

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 18th December 2020

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk



Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

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

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon, I sincerely hope you are all keeping safe and well and that home-schooling is going equally well! I appreciate the many changes that this latest national lockdown has brought to each and every household and I thank you for your continued patience and support at this time.

Please remember that we are here to help where we can; I know that parents and carers are doing their very best to get to grips with Google Classroom, as they support their children with their online learning. Remember to directly contact your class teacher if you have any questions or need some specific support around the work that has been set—I know that the teachers have spent a lot of time over the last week providing help where they can. Please note that they will only be available to respond during the hours of the normal school day and not on weekends.

Please do remember that if you are still struggling with online learning due to lack of a device eg working on a mobile phone, there is a local organisation who have offered to help with second hand and reconditioned laptops when they become available; we have already supplied a number of these to our St Mary's families.

Finally, we will be restarting our **food donation** drop-offs 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. (you will need to pop these over the fence). 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. Please let us know if you require support with these food parcels. Please contact the school on 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
- Flour, sugar
- Boxes of cereals
- Sauce mixes in glass jars
- Toilet or kitchen rolls (in packets) and/or baby wipes

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

Our staff also appreciate the many messages of support which are still being sent in; these are being sent straight to our lovely staff members who are continuing to do their very best.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's

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

Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families have produced a series of expert podcasts to help parents understand and manage child and family wellbeing and mental health. The series, *Child in Mind*, is presented by BBC Radio presenter Claudia Hammond. In each 20-minute episode, she discusses an important issue in child and family wellbeing and mental health with an expert and a young person or parent. You can view all of the episodes here - <https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/child-in-mind/>

Self-Care for Parents and Carers

There is also a great section offering advice about the importance of self-care for parents to support your own wellbeing in these challenging times, including sections on putting yourself first, getting things done, staying connected, free time and additional support, <https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers-old/self-care-for-parents-and-carers/>

E-Safety

Please see below links for some E-safety resources from Thinkuknow. These home activity packs contain simple 15 minute activities you can do with your family to support their online safety at home.

E-Safety Resources – Thinkuknow



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[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=c96a649dde-TUK_GLOBAL_12_11_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=c96a649dde-TUK_GLOBAL_12_11_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-c96a649dde-64860105)

[c96a649dde-64860105](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=c96a649dde-64860105)

Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Online Resources – Blue Peter

Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. They have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. It also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about their incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

If you are interested please subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.



1km Run Down Challenge

We have been really impressed with how active the children have been during lockdown - well done for encouraging them to complete the challenges set for them by school but also coming up with your own initiatives. As we all know, exercise is a great way to keep the body and mind healthy. Jackie Coleman has a challenge for all of you next week to run 1k.



Uttlesford School Sports Partnership – Weekly Challenge

WEEKS TWO AND THREE

Date: Monday 18th January to Sunday 31st January

This week's challenge is a 1km run time trial.

Run 1km in the fastest time possible.

The winners will be:

Fastest Boy/Girl for each Year Group (Reception to Year 6)

Send through the following details to jcoleman@swchs.net to enter:

1. Name
2. School
3. Gender
4. Year Group
5. Time achieved
6. Evidence of run & time (screenshot/picture)

(Apps for recording running activity; Strava, MapMyRun, Runtastic etc)

Best of luck!

Curriculum and Topic Pages!

Don't forget that on our St Mary's school website (under the **Parents** section) you will find our very latest Topic Pages – and there is a different one for every class in the school. Please follow the link below to find out more! <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/curriculum-topic-pages/>

The topic for each class will change either half termly or termly. These are the topics that the classes are learning about this term:

Reception (butterfly class) – **Let's be Superheros!!**

Year 1 (Ladybird class) – **My Place in the World!**

Year 2 (Caterpillar class) – **Dungeons and Dragons!**

Year 3 (Grasshopper class) – **[All Around the World!](#)**

Year 4 (Firefly class) – **All Around the World!**

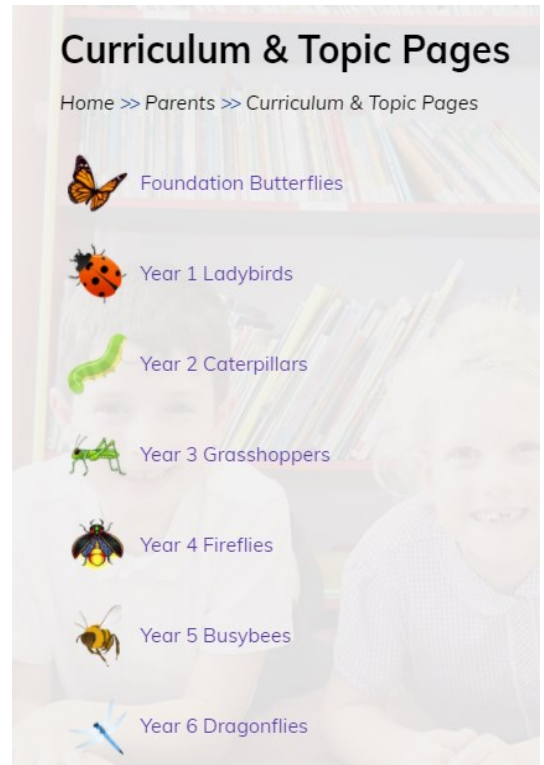
Year 5 (Busybee class) – **The Shang Dynasty!**

Year 6 (Dragonfly class) – **It's a Disaster!**

Skills progression documents

On the same page of our website (under the Parents section), you will also find a section underneath the Topic Pages called **Skills Progression Coverage Documents**.

If you click on each of these separate links (see the picture on the left) then you will be able to see how we build on the skills that we teach our pupils year after year, for each foundation area of the curriculum.



Weekly Class Update

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| Reception | <p>Well done Butterflies, you have achieved so much in the last two weeks since home learning began. I can see and how hard you are working and many of you are making progress with your number and writing skills. I have been really impressed with how you are keeping positive and demonstrating a love of learning.</p> <p>Well done to all the parents too, for juggling and managing to get pictures and work uploaded onto Google classroom or Tapestry. We understand that it is not easy, but you are doing a great job.</p> <p>I have really enjoyed seeing you all at our live sessions. (I think we have only missed two of our lovely children so far - we hope to see you on 'Meet' soon). Miss Hunter and team have shown me the wonderful workbooks for those children in school, children at home could also save their work in a scrapbook demonstrating all the wonderful work to look back on. I feel it is important that you are all completing the same work whether you are in school or at home.</p> <p>Keep up the great work everyone! Don't forget you can message us if you need any work printed out or need any help with how to login or upload work & photos.</p> <p>Best wishes and stay safe, Mrs Jeewan</p> |
| Year 1 | <p>A huge virtual pat on the back to all the Ladybirds working in school and at home for how well they are doing with their remote learning. Your teachers have been amazed at how hard you are all working. We have loved receiving pictures of your writing, Maths and topic work and can see that you are all showing great resilience, attempting even the trickiest tasks. We have especially enjoyed our daily story and meeting times. It is wonderful to see your smiling faces and have the opportunity to catch up with you face to face, even if it's through a computer screen. We'd like to say an enormous thank you to all the parents and carers at home working so hard with their children to complete tasks and negotiate Google Classroom. You are doing a fantastic job! Miss Driscoll is working hard in school with the key worker group and is very proud of how the children are coping with all the changes and getting on with their work with a positive mindset. Keep up the good work Ladybirds and remember, don't hesitate to get in touch with us for any help or advice you need with your home learning.</p> |
| Year 2 | <p>Well done Caterpillars for an outstanding start to online learning! It's been very strange for all of us, but you have coped so well and all of you have been working so well, adapting the learning to suit your needs. Keep using Google Classroom to send in your work - it can be a bit lonely working from home so seeing what you have all achieved is a really positive experience and puts a smile on our faces.</p> <p>A huge well done to the parents and carers, too. We understand how tricky it is to juggle work/home/children, but just keep doing what you are doing and forgive yourself if you have a bad day. We're always here to answer any questions and help.</p> <p>We have loved the story time sessions (and sharing jokes!) so if you haven't joined us for any of these please give it a try - it is not a learning session, just a chance to share any news, cosy up with a story and feel like we are still together.</p> <p>Keep going beauties - we are so proud of you!</p> |

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| Year 3 | <p>Well done for all your hard work over the first two weeks of remote learning, Grasshoppers (and parents!). I am so proud of the work you are producing and the amazing effort which you are putting into it. You have done a fantastic job with your fractions over the last couple of weeks and I have really enjoyed reading your Sound Collector poems. The pictures of your baking from DT made me very hungry on Tuesday too! Your bakes all looked delicious!</p> <p>It has been lovely to see so many faces during our Google Meets sessions and I look forward to seeing you all again next week. Keep up the great work Year 3.</p> |
| Year 4 | <p>As we come to the end of our second week of home learning, Fireflies, I wanted to say how well you have done. It is fantastic to see all of your hard work and the progress you are making in each subject. I have been so impressed with your attitudes and determination to learn how to complete and submit your work and join our daily calls!</p> <p>I also think the parents are doing a great job, juggling so many different things as well as home learning- you are doing amazing!</p> <p>I have really enjoyed seeing you in our live sessions. Thank you for coming on each day and being so positive.</p> <p>Please keep up the great work! You can always contact me if you need any help or support with any of the work.</p> <p>Take care, Mr Brown</p> |
| Year 5 | <p>Well done Bees for how well you've taken to Google Classroom - it's been fantastic seeing all the work you've been getting up to at home and seeing your comments on the work! I've also been incredibly impressed at how you've all been really supportive of each other when people have had issues with uploading work or completing assignments; you're really showing a mature level of compassion and teamwork!</p> <p>It has also been great to see so many of you on our Google Meets! If people are having trouble joining on their device, you may need to download the Google Meets App - this has worked for lots of people (again, well done for sharing how you've overcome problems!).</p> <p>A big thank you to parents too; you've been great at communicating and I know how hard it must be to juggle work and classwork - but you're doing a sterling job!</p> <p>Keep up the amazing effort Bees; you've really shown that you're a hard-working, responsible and caring class during this lockdown. I am very proud and your parents should be too!</p> |
| Year 6 | <p>I am so proud of you Dragonflies! Once again, we have been thrown into this crazy world of lockdown and once again you have stepped up and taken responsibility for continuing your learning with eagerness, humour and passion.</p> <p>The way you have gotten to grips with our new home learning platform (and shown patience with me when I haven't quite known what I am doing) is remarkable. I love seeing many of you every morning to go through the day's tasks and interacting with those of you who are in school. I also have really enjoyed our weekly games and chat sessions on a Friday, they make the week just that little bit more fun as I miss our daily conversations and laughs in school so much!</p> <p>Your commitment to the work I have set everyday has been fantastic and I have loved reading your poems and seeing your topic and artwork. Please continue to share all your efforts with me as I do read, enjoy and appreciate everything you send in or show me.</p> <p>Remember I am online, either to message or 'meet live' with, every weekday so do not hesitate to get in touch if you are struggling, have a question or even just want to say hi.</p> <p>Keep up the good work and I sincerely hope we are back together again soon.</p> <p>Mr Pike</p> |

Diary Dates



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| Thursday 21st January | - | CENSUS Day |
| Mon 15th - Fri 19th Feb | - | Half-term |
| 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 |

Term Dates 2021-2022

As you are probably aware, the Government have announced that, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Bank Holiday at the end of May 2022 has been moved and an extra day added

The changes are:

- Monday 30 May 2022 – has been moved to Thursday 2 June 2022
- Friday 3 June 2022 has been added as an extra Bank Holiday

Due to these changes to the Bank Holidays, please find attached an updated term date calendar.

Please note that these Bank Holidays fall within the already scheduled Summer half term, so there is not direct impact on school days.



Friendship

Truthfulness

Perseverance

Trust

Compassion

Respect