

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 12th March 2021

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Attendance Weekly - 99.21%

Attendance Year - 98.14%

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

I am sure that you will agree that this week has really flown by; it has been so lovely to see all of our students back at school and I have been so proud of how well they have readjusted, once again, to another set of changes. Their resilience that they have shown has been quite incredible and we are all very proud of them for how well they are managing to cope throughout this pandemic.

It has also been great to see how happy the teachers and teaching staff have been to have their children back in school, once again and as I have walked throughout the school and visited each of the classrooms, aside from the usual 'COVID' health and safety measures, it's been wonderful to see normal classroom teaching taking place once again at St Mary's; the children also seem to be enjoying this return to normality and they are enjoying seeing their friends and their teaching staff.

When looking at our attendance figures this morning, I was absolutely delighted to note that our attendance figures are showing **99.21%** for our pupil attendance this week - which is simply fantastic. It is also great to be aware that our attendance for the Autumn and Winter Term, including this week is **98.14%**. A true testament of how well our parents and carers support our school and ensure that all of our children are in school at every single they can be. Well done to you all!

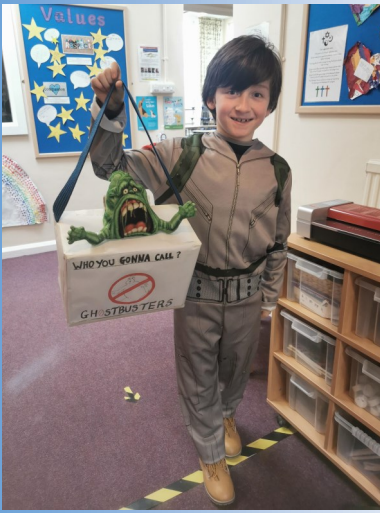
I would like to say another thank you to everyone who was able to complete the Remote Education Survey over the last few weeks. We have been looking at these closely and although they are extremely positive overall there are some lovely suggestions which we will take on board, going forwards. Do read through the newsletter where we have included a section on some of these suggestions from parents and carers.

On Tuesday, the Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed an interesting and informative session from the 2Johns, some of the (if not 'the') foremost experts on online safety. We very much look forwards to physically welcoming these two gentlemen in during the Autumn and Winter term where we will be delivering a session for the whole school community, including Key Stage 1 pupils, Key Stage 2 pupils and parents, carers and friends of the school. Please take a look at our e-safety section on the school website for further information on how to keep your children safe online and also please do visit the 2John's website <https://esafetytraining.org/>

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for all of your hard work in supporting your children through home schooling - I hope that with the return to school for all of our pupils that there is a little less 'juggling' to do over the coming weeks!

*Mr C. D. Garmain*

Headteacher at St Mary's



# CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY





This week is **British Science Week**, and each class took part on some fun and inspiring science activities.

Reception - Ice Gardens & Wavy Wax Paintings

Year 1 - Who Invented Blue?

Year 2 - Magic Milk

Year 3 - Dissolving

Year 4 - Which Plastic?

Year 5 - Floating materials

Year 6 - Water purifier

Two KS2 children's Science Fair entries have been accepted in the KS2/KS3 Science Fair.

Our two entries will be in the following stands, in the KS2 stand:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Stand 133.2 | The Fire Burner                              |
| Stand 145.2 | Climate Change and how It effects our planet |

Well done and thank you for taking part in our science fair and representing St Mary's School.

The full exhibition will be ready to view by Friday 12th March and winners announced on 16th March.

Do take a look, by visiting the [Science Fair](#) website, **Stand KS2**, to view all primary entries.

Mrs Jeewan

EYFS/KS1 and Science Lead

## World Book Day - Author James Campbell

On Friday 5th March to celebrate World Book Day we had a virtual visit by author James Campbell. It was a great success and the children really enjoyed the whole experience.

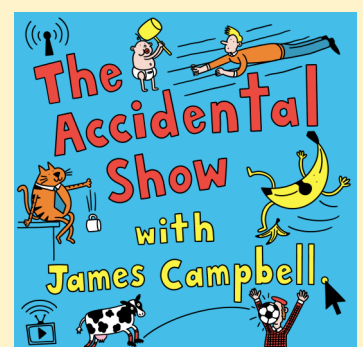
James is now hosting his own creative chat show for children called The Accidental Show. The show runs every Saturday morning on Zoom at 10am. Tickets are £5 but you pay afterwards and payment is voluntary. Free school meals and NHS go free. As it's on zoom, parents need to register first to get an invitation but it's not difficult.

James has set up a simple website: [www.accidental.show](http://www.accidental.show) so that folks can see what it's all about and then fill in the contact form to get tickets.

Each week they have a mixture of authors, illustrators, comedians and musicians. Coming up in the next few months our guests include Swappna Haddow, Giles Paley-Phillips, Mitch Benn, Eve Ainsworth, James Mayhew, Elle MacNicoll, Zillah Bethell and Stewart Foster.

It's the closest you can get to taking your child to a live literary event at the moment.

For further information, please contact James through the website.



# RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day is back on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March** and this year it's never felt more important to have fun and help support those in need. Here at school, we would like to celebrate Red Nose Day by wearing something red and dancing to some top tunes!

Inspired by Jackie Coleman at USSP, we will mark out a circuit on the playground, play some dance tracks and let the children sing, dance, run, wave their arms and enjoy the music for 20 minutes (in their bubbles). The number of pupils taking part will then be submitted to USSP and of course we will take some photos so that you can see what we got up to!

We hope the weather is fine and look forward to celebrating with you outside on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Put on something red and get ready to boogie! If possible, we are asking children to bring in a voluntary **donation of £1** which they can bring in on the day. In case of bad weather, there is also a HIIT/Dance workout that we may use in the classroom or you can join in at home:

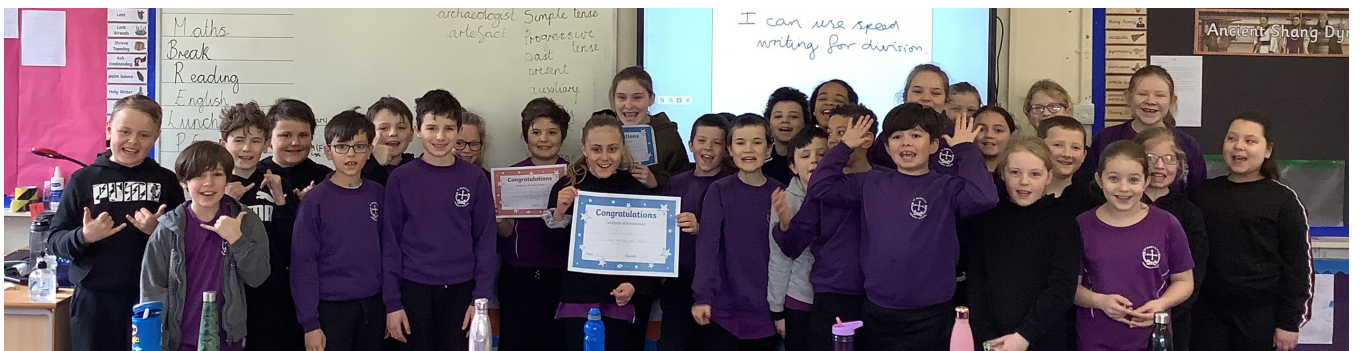
[Uttlesford SSP - Red Nose Day - YouTube](#)

**RED  
NOSE  
DAY**





# Stars of the Week





## Reception Class Update

We are so proud of how well Butterflies have settled back into school life! We have had a lovely week storytelling and writing stories together after been inspired by author James Campbell last week and wearing our Book Day outfits!

Butterflies enjoyed making Breathing Wands during PSHE, for them to keep and use whenever they feel like they need a break or a moment of calm or reflection. In Maths we are continuing develop our language relating to time, sequencing the day, and recognising what o'clock time it is by looking at the numbers on a clock. As it is **British Science Week**, we carried out some fun science activities including creating our own **Ice Gardens** using natural items from outside and **Wavy Wax Paintings**. By working scientifically, we are developing transferable skills including being observant, curious, patient and problem solving. We also looked for signs of Spring which Butterflies enjoyed discovering outside and by listening carefully! Well done to the following children for competing so well in the Uttlesford sport activities:

- Basket balls skills—Libby & Sophia GOLD
- Skipping—Eva GOLD and Libby BRONZE

*Mrs Jeewan and at the EYFS team*



## Year 1 Update

What an incredible first week back in school for the Ladybirds! They came back with a bang in full World Book Day costume and spent the day doing lots of activities under the watchful eye of Paddington and Mrs Bird! On Tuesday they met their new teacher Mrs Potter and wrote about themselves to get to know her better before her first day next week. Wednesday was a sad day, when we all had to say goodbye to the lovely Miss Donnelly but we had lots of fun playing games and spoiling her with presents and cards. It has also been British Science week, so on Thursday we got messy making colours with natural resources. They have worked really hard all week and enjoyed spending time back together as a full class!

Please could all children ensure they bring their reading books and reading records with them every day, so that we can read regularly in school and change books! Thank you!

Miss Nicholson, Miss Donnelly & Mrs Potter

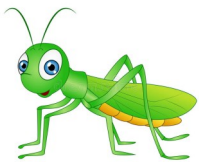
## Year 2 Update



What a great effort for your first week back Caterpillars—we are so proud of your enthusiasm to learn and your ability to overcome any worries that you had by throwing yourself into your work. It's like you were never away and it is clear that we are all very happy to see one another again. World Book Day was wonderful fun—it was all about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as we learnt about the characters, explored the adventure playground looking for golden tickets and enjoyed some chocolate! Super work in PE putting together your own activities, displaying your teamwork skills and stamina to keep going even when you're tired.

*Mrs McInnes & Mrs Robinson*

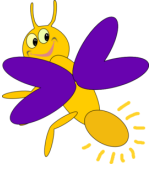
## Year 3 Update



The Grasshoppers have had a brilliant first week back post lockdown. I have been so impressed with how quickly they have settled back into school life and how hard they have all been working. It was lovely to see such a range of exciting costumes for World Book Day on Monday. The children completed some fantastic author studies about some of their favourite authors. Year 3 have also created some fantastic pieces of artwork based on the work of Piet Mondrian. As it is British Science Week this week, the Grasshoppers did a great job of competing an experiment all about whether items dissolved or not to discover whether they were soluble or insoluble. In English this week, we have started to look at different myths and the different things that most myths have in common. Year 3 have loved ready the different myths and hearing all about the various mythical creatures! Well done for all you hard work this week, Year 3, and for settling back into school life so well! *Miss Allin*



## Year 4 Update



This week has been amazing! I have been so impressed by how well Year 4 have settled back into school. Every pupil in the class has come to school with an amazing attitude, and we are all glad to be back! Throughout this week, we have been looking at coordinates and creating our own graphs using this knowledge. For English, we have been looking at persuasive writing and the key features of different persuasive texts. The pupils have been using their presentation skills to create for and against arguments for different discussion points.

In our topic lessons this week, we have looked at different Japanese symbols, and we have created our own. The pupils were very proud of their excellent artwork, and it will even be going up in school!

Finally, in our PSHE lessons, we looked at being back in school and the different emotions we may be experiencing during all of these changes.

I am so proud of all of you; please have a well-deserved break this weekend.

*Mr Brown*

## Year 5 Update



Bees class have really enjoyed coming back into school and seeing all their friends again! They've dived right back into the thick of it - creating stories for World Book Day (including their own front covers using computers), learning how to Speed Write and learning about some of the achievements of the Shang Dynasty.

They've also flexed their creative skills in Art, where we looked at trying to break pictures down into lines and shapes to help us draw faces more realistically! In PSHE, Bees have been working on understanding empathy, with this week focussing on seeing that two different people can have very different interpretations of a situation!

In Science, the class enjoyed creating their own investigation to see what kinds of materials floated, and then discussing why this was the case! *Mr Clarke*

## Year 6 Update



It has been so great to have you back in school this week Y6, we have loved seeing your smiling faces back in the classroom! As always, you have amazed me with how quickly you have settled back into our routines and your work.

We were straight back in with angles in maths and you went into it with a remarkable willingness to learn (even though it can appear quite daunting when first starting). We have learnt how to measure and draw angles accurately, how to find missing angles on a straight line and around a point and finally how to find missing angles in a triangle and quadrilateral, all in 4 days!

It was great to see some of the writing you completed over the lockdown and then spend time with your peers editing it. You amazed me with your riddle writing this week! It was a tough ask but wow! The riddles were so well thought out and clever.

Our e-safety session with the 2Johns was very informative and I hope you took away from it the best ways to keep yourself safe whenever you are online, gaming or interacting with your friends through chat. Also, keep in mind the context of what you are watching and always remember to ask questions if you are interested or worried about anything you see.

I am so pleased we are back in school together and look forward to the rest of this year together!

*Mr Pike*

## Parent Consultation's - Tue 23rd & Thu 25th March

Due to current COVID restrictions our parents consultations will be held virtually using our usual SchoolCloud Parents Evening system, which can be found at <https://stmarys.schoolcloud.co.uk>

The virtual consultations will be held as follows:

Tuesday 23rd March (15.30 - 18.30)

Thursday 25th March (15.30 - 18.30)

These parental consultations give each family the opportunity to make an 8 minute video appointment per child and we ask that families come together. Please note that the system will automatically time out after 8 minutes and you will see a countdown on the screen.

For further information on how the video appointments work, please see the following link: [Video Appointments: Parents - How to attend appointments over video call](#)

Please try and book your appointments as soon as possible. The system will allow access until Friday 18th March 2021. In order to log on securely parents/carers will need to put in their name as given to the school, your child's given name (or chosen first name as given to the office) and your child's date of birth as an 8 digit number e.g. 25/09/2008.

If you need any assistance with booking your appointment, please contact the school office on 01799 523384.

## Remote Education Survey:

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to complete the online Remote Education Survey.

We have carefully analysed these comments and suggestions and we have put together some of the common themes/suggestions where we will adapt our Remote Education offer the next time it needs to be used (which we all hope will not be for a good while!)

## WHAT THE SCHOOL CAN DO TO DEVELOP HOME-SCHOOL PROVISION EVEN FURTHER:

1. Teachers to offer small group 'live' sessions to target specific areas (such as fractions, fronted adverbials, guided reading. This will be carefully considered around the age of the pupils involved and each child's specific needs;
2. Offer 'live teacher' sessions a few times a week for those who are struggling with motivation;
3. Teachers will offer parent guidance sheets when introducing a new concept or guide towards support websites;
4. Make sure there is a balance between online work / printable work / practical activities and this is present in all year groups and consistent during the week;
5. Provide activities at least once a week that could be completed by different age groups or siblings together. These tasks could go out on a Friday each week;
6. Upload work the night before to give time for parents who leave for work early in the morning;
7. Make sure extra activities / challenges are available (maybe on a weekly basis) for those children who need or want extra.

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey and for how well you supported your children during the lockdown.

# Diary Dates



|                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Tue 16th March             | - | Y1 & 2 Games Club & Y3 & 6 Gymnastics Club (3.15pm-4.15pm) |
| Thu 18th March             | - | Y4 & 5 Gymnastics Club (3.15pm-4.15pm)                     |
| Fri 19th March             | - | Red Nose Day Fun - Wear Red & bring £1 donation            |
| Tue 23rd & Thu 25th Mar    | - | Virtual Parent Consultations (3.30pm-6.30pm)               |
| Fri 26th Mar               | - | Last day of term - finish at 1.30pm                        |
| Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr | - | Easter Holidays  |
| Monday 12th April          | - | INSET Day (non pupil day)                                  |
| Tuesday 13th               | - | First Day of the Summer term - pupils return               |
| Tuesday 13th April         | - | Silly Science Workshop (Whole School)                      |
| Monday 3rd May             | - | Bank Holiday- School Closed                                |
| Monday 31st May            | - | Bank Holiday- School Closed                                |
| Mon 1st - Fri 4th Jun      | - | Half-Term  |
| Friday 25th June           | - | INSET Day (non pupil day)                                  |
| Wednesday 21st July        | - | Last Day of Term - Finish at 1.30pm                        |