

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 20th October 2023

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 94.2%

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, carers and friends of the school,

Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of the first half term of this academic year, I have taken a big step back this afternoon to take the opportunity to reflect and I am really pleased with everything that has been achieved over the course of this term. It has certainly been a very, very busy one and there have been a great deal of changes that have taken place. The children have all settled brilliantly into their new classes - particularly our newest pupils in Reception - and the internal and external building work is now almost complete—and what a HUGE and beneficial transformation that has already made to our school. The new decarbonisation work, which includes a new Air-Source Heat Pump heating system, energy efficient lighting, ceiling and roof insulation, hand dryers and solar panels—which are being fitted as we speak—will provide a lasting benefit to so very many pupils and staff over the coming years, as well as to the environment—very much a hot topic and the moment and deservedly so. The new school library, learning and intervention spaces are also very nearly complete—with the final touches to painting, electrics, carpeting and landscaping being concluded during the half term break. I cannot wait to formally open up these areas to our whole school community on our return.



Finally, the Eco-Garden development work has also started in earnest this week in our gardening area (see— I did tell you it's been busy!) and a professional team is already constructing our new gardening beds using the £5000 Eco-Garden Grant secured by Mrs McInnes and the Eco-Garden squad during the last academic year. I also look forward to showing you the finished photos of this area as soon as we can.

All in all a busy but extremely successful term and I look forward to the next half term and our next set of exciting projects. Thank you to everyone for your support, patience and fundraising efforts throughout these last few months; I have no doubt that all of this hard work will be very much worth it!

Reflect

It's October, and the season of Autumn: the time of depth, release, and going within. The leaves are turning and it's a time of letting go – but it's also the perfect season for reflection. As we watch leaves fluttering to the ground, we are reminded that nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives. Autumn is a time to reflect on the past, releasing worries and stress as we begin to look forward through winter into Spring.

A young child asked recently, "Why are the leaves all different colours?" and "Why do we have Autumn?" he questions as he looks at the world around him and tries to make sense of what is changing. We can then use these questions to empower children to look at our world in terms of climate and change.

God gave us the world and marvelled at his creation. For regrowth things must die, until we see the first signs of that new life. So, enjoy this season as you explore outside. Take the children to crunch dry and colourful leaves. Pick up pinecones, acorns, and conkers and as you look at the wonder of autumn be assured of the Love that is sent with all creation.

"The grass withers and the flowers fall because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Psalm 85:12:



PTA message from Neil, Ada & Hayley on behalf of the PTA:

We hope you are all settling well into the new school year - it's always amazing how quickly the summer feels like a distant memory! Families who were at the school last year will know the PTA was very active in raising funds for the school. We are delighted to be donating **£3000** in support of the new school library's furnishings and books (in addition to everything else we did!), so thanks for all your support.

We hope to provide lots more support for the school this year and give the children lots of fun experiences they might not otherwise be able to enjoy. As always, we like to give you as much notice as we can, so this message is a quick overview of what's in store this term. We will share more details about each one nearer the time.

We are actively seeking PTA helpers, particularly for the KS2 Disco on Friday 8th December, so please contact pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk if you're able to support.

Autumn Term Fundraiser: Wednesday 22th November

The children will be taking part in a fundraising event called a 'Word Parade'. Children will come 'dressed' as a word of their choosing and each class will vote for their favourites. The way children represent their word is up to them; it could be a costume, an accessory, hair/face paint; the choice for how they represent their word is with the children! There is a suggested donation of £2 per child to be brought into class.



KS2 Disco: Friday 8th December

The end-of-term KS2 disco will be held on **December 8 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm**. Tickets will be on sale through Classlist at £4 per child. Crisps and juice will be provided. Sweets and transfers will be available for purchase. We are looking for 5 – 6 parent/carer helpers to assist with the disco.

In-School Festive Fun

The PTA is happy to be funding the in-school panto on **Wednesday 6th December**, which this year will tell the story of Cinderella. We will also be supporting the school's celebration of Christmas by purchasing the Christmas tree and the crackers for the festive lunch. We are also coordinating the greeting cards designing through Xmas4Schools - **designs need to be into the school office no later than Monday 30th October.**

Please send any questions, comments or suggestions, please let us know via email or on Classlist.

Many thanks, from the PTA Team.

Congratulations to three of our St Mary's **Shining Lights** in Key Stage 1, who have received special Achievement Certificates in assembly this week. We are very proud of Lily, Noah, Cody and Darcey for impressing their class teachers with their outstanding efforts in their classes.



Keep up the great work!

Have a lovely half term break and I look forwards to welcoming you all back at St Mary's on **Monday 30th October**.

Mr C. D. Garmain

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

Parent/Carers Consultations

Tuesday 7th November for all year groups

Wednesday 8th November for Reception only

Thursday 9th November for Years 1 - 6

Appointments can be booked from **Monday 30th October** for the parent consultations via our Parent's Evening System which can be found at <https://stmarys.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. The **booking system closes on Monday 6th November at 12.00pm**.

In order to log on securely parents/carers will need to put in their name as given to the school, your child's given name (or chosen first name as given to the office) and your child's date of birth as an 8 digit number e.g. 25/09/2008.

Please use the link below to login into the Parents Evening System to book your appointment. <https://stmarys.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please arrive promptly for your meeting. The meetings will be face to face and held in the main school hall from 3.30pm - 6.30pm, with each family having the opportunity to make a 10 minute appointment per child.

If your child has a One Plan there is no requirement to book an appointment, as you would have already had your 30 minute meeting.

If you need any assistance with booking your appointment, please contact the school office on 01799 523384



Mental Health Advice for Parents, Carers and Children

There's no doubt, parenthood brings joy and fulfilment into our lives, but it also brings its own set of challenges and stressors that we have to manage. Unlike any other job there is no rule book, no job description, we just have to grow and develop our own set of strategies to cope with what parenthood throws at us. One thing is certain though, if we take positive action to promote our children's mental health and wellbeing, this in turn will reduce our stressors and help maintain our wellbeing. For some top tips to help manage your own and your child's mental health visit: www.ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians



PTA—Autumn Events

Monday 30th October

Xmas4Schools designs must be into the school office no later than Monday 30th October. Spare form can be collected from the School Office.

Wednesday 22th November

The children will be taking part in a fundraising event called a 'Word Parade'. Children will come 'dressed' as a word of their choosing and each class will vote for their favourites. The way children represent their word is up to them; it could be a costume, an accessory, hair/face paint; the choice for how they represent their word is with the children! There is a suggested donation of £2 per child to be brought into class.

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PTA CHRISTMAS CARD

The children have bought home their card/gift design template in their bookbags this week. If you don't find one in their bag, please ask the school office for a spare copy.

For those of you who may not recognize this concept, it involves the children making a design of their choosing on a special template, which parents/carers can then choose to turn into and purchase greetings cards, gift labels and other products. Many families choose to design Christmas cards or gift labels, but it does not necessarily need to be a Christmas design. It could be something much more general; some have made nice thank you cards, which can be used for all occasions.

For every product families choose to order, the PTA will receive £1.

The deadline to return the artwork is October 30. Please take all design directly to the school Office. This means you have the half-term break to get designing! Please note that the card design needs to fill the whole page and if you are sticking anything on, make sure it is stuck securely. See the attached photo for more tips.

Many thanks and happy designing!



Clubs—Autumn Term

TUESDAYS (31.10.23—28.11.23)

- Choir (12.30pm—1.00pm)
- Indoor Athletics (3.15pm-4.00pm) - **No club on 07/11/23**
- Girls Football at SWCHS (4.00pm—5.00pm, up until 19.12.23)

WEDNESDAYS (01.11.23—29.11.23)

- KS2 Drama (12.30pm—1.10pm)
- On Track (3.15pm—4.00pm)

THURSDAYS (02.11.23—30.11.23)

- KS2 Boys Football (3.15pm—4.00pm) - **No club on 09/11/23**

FRIDAYS (03.11.23—01.12.23)

- KS1 & KS2 Karate (3.15pm—4.00pm)

OCTOBER WORKSHOP

We have a few spaces left for our half term club in
SAFFRON WALDEN for children aged 6 - 11 years.

★ **FREE** (For children who receive fsm and low income families)

★ **Wednesday 25th of October,
9.30am - 12pm**

★ **The United Reform Church, Abbey Lane.**

★ **Crafts, games and a free lunch and snacks!**

www.makingitmindful.co.uk
Teri@makingitmindful.co.uk

BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN this winter



Now that the clocks have gone back and it's getting darker earlier on, it's more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you're out and about near roads.

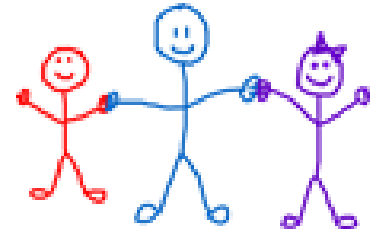
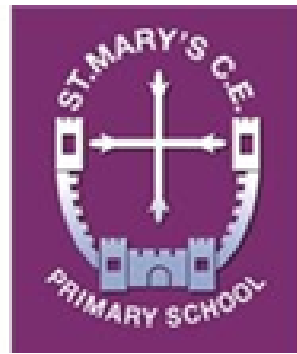
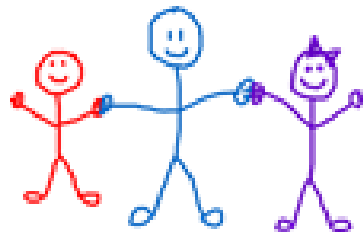
There are loads of ways to be seen and stay safer - so check over the page for some top tips!

5 top tips on how to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

- 1 Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2 If you're out and about when it's dark wear reflective items to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3 Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4 If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5 Of course, 'Being Bright' helps drivers to see you but that won't guarantee that you keep safe. You still need to make sure that you stop and look in all directions for traffic every time you cross.

Be Bright,
Be Seen

THINK



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:

Wednesday 18th October	-	EYFS/KS1 Teddy Bear Run
23rd—27th October	-	HALF TERM BREAK
W/C Monday 30th October	-	One Plan Meetings held this week
Monday 30th October	-	PTA Xmas card due
Tuesday 31st October	-	Light Day—children can wear bright/light clothes
Friday 3rd November	-	Book Looks/Share our Work sessions (8.30am to 9am & 3.15pm to 4pm)
Tuesday 7th November	-	Parent Consultations—Years R—Year 6
Wednesday 8th November	-	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)
Monday 20th November	-	Reception 2024 Open Morning (9.30—11.00)
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

* *new or amended items added are in blue*