

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 5th March 2021

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

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

We simply **cannot wait** to welcome back our lovely pupils as well as our parents and carers, as St Mary's reopens its gates once again to the rest of our school community on Monday, next week.

Therefore, in this week's Friday newsletter, I would like to start off by saying a **HUGE** thank you and a **BIG** well done to each and every parent and carer for how well they have done in balancing the incredible juggling act of supporting their child/ren through the process of remote education, using Google Classroom (and Tapestry for Reception) whilst carrying on with the 'busyness' of normal family life. I know these last few months have not been easy, in any way, shape or form.

I would also like to pass on my gratitude to every single member of staff, who have really stepped up and put our pupils first and foremost; whether it has been supporting each of the Key-worker pupils in school, or whether it has been facilitating the remote learning process for the majority of pupils who have been working at home.

I would finally like to pass on my gratitude (and no small amount of pride) to each of our pupils, who continue to persevere and battle on through the many changes that they have had to adapt to, with a remarkable positivity and eagerness to do their best. They are a true credit to this school and I cannot wait to see them next week!

With that in mind, I would like to remind you all that the gates to the school will be open from **8.30am on Monday morning**. Please remember that the children will need to be **dressed as book characters** (which we felt was a nice and fun way to 'break the ice' for the pupils who have not been at St Mary's since the end of December and ease some of the perfectly understandable anxieties that some of them may be feeling). The children will go back to wearing their school uniform on Tuesday 9th March.

Along with this newsletter today, we have resent to you all the Parents Handbook—please do take some time to read through this, along with the updated Home-school agreement—which should be shared with your child/ren.

Finally, please don't forget to follow the one-way system as you enter the school gates which has been in operation since early September—and please do remember to wear a mask, so that we can continue to keep the COVID infection rate as low as we possibly can and keep our children back at school—where we all desperately want them to be!

I look forwards to seeing you all on Monday. Please do have a lovely weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
4 MARCH 2021

World Book Day Celebrations

We are all so excited to welcome back all children on Monday the 8th of March. As you already know, on Friday the 5th, we had an Author called James Campbell doing virtual activities for all year groups.

Please note Instead of doing a virtual dress up on WBD, we thought it would be a good idea for the **children to dress up** as their favourite book character on the first day back, **Monday 8th March**. We hope that this will be an exciting way to welcome everyone back to school!

virgin**care** 



Believe in
children
Barnardo's

Are you concerned about child's safety on the internet and would like advice and support on how to keep them safe?

**The Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service presents
Virtual eSafety Parent Workshops with**



eSafetyTraining
'The 2 Johns'

**Wednesday 17th March 2021
8.00pm – 9.30pm**

These free parent's workshops will look at the online world and how our young people are using it. How they are navigating around restrictions and using the internet without the parent's knowledge.

This includes :

- Favourite apps and games.
- Dangers they face
- How young people are being influenced online
- Solutions that parents can adopt to help keep their children safe.
- Stranger Danger message that parents are familiar with and make it ready for 2021



To book your place now please call us on **0300 247 0122**
Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

Services commissioned by:

www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

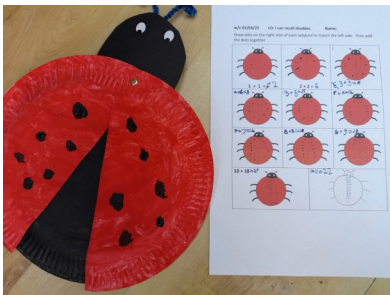


Reception Class Update



This week as part of our **Marvellous Minibeasts** topic we have looked at stories and activities relating to ladybirds including the stories 'What the Ladybird Heard', 'The Very Lazy Ladybird' and 'The Very Bad-Tempered Ladybird'. We are learning about 'o'clock' and the different times the bad-tempered ladybird met the different creatures and we have created our own simple clocks. The children have used their Maths Eyes and are developing their reading and writing skills. We have discovered some trigraphs in Phonics, which are '3 letters, 1 sound'. On World Book day we shared our favourite books and read and answered questions about 'The Giant Jam Sandwich' and how a village got rid of a giant swarm of wasps. We are looking forward to dressing up as a book character on Monday...I wonder who we will be?

Butterflies, we are so excited about seeing you all in person on Monday, it is wonderful to be coming back together in school! *Mrs Jeewan and EYFS Team.*



Year 1 Update



Ladybirds have had a fun filled final week of remote learning and all the children at home and school have worked their socks off and made us all extremely proud. They have been making 'Wanted' posters to find the golden haired burglar who broke into the Three Bears' house, counting up to 100 in 5s, reading alien words and conducting Scientific experiments. Highlight of the week has to be bubble art, creating beautiful images and lots of mess! We finished the week with a session with a children's author and World Book Day activities in preparation for our return to school on Monday... in costume!!! We cannot wait to see you all back in the classroom to continue our learning journey all together! Miss Nicholson and Miss Donnelly





Year 2 Update

Caterpillars have been getting back into the swing of things and we are all getting excited about Monday of course! We've been planning our outfits but also working hard on our adverbs, different types of sentences and using arrays to help us with multiplication and division. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the glitter bug experiment which helped reiterate how easily germs are spread and how washing hands with water AND soap is the only way to stay properly clean! Excellent effort from our lovely Ozan who came 2nd in his age group across Uttlesford schools in the round the world challenge. *Mrs McInnes & Mrs Robinson*



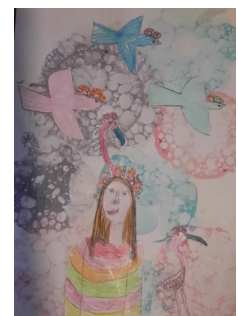
Year 3 Update

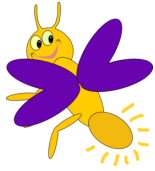
Well done, Grasshoppers. You have made it to the end of our final week of remote learning! I can't wait to see you all back in school again next week. You have done an amazing job with your home learning and it has been amazing to see the hard work and dedication which you have all put into your work.

I loved seeing your self portraits based on the work of Frida Kahlo this week. Your use of colour was brilliant and they were all so original and unique! I loved learning more about your favourite books and book characters through your work for World Book Day this week in English lessons too. It's been lovely to see such a diverse range of favourite books and characters within the class. I look forward to carrying on with our World Book Day themed activities on Monday and seeing everyone dressed up as book characters!

Have a brilliant weekend and well done again for all your hard work with your remoted learning, Year 3!

Miss Allin





Year 4 Update

Fireflies,

Well done on all of your effort and commitment during this last week! I have been so amazed by all of your attitudes throughout online learning, and I am so proud of all of you.

During this week, we recapped our learning in Science throughout our online learning by cracking a code with different answers. You worked out tricky questions regarding the function of teeth, food chains and the digestive system.

During our RE lessons, you continued to learn about the Hindu religion and the importance of Puja. I was so impressed by the excellent artwork you completed for this task; your own versions of shrines were amazing!

Throughout our English lessons, you have completed your own wishing tales! I have been impressed with your writing and how you have continued to edit and improve your work.

I can't wait to welcome you all back to school on Monday; I hope you have a relaxing weekend before coming back to school. Please remember to wear your World Book Day costume on Monday!

See you soon,

Mr Brown



Year 5 Update

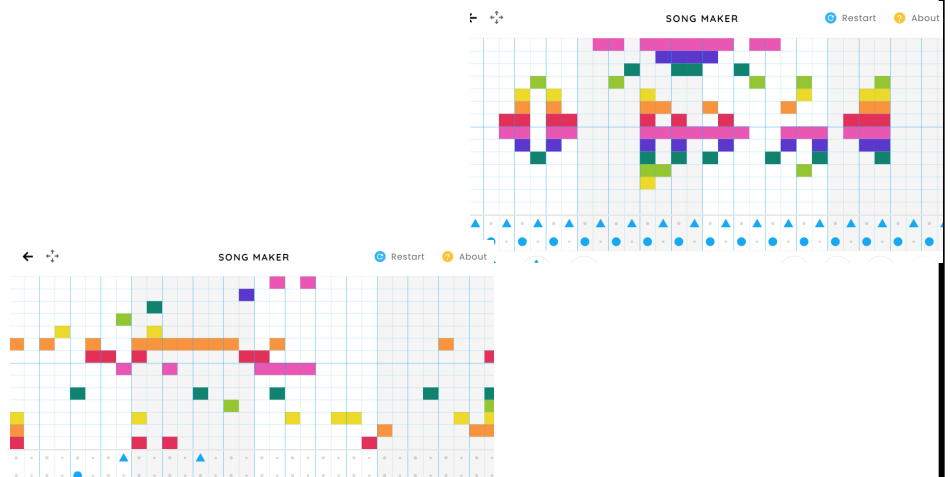


The Bees finished off this lockdown with lots of creativity! They had a great time doing lots of work around World Book Day, using their imaginations to write wonderful stories, character profiles and to draw amazing book covers!

They also enjoyed expressing themselves in origami, where they made their own hummingbirds, and in Music, where they added to Holst's Planets suite by writing music for the Sun, using Apollo as their Roman God inspiration. I was really happy to see them giving each other compliments about their work too—it was very heart-warming to see them supporting one another!

Have a great weekend Bees and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday; bring in any work that you're really proud of on the Shang Dynasty, in English or in Maths and we'll try to put them on the wall.

Mr Clarke





Year 6 Update

We made it to the end of home-schooling year 6! The dedication and enthusiasm from so many of you has been amazing and you should be so proud of yourselves to have worked so hard during two very difficult lockdowns. I am very proud of you!

Seeing your maths work over the last few months and in particular your quiz scores yesterday, made me feel so confident in all you have learnt and retained, it also has made it clear to me areas we need to revisit, which is great. Like I said last week, if there have been areas you have found tricky, then don't panic as we will revisit all the new areas when we return to school plus the areas we haven't covered yet, such as angles.

I really enjoyed reading your suspense stories this week in English. Please bring them in with you next week so we can spend time together editing them to make them the best they can be.

Your letters/statements to members of Parliament were brilliant. Your understanding of the world and what needs to be improved is amazing and your passion for the individual causes really showed in this task. I look forward to seeing how you are going to help change the world for the better in your futures. I am so pleased to see so many of you joining in with each other on the Musiclab activities. I am glad you enjoyed this activity!

I cannot wait for Monday when we are all finally back together, I have missed your passion, humour and creativeness and can't wait to get fully involved in our Natural Disasters topic!

Mr Pike

PE kits to be worn by the children on the following days from the Tuesday 9th March.

Reception - Tuesday (Forest School), Thursday (PE)

Year 1 – Wednesday (Forest School and PE)

Year 2 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 3 - Thursday and Friday

Year 4 – Monday and Friday

Year 5 – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 6 - Tuesdays and Thursday





As you will know, Smart Watches are becoming increasingly more and more popular. However, sadly, they are not appropriate for use in primary school due to the risks of loss and damage and of misuse in the same way as mobile phones or tablets – ie through the taking of photographs, video recording and sending messages etc. Therefore, we are asking that these devices are not sent into school with your child. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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.



Diary Dates

- Monday 8th March - All pupils return to school- to **celebrate World Book Day**
Pupils can **dress up** as their **favourite book character**
- Tue 9th March - ESafety 2 Johns Virtual Training (Years 3,4,5 & 6)
- Tue 9th March - Y1 & 2 Games Club & Y3 & 6 Gymnastics Club (3.15pm-4.15pm)
- Thu 11th Mar - Y4 & 5 Gymnastics Club (3.15pm-4.15pm)
- Tue 23rd & Thu 25th Mar - Virtual Parent Consultations (3.30pm-6.30pm)
- Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr - Easter Holidays **finish at 1.30pm**
- Monday 12th April - INSET Day (non pupil day)
- 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

