

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 15th December 2023

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 92.4%

Attendance Year 95%



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,

With only a few days to go until we break up for the Christmas holiday, there is no sign of slowing down here at St Mary's! With our KS1 nativity performances (to our parents and the school), the amazing Soul Stations (organised and delivered by KT Haynes from the Stort Valley Trust), our Music, Modern Foreign Language and RE Theme Day on Wednesday, as well as an Ancient Egyptian Day for our Year 3 pupils in our Grasshopper Class, learning is continuing at a rapid pace. With our School Council Break the Rules Day today we are making sure the children end the term with lots of fun activities, before their well deserved rest! They raised an amazing amount of approximately £370.00!

Key Stage 2 Shining Stars

A big round of applause to this week's Shining Stars from each of our junior classes for all of their hard work in class.

Year 3 : **Libby** - for working so hard in all lessons and showing respect consistently. **Tommy** - for excellent effort and working so hard in all of his learning.

Year 4 : **Megan** - for always pushing herself and showing amazing detail and effort in art. **Sky** - for pushing herself to work independently especially in her writing.

Year 5 : **Lilliana** - for showing resilience and having a strong work ethic. **Luke** - for always being a great role model and working hard.

Year 6 : **Max** - for showing good self- control and consistent manners and **Riley** - for making good choices.

Coping at Christmas

Christmas can affect our mental health in lots of different ways. This could be if Christmas is part of your life, or if it's happening around you. It's a time of year that often puts extra pressure on us.

MIND have some excellent tips for coping at Christmas and some suggestions on how to support others.

For more information visit: www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/christmas-coping-tips/

Online safety information for parents

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online. #StaySafe

Thanks for reading this week's newsletter. Please don't forget that we finish at **1.30pm on Wednesday 20th December**.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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 15th January 2024 (KS1 Gymnastics Thursday 11th January, 2024)**. Payment for clubs is required by **Thursday 4th 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 15th 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.



We all want to stay warm this winter, but there's an uncomfortable truth you need to know.

Wood burning harms your...

Wallet

Wood burning is almost always more expensive than other forms of heating

Health

Wood burning is a major source of harmful small particle air pollution that can damage your lungs, heart and brain

Planet

Wood burning produces more carbon emissions than oil or gas for the same amount of heat or energy

Visit cleanairhub.org.uk or scan the code now to learn the facts





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

Tuesday 12th December	-	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance in St Mary's Church at 6pm
Wednesday 13th December	-	Music, RE and MFL Curriculum Day
Thursday 14th December	-	Year 3 Ancient Egypt Day
Friday 15th December	-	Break the Rules Day
Monday 18th December	-	Christmas Lunch (Special Menu)
Tuesday 19th December	-	Carol Service at St Mary's Church (time 1.30pm—2.30pm) 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
Tuesday 9th January	-	Year 1 Saffron Walden Museum Visit
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). (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) (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
Friday 8th March	-	Bringing Books to Life Workshops (Whole School)
Friday 22nd March	-	Year 1 Dance Festival
Friday 29th March—12th April	-	END OF TERM HOLIDAYS
Monday 15th April	-	INSET DAY