

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 29th January 2021

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

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of our fourth week of this Spring term, I continue to be constantly amazed and also feel incredibly proud at how well our school community is continuing to cope with the incredible challenges posed by this current national lockdown. I would like to thank each and every parent and carer as well as every member of my school staff for how well they have adapted to this new 'normal' and the huge levels of resilience and fortitude that you are all showing. Thank you.

In today's newsletter I would like to draw your attention to some of the things that are currently going on in school, some of which are here to support you all both in the support of your children's education, but also, most importantly, in supporting both your children's and your own mental health and wellbeing.

## **Welfare Calls:**

You will be aware that this week we have tried to make contact with every single parent and carer of our St Mary's children, so that we can check in and see how you are all doing. These welfare calls are just a brief opportunity to have a quick informal 'catch-up', to see if there is anything further we can do to support you. These calls will be made to each household, once a week. If you get a missed call from the school, please do not worry about calling us back – we will call you back at a later point if we have not managed to get through. We very much hope that these welfare calls will prove useful over the next couple of weeks.

## **New Lockdown Child Protection & Safeguarding policy:**

With today's newsletter we have included a copy of our latest Child Protection policy (which has been specifically written for this lockdown period), and runs alongside the Child Protection policy, which was produced and shared with the whole of the school community at the start of the school year. Both policies are available on our school website and I would urge all parents and carers to read it please.

For your information, an email address is available throughout the closure which is: [hayleybloxham@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:hayleybloxham@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) This email address is for our Welfare and Support Officer and should be used to raise concerns about any pupil who attends St Mary's C of E Primary school in Saffron Walden.

## **Mr Brown's Helpful hints:**

May I also draw your attention to another two attachments included with today's newsletter, which are to help your child/ren with their online learning. Mr Brown, our English Leader (and Year 4 class teacher) has sourced.

You can also find these two documents on our school website, if you follow the link, below, to our reading area (which also shows the videos produced by our Key Stage 2 Leader, Mr Clarke). Please click this link to go to this section on the website [MyOn Reading | St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School \(secure-primarysite.net\)](http://MyOn Reading | St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School (secure-primarysite.net))

Please do remember to keep encouraging your child/ren to read and to fully utilise the new Myon ebooks that each St Mary's pupil has their own personal access to.

### Home Learning and Wellbeing survey:

Finally, please do take the opportunity this weekend to complete our Home Learning and Wellbeing Survey, using this link: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy\\_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJURDhTSFRXMU5LWVlKTUE3SDIPQIJEUDRSVi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJURDhTSFRXMU5LWVlKTUE3SDIPQIJEUDRSVi4u)

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

Please have a great weekend.

*Mr C. D. Jarmain*

Headteacher at St Mary's

### Parent Consultations Postponed & Home Learning Survey



Due to the current lockdown we have decided to postpone the parent consultations to sometime after February half-term. In the meantime in order for us to evaluate and improve our home learning provision during the current lockdown, we would really appreciate it if as many parents as possible could complete the Home Learning and Wellbeing Survey on the link below by Friday 5th February:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy\\_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJURDhTSFRXMU5LWVlKTUE3SDIPQIJEUDRSVi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rk4Wt-wmmEy_vGdsh5b2nnTRX5eaKFZOrfe9kU2WJpJURDhTSFRXMU5LWVlKTUE3SDIPQIJEUDRSVi4u)

We will confirm the new date for the parent consultations soon.

### St Mary's School Food Bank

Our **food donation** drop-off is open every **Monday** between **8.30am and 12pm**. There will be a large red and blue box placed by the front school gate for you to put your donations in.

These items will then be put into quarantine for a few days and we will then distributed these items to families from St Mary's every Friday.

Please let us know if you require support with these food parcels. Please contact the school on [info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk) and the school Welfare Officer will be in touch. These requests will be handled discretely and sensitively.

Please could we ask that only non-perishable food or non food items are donated such as:

- Tins of food
- Packets of pasta or rice
- Tea and Coffee
- Sugar
- Boxes of cereals
- Sauce mixes in glass jars
- Toilet or kitchen rolls (in packets) and/or baby wipes
- Cleaning products



**This is not a comprehensive list and please feel free to donate other items as you see fit.**

## Wellbeing, E-safety and Pastoral Care by Hayley Bloxham, Welfare & Support Officer



### Online safety activities you can do from home

During remote learning young people are spending more time at home than usual - with their families, and on devices. **Childnet International** have put together a list of resources that you can use with your child to explore online safety in a fun, engaging and educational way.

The resources are broken up into age-appropriate categories, which you can use to delve into different online issues such as fake news, bullying, strangers online and more.

Please follow the link below to take a look:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-safety-activities-you-can-do-from-home>

Further places you can go for help:



### Support Helplines & Websites:

Please see below a list of websites and helplines available for anyone requiring some extra support at this time. This is not an exhaustive list but hopefully will provide you with a few places to start if you are in need. Also please remember that you can always call or email the school in confidence if you are experiencing difficulties and need some advice.

#### CEOP - 0800 1111

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command. You can make a report to CEOP if you are worried about online abuse or concerned about the way someone has been communicating online.

#### ChildLine - 0800 1111

Childline is there to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through whether it's something big or small.

#### Citizens Advice - 01799 618840

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is an independent service that provides free, confidential, impartial advice to everybody regardless of race, gender, sexuality or disability.

#### Crisis Team - call 111 (option 2) or the Crisis Support Service (for Young People) on 0300 555 1201

If you or someone that you care for is having an urgent mental health issue.

#### Family Action - 0808 802 6666

Family Action provide a listening ear, answer particular parenting questions or help with guidance around more complex issues. All support takes place via telephone, text message or email and is free.

#### Family Lives - 0808 800 2222

Family Lives offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England (previously known as Parentline) with emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life.

[Gingerbread](#) – **0808 802 0925**

Gingerbread is the leading national charity working to help single parent families and their children. The Gingerbread Single Parent Helpline provides support and expert advice on anything from dealing with a break-up to going back to work or sorting out child maintenance, benefit or tax credit issues.

[Mind UK](#) - **0300 123 3393**

Mind UK provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem.

[NHS Choices](#)

A mental health helpline page with a list of organisations you can call for immediate assistance.

[NHS Every Mind Matters](#)

Expert advice on how best to look after mental wellbeing while staying at home during the coronavirus outbreak. The advice contains practical steps a person can take and includes videos, tutorials and links to other useful resources.

[NSPCC Helpline](#) - **0808 800 5000**

Trained professionals providing expert advice and support if you're concerned about a child or if you're a parent or carer looking for advice.

[Samaritans](#) - **116 123**

If you need someone to talk to, the Samaritans listen. They won't judge or tell you what to do, but provide emotional support on the phone and by email for anyone who is struggling to cope.

[Shelter](#) - **0800 800 4444**

Offering support for people who have been made homeless, are at risk of becoming homeless or who are living in unsuitable housing.

[Uttlesford District Council](#) – 03333 408 218

The council has launched an online and phone service to make sure Uttlesford residents get the help they need during the coronavirus pandemic.

## **Domestic Abuse Support:**

[National Domestic Violence Helpline](#) - **0808 2000 247**

24 hour domestic abuse helpline.

[COMPASS](#) - **0330 333 7444**

Helpline for victims of domestic abuse in Essex available from 8am to 8-m weekdays and 8am to 1pm week-ends. Referrals can also be made online.





[Men's Advice Line](#) - **0808 801 0327**




Helpline for male victims of domestic abuse.

[Respect](#) - **0808 802 4040**

Helpline for perpetrators of domestic violence who wish to stop.

# Weekly Class Update

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Reception</p>  | <p>Well done Butterflies for another super week home learning or learning in school. This week we found out lots of facts about worms and have enjoyed reading the books Superworm and Yucky Worms. In Maths we discovered different ways to measure, some were brave enough to measure actual worms! We went on a treasure hunt deciding what was treasure or what was not. In PE we skipped and wriggled liked Superworm. We drew pictures with a caption of what Superworm was being used as. In Phonics, we continued discovering words with vowel digraphs in and learnt our first trigraph 'igh'. We have consolidated our learning of 2D shapes and found out about the properties of 3D shapes and discovered that shapes are all around us. In RE we listened to two of the stories Jesus told. We are continuing to develop our reading skills, learning more 'tricky' high frequency words, and reading new books on MyOn. Butterflies are also thinking about keeping their private details safe and being safe online, learning from Hector the dolphin in Hector's World.</p> <p>This week, as a reward for such super effort, Butterflies had time on their busy schedule for some well-deserved Golden Time. I cannot wait to see what you decided to do. Have a great weekend. <i>Mrs Jeewan</i></p> |
| <p>Year 1</p>    | <p>Another busy week of learning for the Ladybirds at home and at school. This week we have been talking about fire safety and the fire service who help to protect us. The children have made eye-catching fire safety posters to help us remember the fire safety rules. In Topic we have been studying our local area.</p> <p>Lots of children went for their daily walks around Saffron Walden looking for human and physical aspects of the town. In Art they used different sketching techniques to sketch a local feature. The children in school have been lucky to take part in a PE challenge organised by the lovely Miss Driscoll! A fun and productive week has been had by all. <i>Miss Nicholson &amp; Miss Donnelly</i></p>   |
| <p>Year 2</p>   | <p>What a busy week we have had! There have been the most creative and eye-catching dragons painted, drawn and made, as well as lots of interesting ideas about who lived in a medieval castle and whether or not we would like to ourselves. Pizzas have been made (and eaten!) and lots of you were able to see the hidden dangers around the home in our PSHE lesson. The children have really impressed us with their fact files on pets that they put together for a science assignment. Mrs McInnes has learnt lots of things that she didn't know about various animals, well done! A lot of you are regularly practising your handwriting, spelling and times tables which is brilliant, keep up the good work. <i>Mrs Robinson &amp; Mrs McInnes</i></p>   |
| <p>Year 3</p>   | <p>Well done for another fantastic week of work, Grasshoppers! It's fantastic to see your resilience as you carry on with your remote learning. I have loved reading your non-chronological reports about animals this week and learning a whole range of facts about your animals. I have learnt about everything from great white sharks to Tasmanian devils to leatherback sea turtles this week!</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who sent in videos of their Stomp inspired music lesson too. It was lovely to see such amazing creativity when creating music from everyday items. I have really enjoyed starting our new class book in our live sessions this week. Please do keep joining at 11am each day to hear our class story! Keep up the brilliant work, Year 3, and have a great weekend. <i>Miss Allin</i></p>   |

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|---|---|
| <p>Year 4</p>    | <p>Well done on another fantastic week of online learning- I have been so impressed with your work this week and the continued effort and commitment to learning online.</p> <p>This week, you have tackled area and perimeter of shapes and solved problems with missing lengths in Maths to a very high standard. I have been so impressed with your times table scores and your enthusiasm to continue to practice and learn them. During Science, you have shown some creative ways to order the digestive system's stages and pictures of each step. I am also really looking forward to seeing your Non-Chronological reports after your hard work of completing and planning each stage in English.</p> <p>I have enjoyed catching up with you daily and seeing your work (Please continue to send pictures of anything you have been doing!).</p> <p>I hope you all have a lovely weekend, and once again, well done for all your hard work. I am very proud of you all. <i>Mr Brown</i></p>  |
| <p>Year 5</p>    | <p>Bees have had a tough week this time - they've launched into dealing with percentages of numbers! However, they've worked really hard and it's been very impressive to see how accurate they've been in their workings. They've also been learning lots of different techniques in the build-up to writing their own suspense stories, such as different ways of opening stories, extending their sentences to draw out tension and using personification!</p> <p>It's also been great to hear the feedback on how they've been enjoying our Art lessons, where we've been using structure techniques to draw animals - some of them are really impressive!</p> <p>Have a relaxing weekend Bees, and I'll see you all on Monday! <i>Mr Clarke</i></p>  |
| <p>Year 6</p>  | <p>Another hard-working week Y6! I have really enjoyed seeing the development of your monster reports and then seeing your final reports yesterday. You really engaged in your use of technical language which made them so interesting to read. I could also see the effort lots of you had made to edit your work. I am so pleased you are continuing the hard work you were doing at school. Your understanding of line graphs was amazing to see as these are difficult to understand at the best of times. Your math quiz scores yesterday showed not only have you understood line graphs but also that you are retaining the other elements we have been learning - area/perimeter, radius/diameter and Autumn term revision. I was pleased to see that you all came up with safe usernames in the e-safety task, I hope you remember this when creating your own usernames in the future. Please keep uploading your work each day so I can see what you have been up to.</p> <p>Another great week, well done. Keep up the good work! <i>Mr Pike</i></p> |

**Friendship**

**Truthfulness**

**Perseverance**

**Trust**

**Compassion**

**Respect**



## School Office Opening Timings

The school office is open Mon-Fri from 8.30am - 3.30pm.  
Our contact number is 01799 523384 and email address is [info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk).

## 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                           |

