

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 17th November 2023

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 95.6%

Attendance Year 94.4%



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.

It's been another productive week here at St Mary's. On Wednesday it was Governor's Day, where a number of our lovely Governors visited the school to see our fantastic pupils in action. The governors were very impressed with the behaviour of the children, how hard they were working in class and the progress they have made in lessons, as well as the quality of the teaching. Thank you to all of the governors who attended this important event and for the continued hard work of our staff and pupils.

On Thursday morning we held our first Open Morning of this academic year, which was for prospective Reception parents and carers. There was an excellent turn out and it was lovely to be able to show off the school in action with lots of learning going on around our classrooms, as well as our new building and infrastructure work. I would like to make a special mention to a number of our Year 6 pupils who led the school tours towards the end of the Open Morning. The feedback from the parents and carers who attended was extremely positive. Well done to those Year 6 pupils involved —you did us proud! Thank you also to Mrs Jeewan for her organisation of this event.

Finally, on Thursday afternoon, twenty-one Year 5 and 6 pupils walked up to Katherine Semar Primary school to take part in a Tag-rugby competition. One of our two teams even came in **1st place** in their competition! Well done to Eddie, Theo, Fraser, Maisie, Riley, Maisy, Freya, Tomas, Sammy, Blakely, Harlee, Lucas, Henry, Oscar, Toby, Logan, Lily-May, Kaitlin, Jessie, Vivien and Rebecca. It was pleasing to see how much the two teams improved as the tournament progressed and how much they supported each other as team members with lots of positivity.

KS2 Shining Star Awards:



Congratulations to these 8 fantastic Key Stage 2 pupils who received our special **Shining Star Achievement** Certificates on Thursday and Friday this week. Well done to Harlee for working really hard on her writing and taking on board her teacher's feedback and to Lola for doing such a great job when helping out at Forest School.



Super effort to Harry and Addalyn for always persevering, engaging in lessons and trying 100% in everything they do. Impressive attitude Hattie for showing an increased confidence in Maths and your vocabulary use in English and to Alfie— for always displaying super effort and trying hard in all of his work. Finally, commendations to Olivia and Jake for working hard, outstanding efforts and always being so polite!



It was also lovely to receive a wonderful letter this week from the Uttlesford Foodbank, thanking the school community for the amount of food donations made during the recent Harvest Festival. We have taken a screen shot of their letter below so that you can see what they said!

Thank you to everyone that made a donation—you can see that it has clearly made a huge difference.

We here at Uttlesford Foodbank would like to thank the children, parents and staff of St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School for your very generous Harvest Festival collection which weighed 25.5kg. This is enough to provide around 60 meals! How fantastic is that?

Every month we hand out on average 5 tonnes of food which is the same as 10 baby elephants! Without the support of children and schools like yours and our amazing community, we couldn't do the work that we do. Harvest donations are so important to keep our shelves topped up after a busy summer and keep us going until the all the Christmas goodies come in

We have been overwhelmed by the level of generosity, and with the food you have given us it will go a long way to making the lives of those living in poverty that little bit more bearable.

Please share this with the wider school community

Once again thank you so much for your generous donation.

Best wishes from everyone at Uttlesford Foodbank.

Have a great weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Attendance Matters

For all children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. To help us focus on attendance and punctuality, we will:

- Work in partnership with parents/carers so that they are aware of their own child's attendance record and the impact that this is having on their education.
- Ensure that attendance is monitored effectively, in line with Government and Local Authority requirements, and reasons for absences are recorded promptly and consistently.
- Create an environment where all children are nurtured, not only in their academic life, but also in their personal, social and emotional development
- Raise awareness of the importance of good attendance and punctuality.

100%	Perfection
99%	Excellent
97%	Good
95%	Slight Concern
90%	Concerned
85%	Very Concerned

For more information regarding attendance, please read the flyer attached to this newsletter.



Reverse Advent Calendar

The Reverse Advent appeal is a way for you to give to others at what can be for some a difficult time of year. This year we will aim to give out 300 Christmas hampers. This year because our stocks are so low we are asking for essentials as well as Christmas items.

Every time you shop just choose an item from the list!
Please make sure all collections are with us
by **Wednesday 13th December at the latest.**
For more info please call Sophie on 07971 631606

Please note we can't accept anything containing alcohol.

Thank you for your kindness!

For a list of drop off points please check our website here
<https://uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



www.uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk [facebook.com/uttlesfordfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/uttlesfordfoodbank)
info@uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk tel: 07971 631606

Uttlesford Foodbank is a registered charity 1176230 | Registered in England and Wales



Reverse Advent Calendar Shopping list

Every time you shop just choose an item from the list:

Tinned salmon/ham	Tinned vegetarian meals	Tinned fruit
UHT milk	Cheese crackers	Tinned vegetables
Gravy/stuffing	Biscuits	Tinned meat in sauce
Tinned meat in sauce	Festive puddings	Vegetarian options
Chocolates/sweets	Custard	Washing up liquid
Christmas cake	Toiletries	Tinned potatoes
Fruit juice	Jam	Savoury snacks

Thank you for your kindness!

For a list of drop off points please check our website here
<https://uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

www.uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk [facebook.com/uttlesfordfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/uttlesfordfoodbank)
info@uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk tel: 07971 631606

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NHS FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Your child's Annual Flu Vaccination Is Now Due, please click the below link to complete a consent form.

The NHS Immunisation team, will be visiting the school on: **Thursday 23rd November** for the annual flu immunisation session.

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/SKUfKZTyKK>



The deadline to complete your child's consent form is Tuesday 21st November. We cannot guarantee any forms submitted after this date will be accepted at the school session.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family members and friends by preventing the spread of flu. The vaccine is free and most children have it up their nose (nasal spray) which is quick and painless. **The nasal spray is the most effective vaccine for children.** If you do not wish for your child to receive the spray due to it containing porcine gelatine and would prefer for them to have the injectable vaccine, please contact us on the number provided below.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccines in schools have had the immunisation. **If you have any queries, please contact the immunisation team on: 0300 790 0597 – Essex, Southend, Thurrock**

Clubbercise Inter-House Competition

Tuesday 21st November

On Tuesday 21st November all St Mary's children will be taking part in an inter-house Clubbercise competition, we shall be dancing the afternoon away with Mrs Shackleton in the school hall.

All children are invited to wear their house colour sports day T-shirt, or another top of that colour should they not have one. Please could these be worn with black bottoms the same as they would for a PE lesson with trainers. Should your child have any neon accessories for example, neon face paint, bright socks, tutus, hairbands, sweat bands etc that they would like to wear they are more than welcome.

PTA WORD PARADE—Wednesday 22nd November



As part of this term's PTA fundraising, we are coordinating the first-ever 'Word Parade' at St-Mary's on Wednesday 22nd November. This is a fun event where children come into school 'dressed' as a word of their choosing. It could be through a costume, an accessory, face paint, or however they choose to represent their chosen word. In exchange, we are asking for a suggested minimum donation of £2 per child, which can be brought into school on the day.

The children will get lots of opportunities to share their word throughout their day, whether in collective worship, the playground or in class. At the end of the school day, each class will choose their favourites and the PTA will select an overall winner from KS1 and KS2. We will share all the fun via the school newsletter that week. This should not feel like a contest though; rather, the key idea is that children get to think about a word, how they want to represent it and then get lots of opportunities to talk about it in school.

We will send a reminder nearer the time, but wanted to give you plenty of notice to prepare with the children. There are a couple of rainy weekends ahead of us no doubt, so this could give you something to do then! Any questions or comments, please write to pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Looking forward to seeing the creative ideas on November 22!

Reception 2024 Admissions

Children born between 1st September 2019—31st August 2020

The primary school (Reception 2024) admission round opened on **Monday 6 November 2023**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024.



The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2024**.

From 6 November 2023, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2024-25 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Information regarding out of attendance policy can be found on the school website <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/admission-arrangements/>

Children In Need

Thank you for the donations for Children In Need today. As a school we have raised £188.70 so far.





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 13th - Friday 17th November | - | Make a Noise About Bullying (Anti-Bullying Week) |
| Wednesday 15th November | - | Governors Day |
| Thursday 16th November | - | Reception 2024 Open Morning (9.30—11.00) |
| Friday 17th November | - | Children in Need Non Uniform Day |
| Monday 20th November | - | Reception 2024 Open Morning (9.30—11.00) |
| Tuesday 21st November | - | Inter-House Clubbercise Challenge |
| Wednesday 22nd November | - | PTA Word Parade |
| Thursday 23rd November | - | Flu vaccines (delivered by NHS Immunisation Team) |
| Saturday 2nd December | - | Spirit of Christmas Choir Performance (St Mary's Church) at 1.30pm |
| Tuesday 5th December | | 1.30pm School tour for Reception 2024 pupils |
| Wednesday 6th December | - | PTA Panto |
| Friday 8th December | - | Christmas Jumper Day |
| Friday 8th December | - | PTA Key Stage 2 Christmas Disco 5.00pm-6.30pm |
| Tuesday 12th December | - | EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance in St Mary's Church at 6pm |
| Monday 18th December | - | Christmas Lunch (Special Menu) |
| Tuesday 19th December | - | Carol Service at St Mary's Church (time TBC)
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 |
| Monday 15th January | - | Closing date for Reception 2024 admissions |

* *new or amended items added are in blue*