

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Wednesday 20th December 2023

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Attendance Weekly %

Attendance Year 95.2%



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

**Friendship**

**Trust**

**Truthfulness**

**Compassion**

**Perseverance**

**Respect**

Dear parents and carers and friends of the school,

## Christmas lunch

On Monday, St Mary's held its annual Christmas Lunch Day in the school hall. I am pleased to say that it went really smoothly and very successfully; it was superbly organised by Mrs Tickle, Miss Naughton and the hard working Middy team (in the absence of the wonderful Ms Dye—the first she has missed in 18 years!) and the food was prepared by the Dolce Catering team, lead by George Brindley. The food was delicious—I must say that I really, really enjoyed my first Christmas Dinner of this busy Christmas period. Thanks also to the fantastic staff team who served every single one of the children with their food, handed out crackers and other fun festive treats with festive Christmas music playing in the background. Thank you also to all of the parents/carers who signed their children up for this delicious lunch.



## Carol Service

On Tuesday afternoon, the whole of St Mary's C of E Primary School visited the wonderful St Mary's Church for our Carol Service, which was organised by Mrs Jeewan—our RE and Worship Leader. Members of the Worship Council led important readings of the Christmas story, as well as some prayers written by our pupils. I was impressed with their

courage and clear reading, which was in front of a rather large audience! The school choir also sang a beautiful rendition of *When I Think Upon Christmas* which I am sure you will all agree was sung absolutely beautifully! Thanks must go to Mrs Potter and Mrs Hunter for all of their work with the School Choir—and, without a doubt, the children's singing gets better and better every time I hear them at one of our services. Lots of parents afterwards informed me that they had tears in their eyes whilst they were performing and we have had some extra requests from pupils who would like to join the choir in the future! The service was completed with a sermon (and some fascinating historical facts) which was led by Reverend Jeremy Trew followed by some prayers and a special blessing. Thanks to Jeremy and his team for allowing us to use the church and for supporting us throughout. Finally, thank you to everyone who was able to join us for this lovely annual event - I hope you enjoyed it!



Please do have a really lovely Christmas and enjoy your break! Thank you for your continued support of the school—it has been another incredibly busy term—but another very successful term. We look forward to welcoming our school community back to St Mary's **on Monday 8th January at 8.30am**. We all hope that you have a wonderful Christmas, a fantastic New Year and (hopefully) a well-deserved rest squeezed in somewhere amongst all of the festive celebrations!

Warm regards

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

Headteacher of St Mary's Church of England Primary school, Saffron Walden



**KS2 Indoor Athletics – Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.00pm (9/01/2024 – 06/02/2024)**

Miss Driscoll will be running a 5-week Indoor Athletics club. We will also be scouting for a new school team to take part in the indoor athletics competitions in January.

**KS2 Choir – Tuesday 12.30 – 1.00pm (16/01/2024 – 26/03/2024)**

Come sing some songs and show off your musical skills! Mrs Potter will be hosting our choir with Miss Hunter accompanying.

**KS2 Drama—Wednesday 12.30 – 1.10pm (10/01/2024 – 27/03/2024)**

Mrs Harvey will be back in ‘full swing’ running Drama. A fantastic way to gain some confidence. Payment will be made directly to Mrs Harvey once you have been allocated your space (see club timetable for contact details).

**KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Gymnastics Club Thursday 3.15pm – 4.00pm (11/01/2024 – 21/03/2024) NO CLUBS 07/03/2024**

Premier Education will be returning in the Spring Term to run our KS1 Gymnastics Club.

**KS2 Chess Club Thursday 3.15pm – 4.00pm (18/01/2024 – 21/03/2024) NO CLUBS 07/03/2024**

Mr Clarke will be running the chess club this term. Children will learn the moves and skill needed to play chess and will have the opportunity to practice what they have learnt.

**Karate – Years 1 - 6 Friday 3.15 – 4.00pm (19/01/2024 – 22/03/2024)**

Sensei Chelsea will be back running her Karate club on Fridays. Contact Sensei Chelsea directly to book and make a payment (see club timetable for contact details).

For safeguarding purposes, please ensure that you inform the school office if your child is unable to attend a club on any given day. We reserve the right to cancel clubs due to poor weather conditions, where possible we will do our best to accommodate all children and offer them an alternative activity to participate in.

Spring term clubs will begin on the week beginning **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (KS1 Gymnastics Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024)**. Payment for clubs is required by **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024** before your child starts or they will not be able to attend. Please see the club timetable for the full list of Spring Term Clubs dates and prices.

To secure a place on any of the paid above clubs, you must make a payment via School Money (this will be your confirmation that your child has a place). Payments can be made from 3.00pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. If you are unable to make a payment this will mean that the club is full. Please do not hesitate to contact the office with any questions regarding payments of clubs.

Children in receipt of Pupil Premium will be offered one free club, this is not offered to clubs run by an outside company (contact the school office directly to book a place).

Please be aware that if your child starts a club and then changes their mind, we will not be able to offer a refund.

## **COMMUNITY SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSIONS**

Drop-in sessions held once a month around the Uttlesford District, support and advice offered by a School Nurse and the 5-19 Healthy Family Support Practitioner.

Parents can ask advice about behaviour and emotional needs, bed wetting and soiling issues plus other health needs that may be impacting on both home and school life.

**SPANGLES FAMILY HUB, St John's Rd, Stansted Mountfitchet, Stansted CM24 8JP**

**15:30 – 17:00**

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**(Please note the date change above due to Christmas holiday)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**

**DORDAN PAVILLION The Causeway, Dunmow CM6 2AA**

**15:30 – 17:00**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**SAFFRON WALDEN HOSPITAL Radwinter Rd, Saffron Walden**

**Clinic Room outpatient's department 15:30 – 17:00**

**5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2024**





# Diary Dates



## Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

- |                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 18th December         | - | Christmas Lunch (Special Menu)   |
| Tuesday 19th December        | - | Carol Service at St Mary's Church (time 1.30pm—2.30pm)<br>Parents/Carers Invited |
| Wednesday 20th December      | - | 1.30pm—school breaks up for the Christmas holiday                                |
| 21st December—5th January    | - | Christmas holiday closure period   |
| Monday 8th January           | - | Pupils return to school for the Spring term                                      |
| <b>Tuesday 9th January</b>   | - | <b>Year 1 Saffron Walden Museum Visit</b>  |
| Friday 12th January          | - | Year 3 Swimming (12/1/2024—9/2/2024)   |
| Monday 15th January          | - | Closing date for Reception 2024 admissions                                       |
| Wednesday 24th January       | - | Years 5 & 6 Indoor Athletics Tournament (12.30—4.00pm).<br>(Teams to be decided) |
| Monday 29th January          | - | Year 6 Bikeability (29/1/2024—1/2/2024)  |
| Wednesday 31st January       | - | Years 3 & 4 Indoor Athletics Tournament (12.30—4.00pm)<br>(Teams to be decided)  |
| Friday 2nd February          | - | Year 1 Learn to Ride   |
| Friday 16th February         | - | Year 4 Swimming (16/2/2024—22/3/2024)  |
| 19th February—23rd February  | - | HALF TERM  |
| <b>Friday 8th March</b>      | - | <b>Bringing Books to Life Workshops (Whole School)</b>                           |
| Friday 22nd March            | - | Year 1 Dance Festival  |
| Friday 29th March—12th April | - | END OF TERM HOLIDAYS   |
| Monday 15th April            | - | INSET DAY  |