

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 26th March 2021

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Website: [www.stmaryssw.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssw.org.uk)

Attendance Weekly - 97.8%

Attendance Year - 98.1%

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

## The end of an eventful term!

Wow! What a busy term it has been – and how quickly it has flown by, particularly over the last few weeks since the children have been back at St Mary's. The children have continued to make everyone incredibly proud of the way that they have, once again, settled into school life and its rules and routines. It has been so lovely to see all of their lovely smiling faces and the way they have re-engaged with their learning and I know that the teaching staff are so much happier now that all of the children are back in school.

I was also extremely proud of the way that the school community marked the two minutes silence on Tuesday, where everyone at St Mary's took a moment to reflect on how much our lives (and indeed the school) has changed over the last year. No one can deny that this has been an incredibly challenging year for each and every one of us and it is a testament to the strength of the school community that our lovely pupils continue to be at the very centre of everything we do.

## Easter Service at St Mary's

As you will know, we are currently unable to hold our annual Easter Service due to the COVID19 restrictions. However, we are delighted to share with you all our Easter video – which has been put together by our Worship and RE Lead – Miss Allin, and shows a range of poems, prayers and performances all linked to the Easter story. Please do check out the following link; <https://youtu.be/2XJi9wcyJfA> and do enjoy our wonderful St Mary's pupils in action, celebrating the wonderful story of Easter!

## Bubble changes:

Immediately after Easter, the school is going to make some changes to the Key Stage 2 bubbles, which have been in existence since the start of the Autumn term.

The new bubbles for St Mary's will be:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (which is staying exactly the same);

Year 3 and Year 4 (a new bubble);

Year 5 and Year 6 (a new bubble).

The school is making these arrangements so that some of the activities which are planned for the Summer term can continue to take place.

### A fond farewell...

Sadly, today, our wonderful Welfare and Support Officer – Hayley Bloxham – will be leaving us. Hayley has been at St Mary's for nearly six years, first as a Teaching Assistant and then, for nearly a year, as our new Welfare and Support Officer. Hayley will be embarking on a new career as a professional dog groomer in Saffron Walden and the surrounding areas. Hayley... They do say never to work with children or animals....

I am sure you will join me in sending your prayers and very best wishes to Hayley on her new and exciting journey.

### A warm welcome!

However, I am very excited to introduce Mrs Jo Crocker, who will be the school's new Welfare and Support Officer, beginning immediately after Easter. Jo has a wealth of knowledge and experience supporting schools and families and we are very excited that she will shortly be joining our fantastic team here at St Mary's. Jo will be on the school gate most days before and after school where you will have an opportunity to meet her. Jo's email address will be [jocrocker@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:jocrocker@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk)

### Thank you all!

I would like to end this last Spring term newsletter by saying a big thank you to the entire school community for continuing to support the school and its wonderful children; I hope that you all have a break over the Easter holidays and that the weather is kind to us all. I hope that it allows us many opportunities to get outside, breathe in some fresh air and run/walk off some energy.

Please remember that there is an INSET day for staff at St Mary's on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Therefore, I look forwards to welcoming you all back to St Mary's on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30am.**

Have a lovely Easter Break

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

*Headteacher at St Mary's*



### Join us for Earth Hour 2021

Speak up for nature on Saturday, March 27, 8:30 pm  
your local time

Take part

### Earth Hour - Sat 27th March 2021

In Year 4, we discussed the importance of the environment and conducted experiments on different plastics. We saw the damage that using single-use plastics causes to the environment and

how different plastics can float and sink- causing the oceans to fill with plastics. Every year, I try to promote another aspect of caring for the environment called 'Earth Hour', where we turn off all electricity and try to make a difference in promoting caring for the planet. **Earth Hour** is a worldwide movement organized by the [World Wide Fund for Nature](https://www.worldwildfund.org/) (WWF). The event is being held annually, encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights, for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on a specific day towards the end of March as a symbol of commitment to the planet.

If you are interested, the website is <https://www.earthhour.org/>

It would be fantastic if other pupils and year groups got involved.

Have a great Easter,

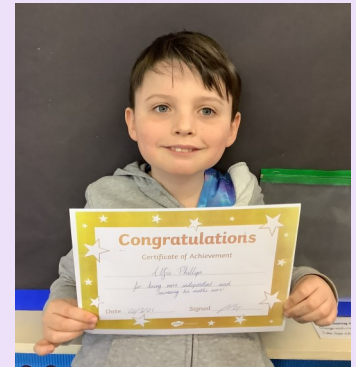
Mr Brown.



**Look  
what fun  
we had!**



# Stars of the Week



Well done to all of these wonderful pupils who light is well and truly shining!





## Reception Class Update

Well done Butterflies for another super week in school. We have enjoyed learning about another minibeast this week—snails, and using the snail and whale characters from the story *The Snail and the Whale* in our reading, writing and maths activities.

Thinking about the signs of Spring and new life we had a great time finding out about the life cycle of a chicken and watching a baby chick hatch. Thank you to Maisie for sharing all of your knowledge of keeping chickens!

In RE and Collective Worship we learnt about the Easter Story and why it is so important to Christians and went on an Easter Egg hunt to find eggs with different Easter symbols in. The children have designed their own eggs and are hopeful to get some chocolate ones soon!

Wow, a busy half term Butterflies, what super progress you have made coming back into school and continuing your learning. We are very impressed with your positive attitudes.

We are looking forward to our new topic '**Around the World**' after the Easter break. If you have any links with other countries please let Mrs Jeewan know.

Happy Easter Butterflies, have a well deserved break.

*Mrs Jeewan and EYFS Team.*

Well done to Isla and Barney, our **Stars of the Week** for super effort this week.



## Year 1 Update

A great end to the Spring term for the Ladybirds this week. They have enjoyed weighing and measuring in Maths, doing lots of practical activities both inside and outside the classroom. In English, we have had lots of fun reading Anthony Browne's '*Knock Knock Who's There?*' and imagining who would be behind the door in our own version of the book. Highlight of the week was a zoom call from Miss Donnelly from Durban, South Africa and the children got to ask her the questions they had prepared about life in South Africa. We are finishing the week by welcoming Spring with a scavenger hunt and spring craft activities. Everybody seems ready for a good break! We wish you all a lovely Easter holiday!

Year 1 Stars of the Week - Blake and Hattie



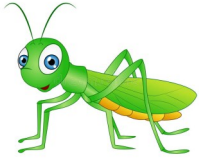
Miss Nicholson and Mrs Potter



## Year 2 Update

The week has flown by in Caterpillar class! We have spent time outside on an apostrophe hunt, investigated multiplication and division in maths and drawn our own story strips to show how much we have understood of the Easter story. The children have enjoyed some Easter crafts and they certainly deserve their holiday—well done all of you for an excellent start back to school and we hope you all have a really happy Easter!

Mrs Robinson & Mrs McInness



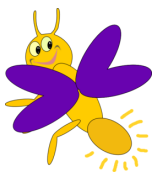
### Year 3 Update

This week, Grasshoppers have continued working hard on their writing based around myths in English. They used thesauruses to find exciting vocabulary to add to their mythical setting descriptions. I was so impressed with the range of adjectives used!

In maths, the class have continued to work hard identifying different angles and learning vocabulary based around 3D shapes. They did a fantastic job of identifying various 3D shapes and discussing their properties.

Year 3 have continued to work really hard on their basketball skills this week, continuing to practise their dribbling skills and beginning to use their blocking and defending skills.

Well done for all your hard work again this half term, Year 3, and have a fantastic Easter holiday and well deserved rest! *Miss Allin*



### Year 4 Update

Firstly, I would like to say well done on a fantastic three weeks back! I am so proud of you and how amazing you have been since the 8th of March and back.

Throughout this week in maths, we have continued to look at graphs, coordinates and data. All pupils impressed me with their fantastic knowledge of data and how we can analyse and display this.

During our English lessons, we have finished our persuasive pieces of writing. The pupils developed their writing into a letter and used lots of persuasive techniques such as: Rhetorical questions, superlatives and the rule of three.

In RE, for our Easter activity, the pupils created Easter-themed stained glass windows- hopefully, you will be able to see them at the Year 4 window!

Lastly, we have continued to develop our knowledge and cultural understanding of Japan. The pupils used various sources to study what it would be like to live in Japanese cities and villages.

Well done on all of your hard work over these last few weeks, and I hope you all have a fabulous Easter holiday.

Mr Brown



### Year 5 Update

Bees have finished off the term with lots of fun! They've had a great time practising their oratory skills when making speeches by learning some famous ones and also playing the game 'Just a Minute!'

They've also enjoyed playing dodgeball, practising their tennis skills, solving a wishes problem in maths and also reflecting on their own feelings in PSHE.

Have a great Easter break Bees and we'll see you next term!

*Mr Clarke*



### Year 6 Update

Another busy week Y6! I can't believe we are already at the Easter holidays. Well done for working so hard over the past 3 weeks to begin plugging the gaps that have appeared over the lockdown period. The repetition of skills in our SPaG & maths groups is already helping with this. Ration & Proportion this week was a great challenge for you all in maths—especially when you had to identify which skill you needed to answer the given problems. We will revisit this later in the year. To practise further.

In English, your warning stories have been so impressive! The skills you have shown has been great to see (well done for using a semi-colon accurately). Your vocabulary choices have developed so much this year and you really showed what you could do in this text.

Your maturity really shone through again this week in PSHE & R.E where we spoke about how to deal with our worries and anxieties. I was so pleased to hear that many of you are already finding inventive ways to reduce the burden—writing down and then destroying, speaking to friends and family and throwing your worrying away (as a paper airplane). I hope this is a skill that you continue to use and develop as you grow.

As we head into the final term, keep doing your best and working hard. It is going to be a busy term with lots of things to look forward to. We will also we spending a lot more time getting you ready to transition to secondary school. Have a great break and I will see you all in two weeks time.

# Diary Dates



Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr	-	Easter Break
Mon 12th April	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Tue 13th April	-	First Day of the Summer term - pupils return
Tue 13th April	-	Silly Science Workshop (Whole School)
Thu 15th April	-	KS2 Football (USSP) - Wear PE kit
Thu 22nd April	-	KS2 Archery (USSP) - Wear PE kit
Tue 27th April	-	After School Clubs Commence (3.25pm-4.15pm)
Mon 3rd May	-	Bank Holiday- School Closed
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun	-	Half-Term Break
Thu 10th June	-	Class Photos (Kittle Photography)
Friday 25th June	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Mon 5th July	-	Parent Consultations Week
Thu 8th July	-	Spirit of the Wild Visit - KS2
Wed 14th July	-	Dinosaur Workshop - Whole School
Wed 21st July	-	Last Day of Term - Finish at 1.30pm

## **Easter Break - School Track and Trace procedures:**

**IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION**

· If your child has suspected Covid symptoms, we strongly advise you to **go to a testing centre** as results come back much faster, usually within 24 hours, whereas the postal tests are subject to long delays.

**If your child has been in school and receives a positive result from Friday 26th March until the end of Sunday 28th March, please email [covid19reporting@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:covid19reporting@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk)**

**You are only required to do this if your child's symptoms occurred within 48 hours of being on site.** We will have staff on duty to check the emails during this 48h hour period.

· If your child receives a positive result from Monday 29th March until pupils return to school on Tuesday 13th April, you will need to follow NHS advice and alert all your close contacts, family and friends directly. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

· Should your child/ren need to self-isolate over the Easter period on the advice of NHS Track and Trace, you can let us know after Easter on Tuesday 13th April, by emailing the office on [info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk).