for free. https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/</p>	
English (x 15 minutes each day)	<p>https://classroom.thenationalacademy/units/the-magic-paintbrush-mood-3498</p> <p>Please use the above link to Oak Academy for the daily writing activity. This is a narrative unit using the Magic Paintbrush by Julia Donaldson. Each daily lesson provides a learning video to follow and an activity to complete. Watch the video in full prior to completing the task. Start at lesson 1 and continue to work your way through the lessons each day.</p>
Phonics (x 15 minutes per day)	<p>Login to phonics play https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ and select a phase 5 activity to play. You can also practise tricky words. If you find this hard, you can go over phase 3 and 4 activities also.</p>
Maths (x 30 minutes)	<p>Practice your number bonds to 10 and 20 every day. Count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s.</p> <p>In mathematics we would like you to complete daily lessons using White Rose. Use the link below to access these lessons. Start at lesson 1 and continue to work your way through the lessons each day. Complete one lesson per day – each lesson provided has a teaching video, main activity, and the answers so you can check your own work. There are some additional tasks which you may wish to try as well. https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/resources/year-2/</p>
Science (x 40 minutes)	<p>Follow the daily science lessons from Oak Academy. The learning topic is The Animal Kingdom and Habitats. https://classroom.thenationalacademy/units/the-animal-kingdom-34fa https://classroom.thenationalacademy/units/habitats-496f</p>
Topic (x 40 minutes)	<p>Follow the daily geography lessons from Oak Academy. The learning topic is The Seven Continents. https://classroom.thenationalacademy/units/seven-continents-48fc</p>
Reading For Pleasure (x 20mins per day)	<p>Read a book of your choice, discussing it with an adult. Login to your BugClub account, read your allocated books and try the comprehension activities.</p>
Physical Exercise (x 30 minutes)	<p>Use this link for a number of suggested Physical activities to complete at home https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/sports-and-fitness-idea/</p>
Independent Play	<p>Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development. It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. So remember to get your toys out and play for at least an hour a day!</p>

Curriculum and Topic Pages!

Also available on our St Mary's school website (under the **Parents** section) you will find our very latest Topic Pages – and there is a different one for every class in the school. Please follow the link below to find out more!

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/curriculum-topic-pages/>

The topic for each class will change either half termly or termly.

These are the topics that the classes are learning about this term:

Reception (butterfly class) – **Marvellous Me!**

Year 1 (Ladybird class) – **What Makes Me a Me!**

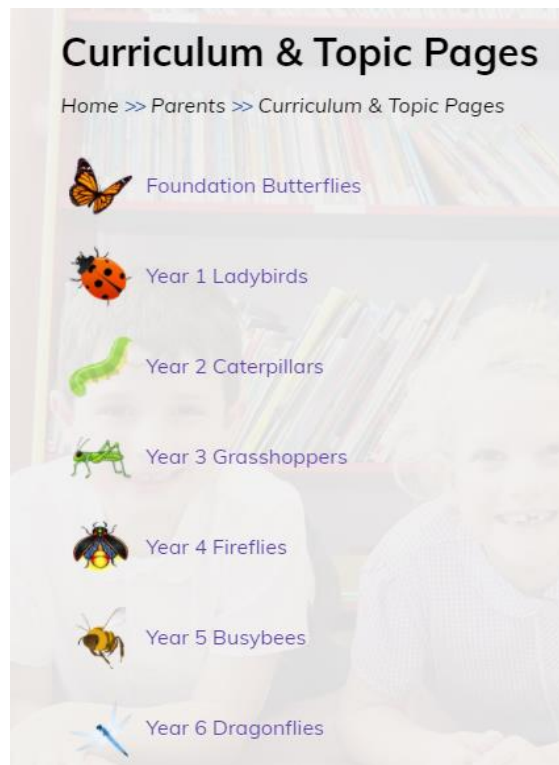
Year 2 (Caterpillar class) – **Pioneers in our Wonderful World**

Year 3 (Grasshopper class) – **Tomb Raiders!**

Year 4 (Firefly class) – **Raiders and Invaders!**

Year 5 (Busybee class) – **Groovy Greeks!**

Year 6 (Dragonfly class) – **Crime and Punishment**



Skills Progression Coverage Documents

-  [PSHE Skills Progression.pdf](#)
-  [Music Skills Progression.pdf](#)
-  [History Skills Progression.pdf](#)
-  [Geography Skills Progression.pdf](#)
-  [French Skills Progression.pdf](#)
-  [DT Skills Progression.pdf](#)
-  [Computing Skills Progression.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Art Skills Progression.pdf](#)

Skills progression documents:

On the same page of our website (under the Parents section), you will also find a section underneath the Topic Pages called **Skills Progression Coverage Documents**.

If you click on each of these separate links (see the picture on the left) then you will be able to see how we build on the skills that we teach our pupils year after year, for each foundation area of the curriculum.

COVID19: Polite reminder:

Can we please remind all parents and carers to ensure that they are socially distancing when they are dropping off and picking up their children from our school. Remember to carefully follow the school signs and markers upon arrival and also as you are leaving. It is also especially important to line up on the spray marks, next to each class line. If an adult wishes to wear a mask when they come to pick up or drop off their child/children then please feel free to do so.

As I am sure you will agree, it is vitally important that our pupils **arrive and leave on time**. Please support us in ensuring that the pupils are in the right place at the right time and are not arriving after the start of the school day.

Finally, 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.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.



Sports news (from our Sports Coach Miss Driscoll)



On **Wednesday 23rd September** we are taking part in **National Skipping Day**. Every child in our school will be having a go at some of the fun and challenging skills of skipping. These are being kept top secret until the day, skill cards and YouTube videos on how to complete the skill will be available. It should be a great day and super fun way to get moving. Your child is able to come **into school wearing their own sports kit with trainers** and are welcome to bring their own skipping rope.

I look forward to sharing some photos from the day with you next week.



PE Uniform

Thank you all so much for all your support with the recent changes and sending your children in with their PE kit on the day they have PE. It is very much appreciated by us all. Please could we ask that as the weather changes children have jumpers with them. If you are sending them in with a hoodie, these need to be plain black or grey – no fluffy collars, glitter/sequin or big logos. If inappropriate hoodies continue to be worn we will have to resort to just school jumpers. Thank you for your help with this.

In KS1 and EYFS please send your child in trainers if possible, these can be laces as long as your child is able to do them up. Plimsolls are great but for running in the playground at break and lunchtime they will not support your child's ankles or provide the grip needed. As always, thank you for your support.

Pirates Day – Reception/Year 1 and Year 2

We will be holding a 'Pirates Day' for Reception & KS1 (year 1 & year 2) on **Monday 2nd November**, the first day after half term. We encourage all children to come in dressed as anything pirate-like and we will be spending the day doing lots of pirate activities!

E-safety and Wellbeing:



Too many of our children 'online life' IS real life, and just like in real life they need to learn how to stay safe, but how do we as parents and carers understand 'online life' as kids know it?

We have come across a great site for anyone who wants to understand the safety of the most popular online sites, apps and games. Net-aware, by the NSPCC <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/> is brilliant as it includes minimum recommended ages and gives a quick reference rating on the level of:

- sexual content
- violence & hatred
- bullying
- suicide & self-harm
- drink, drugs & crime

For example:



For further information on these apps and others please click on the link below to check it out: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Best wishes

Hayley Bloxham

Welfare & Support Officer

St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

01799 523 384

Parents and Carers Survey

You may remember that back in February the school conducted a Parents and Carers survey – something that we do annually at this school. These surveys were handed out during our Parents Evening and I am delighted to report that we had over 100 responses – which, bearing in mind we have just over 200 pupils and many of these have siblings in the school, this is a fabulous level of response.

I am delighted to report that the responses were overwhelmingly positive, but, as with any survey, there were some areas of feedback that the school has taken on board so that we can continue to make improvements for the benefit of the pupils, parents/carers and staff who work at the school.

These are the questions that we asked all of our parents and carers:

[Do you feel there are enough opportunities to be involved in school life and your child's/children's education? In what ways would you like to see this develop? Comment and suggestions were welcomed.](#)

[I get regular information about my child's progress - Comments / Suggestions were welcomed.](#)

[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

[Do you know where to find this information?](#)

[Do you agree with our expectations and policies?](#)

[Again, Comments / Suggestions were welcomed:](#)

[Do you feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question or a problem or a complaint? Comments / Suggestions](#)

[Does your child?](#)

- Know who to talk to if they have a problem?
- Enjoy being at school?

- Find work interesting?
- Is encouraged to work to the best of their ability?
- Is fairly treated?
- Respects their teachers?
- Is respected by their teachers?
- Is sufficiently challenged?

How do you know?

Are you familiar with the school curriculum?

Are there any aspects you would like clarified?

Comments / Suggestions were welcomed.

Do you think we provide enough variation in the after-school activities, sporting events and trips?

Comments / Suggestions welcomed

Do you feel that you are kept informed of what is happening in school?

We asked for Comments & Suggestions on how we can improve on this were welcomed

Do you think our school life is driven by its Christian distinctiveness?

We also asked for Comments / Suggestions on how we can improve on this

Do you feel the school deals fairly with any behavioural concerns?

Comments / Suggestions on how we can improve on this were welcomed.

Did you get enough information prior to your child joining the school?

Would you recommend this school to other parents/carers?

We also asked you to please comment on why you chose this school to send your child/children

We finished the survey by asking for any further comments

Since February, we have carefully analysed these results **and each week in our Friday newsletter** (starting next week with the survey question **Are you familiar with the school curriculum?**) we will pick an area from the survey and focus on this and let you know what we have done to improve. Please do remember that for some of our areas of development we have some frustrating challenges, due to the COVID10 pandemic, which we will do our very best to overcome.

Thank you and have a lovely weekend.

