

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 3rd November 2023

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 96.6%

Attendance Year 95.7%



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.

Headlines

It has been another busy and productive few weeks here at St Mary's—well...what changes?! This week and last week it has been lovely to welcome in our parents and carers to share our pupils lovely work! Last week we hosted our Autumn Term One Plan Meetings throughout the week, which was then followed on Friday with the Book Look and Share Our Work sessions, both before and after school. This week we have followed this up with our Parents and Carers Consultations. These are all fantastic opportunities for our pupils and class teachers to share and celebrate the excellent academic, social and behavioural improvements that have been made in each and every class this term.

On Tuesday we also carried out our first Fire Drill of the school year. I was extremely impressed how well the children behaved and followed the instructions from their teachers. It was also a great opportunity for our new Site Manager, Dean Camp, to see this process in action—he was also very impressed with how slickly this process went.

At 11am this morning, we also marked Remembrance Day in St Marys Church. Each of our classes shared some of the work that they have produced in class around this important theme, pupils also read some poignant prayers and poems and then held a minute silence towards the end. Following the service, all of the pupils in the Worship Council and School Council accompanied both myself and our Chair of Governors, John Westnedge, to the Saffron Walden town memorial where we all joined together to find out more about the sacrifice that has been made by so many servicemen and servicewomen who have lost their lives in the very many conflicts around the World in the name of freedom and democracy and marked this by sharing a poem together—called A Remembrance Prayer.



Thank you so much for everyone who has purchased some of the Remembrance memorabilia; I have never seen so many pupils wearing poppies to school. All of the money raised will be going such an important cause—the Royal British Legion which supports veterans and their families.

Shining Stars of the week!

Well done to our Key Stage 1 Shining Stars of the Week. A HUGE well done to Sophie, Lennon, Casey and Frankie for catching their teachers eyes with their consistent hard work—putting the E into the Effort in our Safe, Respect and Effort Key Words!

What a lovely photo showing these children proudly displaying their special certificates during their Celebration Assembly.



Upcoming Parent/Family Webinars, hosted by Parentkind



As part of the PTA's affiliation with Parentkind, the membership association for PTAs across the country, parents and families at St Mary's have access to a host of resources that are provided free of charge. In particular, Parentkind hosts helpful online sessions on a variety of topics, whether related to the curriculum or more general topics such as nutrition, behaviours or work-life balance. The next webinars are:

- November 14: A Nutritionist's Guide to dealing with fussy eaters
- November 22: Conflict Styles & Difficult Conversations

You can sign up to the webinars [using this link](#). We hope you find this a useful resource!

New Lost Property Box



Say hello to our new Lost Property Box. This will be available for parents and carers to have a good root through at the end of every school and will be located outside of the school office. As ever, please don't forget to make sure that every possible item of your child/s clothing is clearly named—this makes it so much easier to ensure that it goes back to the correct owner!

Please don't forget to check out our Diary Dates, which you will find on the last page of this newsletter—as there is a lot of important events coming up throughout the next few weeks. Also please make sure you have a look at our Class Updates so that you can see what your children have been learning about in class this week.

Have a great weekend.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

School Council Non-Uniform Day—Friday 17th November 2023

Next Friday the school council are fundraising for Children in Need. St Mary's pupils are invited to come to school in non-uniform (no theme). The children can decide what they would like to wear (favourite character, neon, sports kit etc) but we do ask parents to follow the uniform policy regarding jewellery (ie: no digital watches and sensible jewellery and no hooped earrings). We are asking for a suggested £1.00 donation/child. Joe Wicks is running a Bearpees challenge—see QR code below for this link.

SPOTACULAR
NON-UNIFORM DAY
Friday 17th November 2023

Voluntary donation of £1

BBC
CHILDREN IN NEED

FUNDRAISING
Pudsey Bearpees Challenge

QR link to the Bearpee Challenge! →

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, hair-bands, 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.

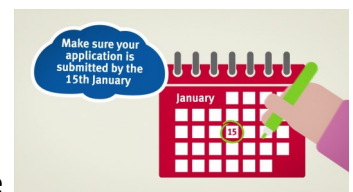
The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2024**.

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



October Active Essex School Updates



If you are a school that wants equal rights for girls to access football, then we have the perfect programmes for you!

For primary schools we have a Disney Inspired Shooting Stars and for secondary schools we have Barclays Game On

[Click here for more information](#)



Department
for Education

Opening Schools Facilities Expression of Interest Now Open!

We are supporting schools to provide more out of school opportunities for their school children and community users through this funding. Priority will be given to projects encouraging **women and girls** to be more active, those that help **disadvantaged and culturally diverse communities**, and those supporting **special educational needs, disabilities or long-term health conditions**.

Link for more info and how to register [here](#)

Deadline: Friday 3rd November 2023



PE School Sports Premium Webinar Recording

This half term our Wednesday Webinar topic was the **Primary and School Sports Premium** and we are aiming to help primary school staff understand how to make the most out of theirs- [Link here](#)



CPD

Active in Mind Workshop Face to Face sessions (Aimed at Secondary Schools and Years 5/6)

Designed to introduce educators to the programme, enabling them to self-activate and make use of free to access resources and interventions for the benefit of pupils in their school. This enables them to understand the role of physical activity in improving young people's mental health- [Click here](#)

We also have **Sport Specific Workshops** – Supporting Secondary PE Teachers and this month's is **badminton**- [click here to book](#)



KS1 Awards

We want to recognise excellence in the delivery of physical activity, P.E and school sport in Key Stage 1. Many of you had been awarded this previously but yours may have potentially lapsed so please check the following page to find out how to reapply [Click here for more information](#)

Deadline: Friday 17th November 2023



#MoveWithUs updates

Count with Courtney

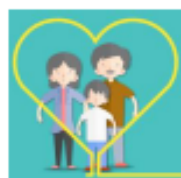
As Essex celebrates the Year of Numbers, Our #MoveWithUs ambassador and Great Britain Gymnast **Courtney Tulloch**, is setting you challenges that incorporates numbers and movement! **Launching on November 13th**

More info [here](#)

Don't forget the #MoveWithUs Mascot competition:

[click here for the template](#)

Deadline: Friday 10th November 2023



Reducing Parental Conflict Training

Free 1 Day Face-to-Face Training

10am-4pm



Arrive from 9:30am for a 10am start.

One day face to face training for practitioners completing direct work with families who may experience parental conflict.

South – Monday 8th January 2024

Highcliffe Delivery Site, 29A Rettendon View, Wickford SS11 8JE

Mid – Friday 26th January 2024

Chetwood Family Hub, 76 Shirebourn Vale, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford CM3 5ZX

North – Friday 9th February 2024

Berechurch Family Hub, The Ormiston Centre, School Rd, Colchester CO2 8NN

West – Thursday 22nd February 2024

Treehouse Children's Centre, Parnall Road, Harlow CM18 7NG

To Book please email:

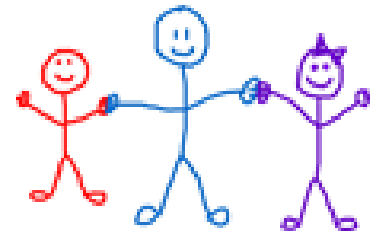
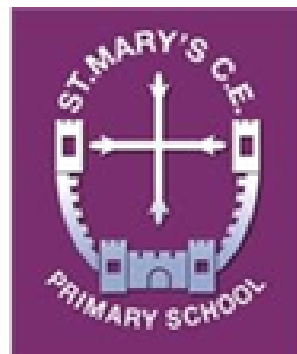
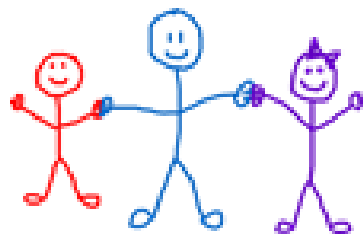
Healthyrelationshipsteam@barnardos.org.uk

With your completed expression of interest form.

Please be aware that you will need to attend the full days face to face training as well as the online 2-hour consolidation session to complete the training.

care.think.do.

WE CHANGE LIVES BY TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE.



St. Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School
Castle Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1BQ

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 15th JANUARY 2024

If you have children starting school in September 2024
please come and join us for our

OPEN MORNING

Come and visit our wonderful school where you will have the opportunity to
meet our staff and pupils and see our learning and teaching in action

Thursday 16th and Monday 20th November 2023

9.30am – 11.00am

Bookings can be made online via the school website
(<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/admission-arrangements/>)

*We aspire for our pupils to be the best they can be, in an inclusive Christian
learning environment.*

Tel: 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Friday 3rd November | - | Book Looks/Share our Work sessions (8.30am to 9am & 3.15pm to 4pm). Year 5, 3.15-4.00pm ONLY |
| Monday 6th November | - | Online admissions open for Reception 2024 |
| Tuesday 7th November | - | Parent Consultations—Years R—Year 6 |
| Wednesday 8th November | - | Year 3 Dodgeball Tournament |
| | - | Parent Consultations—Reception Only |
| Thursday 9th November | - | Parent Consultations—Years 1—Year 6 |
| Friday 10th November | - | Remembrance Day assembly/service at St Mary's at 11am |
| 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 |
| 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*