

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 12th February 2021

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

Dear parents and carers,

Well... it has certainly been a very cold and very icy week, for our last week of this school half term and I am sure that many, if not all, of the children enjoyed seeing the snowfall, which for many of us turned up rather suddenly over the weekend. Although it has certainly not been warm, it has, nevertheless, been a good opportunity for the children to get outside in the fresh air after being cooped up for so long, and to have some fun making a snowball or two (possibly even throwing some snowballs!) as well as making a snowman or even finding the time to go sledging somewhere close by.

It has been, once again, a very busy half term and I know that you have all been working so hard to support your child/ren's home learning—I would like to sincerely thank you for all that you are doing—keep up the great work.

Please do take a moment to read through this week's newsletter where you can see what the children have been getting up to in their home learning as well as some very useful e-safety tips from Hayley Bloxham our Welfare and Support Officer.

Home Learning and Wellbeing survey:

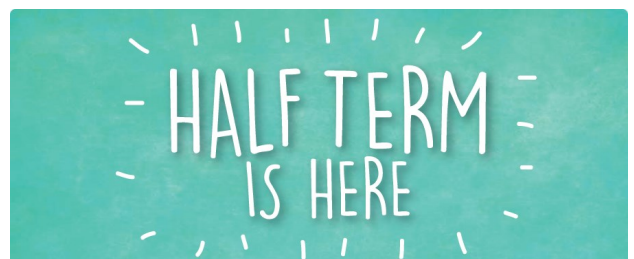
Thank you if you have already managed to complete this survey, this feedback is extremely useful to the school and we will use this to closely examine our provision for all of our lovely pupils and see how we can best support you. I am reliably informed that the majority of parents/carers who have completed this so far, took just 5 minutes to complete. When you get a moment, please do complete this survey using this link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJURDhTSFRXMU5LWVIKTUE3SDIPQIJEUDRSVi4u

We would very much appreciate any feedback that you can give.

Please do enjoy the newsletter and I hope that you all manage to get some semblance of a break over the course of next week, when the school will be closed to all children.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's



February Half-Term

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 12th February until the end of Sunday 14th February, please email 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 15th February until pupils return to school on Monday 22nd February, 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 half-term period on the advice of NHS Track and Trace, you can let us know after half-term on Monday 22nd February, by emailing the office.

E-Safety - Net Aware

As lockdown continues it's likely that children are going to continue to spend more time online.

Net Aware have published a fantastic parents guide with an easy-to-use search function for many of the apps, games and social media sites our children may be accessing.

The website <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> 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

The Net Aware 'lockdown hub' also offers advice on ways to manage your child's wellbeing online and has everything you need to help keep them safe.

Please click on the link below to check it out:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

*Hayley Bloxham
Welfare & Support Officer*

The image shows two screenshots from the Net Aware website. The first screenshot is for Roblox, showing an official age rating of 7+, a parent age rating of 9+, and a child age rating of 8+. It also displays an 'Expert view of the risks...' section with gauges for Sexual (Medium Risk), Violence & hatred (High Risk), Bullying (High Risk), Suicide & self-harm (Low Risk), and Drink, drugs & crime (Medium Risk). The second screenshot is for TikTok, showing an official age rating of 13+ and an 'Expert view of the risks...' section with gauges for Sexual (Medium Risk), Violence & hatred (Medium Risk), Bullying (Medium Risk), Suicide & self-harm (Medium Risk), and Drink, drugs & crime (High Risk).



Home Learning



Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of their Children's home learning journey this week. We are amazed and very impressed with how hard all the children have been working., It is so lovely to share all this amazing work with you all. There were so many photos to choose from. Thank you.

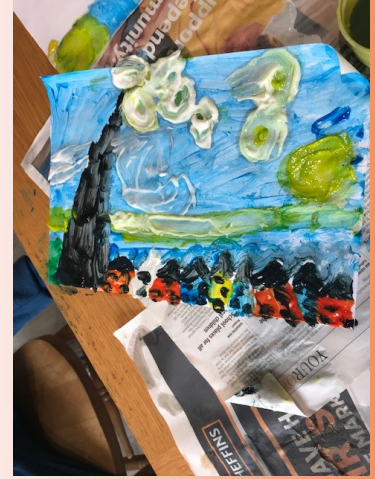
If you would like to share your child/ren's home learning photos, please email them to Xenia on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk. We will try and share as many as possible our weekly newsletter.. *The School Office*



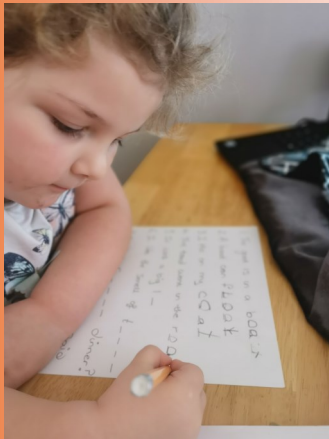
Emma (Yr 3) doing her English



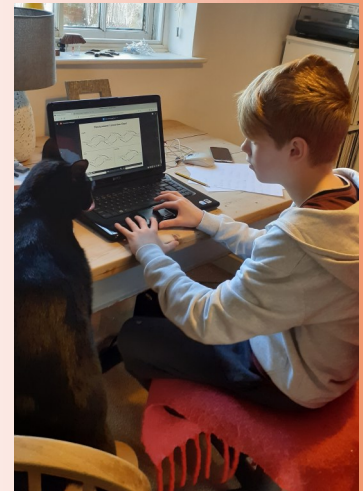
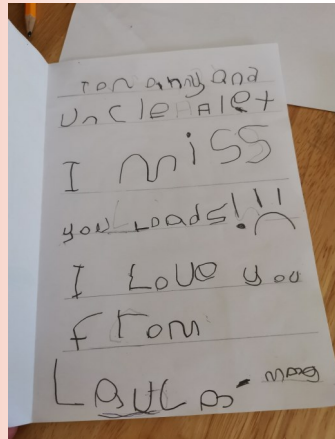
Emma (Yr 3) Starry Nights painting



Painting by Logan (Year 3)



Layla-mae in reception working really hard on her writing



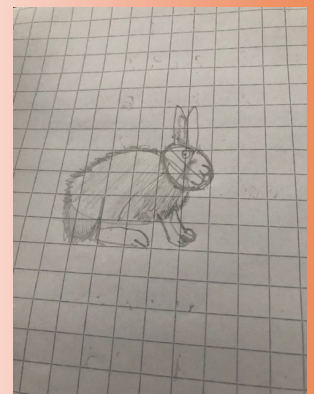
Albert yr6 cracking on with home-schooling, with help from his cat Lester.



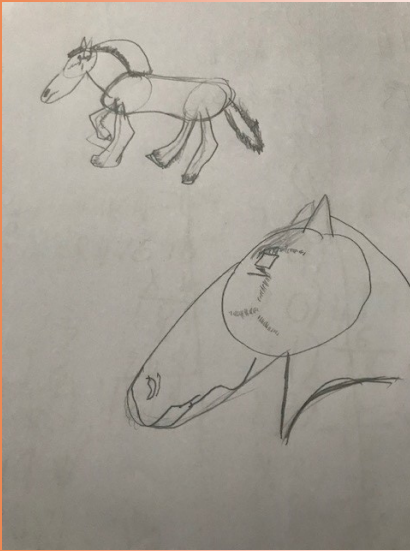
Tommy (Year) has been enjoying playing in the snow! And last week made a Goblin Trap for his school work.



Picture of a rabbit by Keiran (Year 5)



Picture of a rabbit by Caitlyn (Year 5)



Drawing by Caitlyn (Yr 5)



Lily (Year 2)



SUPER, AWESOME & AMAZING



Amelia and Grace have been doing the February exercise challenge, so all sorts of things from karate, walks, yoga, bike rides, and Just Dance.

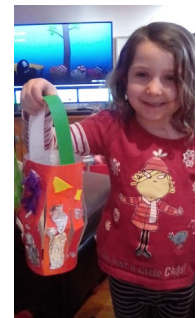
Reception Class Update



Butterflies, what a wonderful half term! Whether you have been home learning or in school we have had a lot of fun finding out about all the people who help us and real life Superheroes! This week we also learnt about the importance of recycling and about Chinese New Year. Well done for some super great detective work decoding the 'Secret Sentences', reading and writing what they said and learning another new digraph sound 'ar'. In Maths we continued building on our knowledge of 3D shapes and consolidating our adding and subtracting skills.

Well done children, parents and carers, have a well deserved rest this half-term!

Here are some of the children's lanterns:



Year 1 Update

A snowy week for the Ladybirds at home and at school but still lots of learning has taken place. We have continued with our topic 'My Place in the World', looking at the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. This week we have spent our afternoons concentrating on a DT project, designing, making and evaluating Tudor Houses after learning all about the Great Fire of London in 1666, although we won't be setting fire to them! All the children have shown great resilience working hard right up to half term on Place Value within 50 in Maths and writing and performing their own shape poems in English. The Year 1 team are bursting with pride at how hard all of the children have worked this half term both at home or at school and hope you all have a well deserved break over the half term!



Year 2 Update

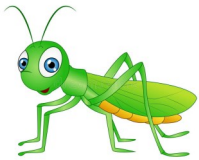


Well done Caterpillars for working so hard this half of term - we are so incredibly proud of you and hope that you have a well deserved break! Try to get away from the screens and get outside lots - maybe we'll have more snow to play in? We've enjoyed various snowmen challenges this week, whether it be guessing the height of the biggest one ever or making our own! You're getting to grips with adding adjectives to your sentences and have impressed us with your knowledge of time and tricky number problems. We've now finished our topic on castles from a historical angle and look forward to learning more next term, this time with a geographical focus. Have a super week and we'll see you soon!

Mrs McInnes and Mrs Robinson

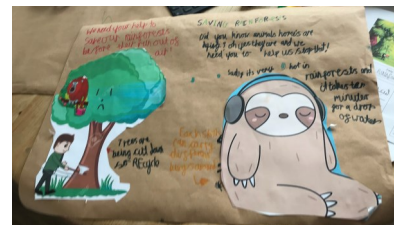
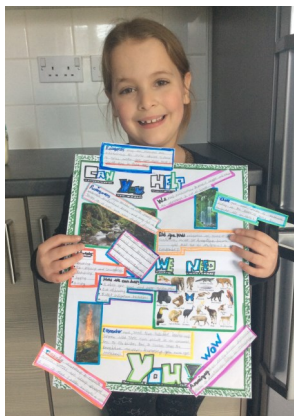


Year 3 Update



Well done, Grasshoppers. Another week of fantastic, hard work! You have done a brilliant job of reading pictograms and tables this week and created really clear, well laid out pictograms of your own. I have loved reading your persuasive posters about saving the rainforests too. You have used an amazing range of rhetorical questions, emotive language and persuasive phrases to convince people that they should be doing more to help! I have loved hearing about all the fun you had in the snow at the beginning of the week too. What a great treat for everyone! Your pictures based on the work of Georgia O'Keeffe this week were beautiful too. I loved seeing the range of different materials which were used to create these. I hope you all have a restful half term and enjoy a very well deserved break!

Miss Allin



HELP SAVE THE RAINFOREST

Did you know that rainforests cover 6% of the earth's surface but it used to be 14%? Which is a shame because the Rainforests are home to 50% of the world's animals. The Amazon rainforest is also home to 200,000 Indians.

Tragically, Within 100 years, rainforests could be completely wiped out. The rate of deforestation equalled to a loss of 30 football fields every minute in 2019. Almost half of world's timber and up to 70% of paper is consumed by Europe, United States and Japan alone.



The rainforests are amazing, they produce the world's oxygen. % of all ingredients used in medicines are from there too. Rainforests also regulate the world's weather.

Rainforests are IMPORTANT for animals, humans and nature! Don't you think that we should help save them?

What happens tomorrow depends on what you do today



Year 4 Update

This has been another busy week of online learning! I have been so impressed with how you have tackled all of the tricky maths we have been covering. Your quiz scores reflect all of the hard work that you have put in throughout our measure and money unit.

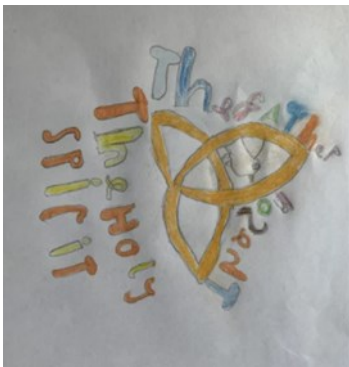
I have enjoyed reading your instruction texts throughout our English sessions, which you have worked incredibly hard on. Your maturity in editing and improving your work and improving certain aspects of it has been fantastic!

Throughout our LGBT+ lessons, you showed what a mature and inclusive class you are and created some very informative research pieces.

Finally, throughout this half term, I have been in awe of your attitudes towards online learning and how motivated you have all been to complete work to the best of your ability. I want to thank you all for your engagement and determination to tackle a difficult situation for everyone.

I hope you have a well-deserved rest over half term.

Mr Brown




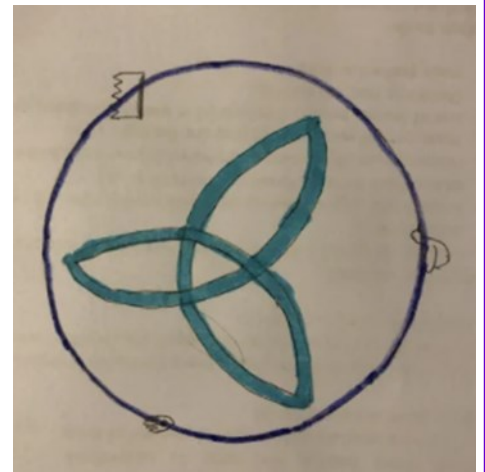
Word meanings

What do some of the words mean? Let's have a look at some of the words in the instructions and their meanings.

Word	Meaning
frustrated	when you feel annoyed or cross at something you can't do or change.
pesky	something that causes trouble or is annoying
foliage	leaves of a plant
penultimately	lastly, except for one
disruption	when something has been disturbed, interrupted or is stopped because of something else.

Choose 4 of the words and draw a little picture to help you remember the definition.

 FOLIAGE	 FRUSTRATED
 DISRUPTION	 PESKY



How to make a Globnar Mug Cake?

Have you ever wanted a cake? Have you ever wanted it ASAP? Well read this and you'll know how to make a quick and easy cake! ***This cake is made for Globnar goblins but can also be consumed by a human.***

What you'll need:

- Mug
- spoon
- 4tbsp of self-raising flour

Year 5 Update



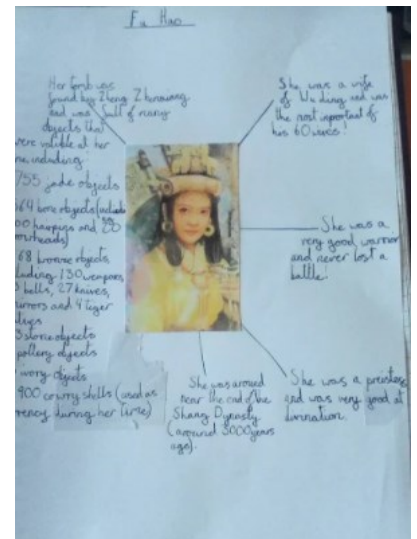
The Bees have finished off the half-term strongly, writing some incredibly descriptive writing in their English, which has been wonderful to read! In Maths, they've also done really well learning how to use the four operations with decimals, and some have even been able to use these skills to find very tricky percentages!

In our history lesson, the children made posters on Fu Hao—a legendary priestess and general in from the Shang period (she was reputed to never have lost a battle!).

In talking with the class via our Google Meets, it is clear that lots of the Bees took advantage of the snow and went outside to enjoy building snowmen and having snowball fights!

I think it was a nice reward for a half-term of hard work. Have a relaxing break Bees and I will see you on the 22nd!

Mr Clarke



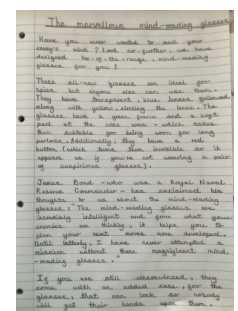
Year 6 Update

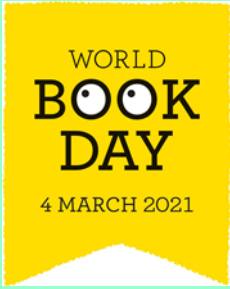


Another busy week! I have really loved seeing the development of your persuasive texts. So many of you really listened and took on board my comments and edits and worked really hard to polish your piece of writing, creating some strong pieces of persuasive writing. Well done! Converting measurements is notoriously tricky (trying to remember which conversion for which measurement) but you have worked hard and used the given resources well to solve the different problems. Your weekly maths quiz scores continue to be good and those who don't do as well as they could are beginning to use their workings and check back through where they have made mistakes—which is key in maths! Your photo/pattern art, last Friday, was so creative and fun. Your imaginations ran wild and the pieces you sent me were great. I was so impressed with your choices of inspirational people for LGBT+ History Month. The fact-files I received were both informative and mature and your passion for diversity and inclusivity continues to impress me!

What a half term it has been Dragonflies! Not the one anyone of us would have chosen I am sure but like the previous lockdown you have taken it all in your stride and continued to amaze me. You make me so proud everyday with your resilience and humour in what we have all experienced this last year. You should all be very proud of yourselves. Have a well earned week off!

Mr Pike





World Book Day - Thursday 4th March

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 4th March and we will be celebrating virtually. All class teachers will be holding a live Google Classroom meeting on the day and it would be great if all pupils could dress up as a character from their favourite book. There is no need to buy anything new. There are some fabulous ideas for home-made outfits on the internet.

We also have an Author who will be doing live sessions with each class Friday 5th March, Further details to follow.



Home Learning & Wellbeing Survey



Thank you to everyone who has completed our Home Learning and Wellbeing survey so far. We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to complete the survey, as all your feedback will help us to support parents and children during this difficult & challenging time.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJURDhTSFRXMU5LWVVIKTUE3SDIPQIJEUDRSVi4u)

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Diary Dates



Mon 15th - Fri 19th Feb	-	Half-term
March (Dates TBC)	-	Parent Consultations (Details to follow)
Thursday 4th March	-	World Book Day (Dress up as your favorite book character) TBC
Mon 29th Mar - Fri 9th Apr	-	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April	-	INSET Day (non pupil day)
Tuesday 13h April	-	First Day of Summer Term
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