

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 13h October 2023
Telephone 01799 523384
Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 94.5%

Attendance Year 95.9%



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,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's Friday Newsletter, where you will find key updates about what has been happening at the school, as well as important events coming up and some other important information. Don't forget to check out the ever-growing Diary Dates as well as the separate Class Updates document, so you can find out what your child (or children) have been learning about in class this week.

Light day—31st October

We will be having our annual Light Day **on Tuesday 31st October**. Each class will complete activities learning about Light Festivals around the world and celebrate at our special afternoon Collective Worship. On this day, please send your children into school wearing, bright, light clothing! This can be light up, sparkly or neon. The brighter the better!



The 2 Johns

I am delighted to report that we have booked The 2Johns to deliver some vital E-Safety training to our whole school community on **Thursday 21st March 2024**. These informative and entertainingly delivered online sessions will be carried out with our pupils during the school day, followed by our staff straight after school and then there will be a separate session delivered to our parents and carers between 8pm and

9.30pm—more details to follow. Please make a note of this important date in your own diaries. To find out more about the 2Johns please take a look at their excellent website: <https://esafetytraining.org/>

Mental Health

World Mental Health Day took place this week (10 Oct). Good mental health and wellbeing is essential to living happy and healthy lives. There are little things we can all do to lift our mood or ease our anxiety and we need to find what works for us and our children. This could be as simple as taking a walk in nature, prioritising our sleep or opening up to a friend. These little things, if we keep doing them, will make a big difference to how we feel.

For more information visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/>



Here to Help Flyer

Please also take a moment to read the **Here to Help** flyer (which you can read by clicking onto this link on the school website: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>). Please note that paper copies of this flyer are also available from the school office. This helpful flyer details some of the support services we have on offer at St Mary's VA primary School. Please also visit our well-being page on the schools website for further information on our universal whole school approach to mental health and

wellbeing (zones of regulation). If you would like to know more about the universal or targeted support we have on offer at St Mary's please speak with your child's class teacher or to our Welfare and Support Officer, Jo Crocker.

Site Manager

As we mentioned in last week's newsletter our lovely Site Manager, John Tait, will be retiring in a few week's time. Just a reminder that the closing date for applications for this position is on Monday 16th October at noon. You can apply using the link from our website <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/current-vacancies/>



The Tesco Stronger Starts Campaign.



A reminder to parents, carers and friends of the school to keep using the special tokens to vote for our project for the creation of a new dedicated school library and some other vital learning spaces when you spend money in a local Tesco store. We would love to try an secure second or even first place by the end of the voting period.

To check the location of the a stores, please go to the Tesco website here: <http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk> Please feel free to share this list of stores amongst your family, friends and neighbours.

Individual and Sibling photographs (with Kittle):

On Thursday, this week the Kittle photographers visited St Mary's to take the annual individual and sibling photos. Thank you for sending your children in looking so smart—I was very impressed!

Your child will be coming home with a photocard from Kittle Photography. Last year Kittle advised that the photos usually take a week to be loaded on to their website so have a check online at the end of the following week. Further information to follow!



Secondary School Applications for September 2024 – Reminder for Year 6 Parents



As I am sure you are aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2023) is **31st October 2023**.

Please remember that if you are yet to do so, that all applications **must** be completed **by 31st October 2023**. We have been informed that any applications made after this date are dealt with after those made on time, and so applying late reduces the chances of being offered a preferred school.

Applications can be made via the Essex Admissions website: www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Kind regards.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

Please can we ask parents and carers to be very mindful when sending children into school with a snack and/or a lunch.

We have a strict policy of being a nut free school. **Please make sure you do not send in any food that contains nuts, may contain nuts or traces of any nuts.**

Please check carefully the packing for foods such as cereal bars, dried fruit snacks and pasta made with pesto sauce etc.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



We are looking for new member of the Dolce family to work with us in the school kitchen

- Kitchen assistant 20 hours
- Kitchen assistant 10 HOURS
- Cook 27.5 hours

Full training including safeguarding training and uniform will be provided

If you are interested please contact me at tara.cooper-mynott@dolce.co.uk

All offers are made subject to an enhanced DBS check and applicant's eligibility to work in the UK

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.

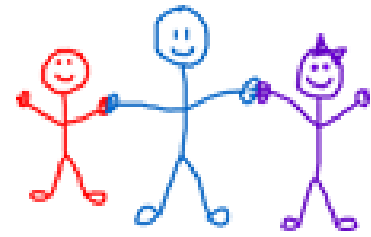
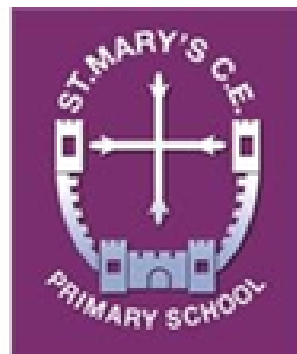
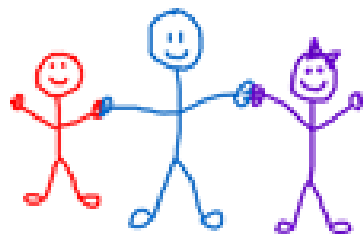
For those of you who may not recognize this concept, it involves the children making a design of their choosing on a special template, which parents/carers can then choose to turn into and purchase greetings cards, gift labels and other products. Many families choose to design Christmas cards or gift 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!

The poster is titled "Xmas4schools" in a red, cursive font. Below the title, it says "ARTWORK INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS/ORGANISERS" and "Please read these instructions carefully to ensure you get the best results:". The instructions are divided into "DO" and "DON'T" sections. The "DO" section includes: "Bright, colourful Christmas designs that fill the A4 paper produce the best results.", "Use paint, felt tip, crayon, inks and coloured pencils.", "Use collage.", "Use glitter glue.", and "Make sure any text is bold, legible and kept AWAY from the edges of the A4 paper." The "DON'T" section includes: "Please DO NOT use sprinkle glitter (glitter glue is fine) - it has a tendency to fall off and end up on other children's artwork and our scanners!", "If you are doing collage, please MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS ARE FIRMLY STUCK DOWN TO STOP THEM FALLING OFF", "Avoid metallic finishes over large areas.", and "Pale coloured pencils on a white background do not reproduce well." Below the instructions, there are two examples of artwork. The first is a snowman on a blue background with the text "Merry Christmas!". The second is a snowman on a blue background with the text "Merry Christmas!". The poster also includes a note: "You can colour right up to the edges, but any important drawings or wording needs to be kept at least 1cm away from the sides of the paper." and another note: "Please also DO NOT draw a border unless you want it to appear on the final product."



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



A career in teaching?

<https://ctsnscitt.info/>

Come along to one of our autumn term teacher training information events to find out more

CTSN SCITT, now incorporating Essex Primary SCITT, is recruiting to its 2024-25 school-based initial teacher training programmes. We offer primary & secondary, salaried & non-salaried, full-time & part-time initial teacher training across Cambridgeshire, west Suffolk, Essex and parts of Norfolk.



Wednesday 18th October, 6-7pm online via Zoom

Book (free) via Eventbrite using the QR code on the left or via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/726722676087?aff=oddtcreator>

Tuesday 14th November, 5-8pm face-to-face in Norwich

Book (free) via Get into Teaching using the QR code on the right or via this link:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/events/231114-get-into-teaching-east-of-england-event>



Monday 20th November, 6-7pm 6-7pm online via Zoom

Book (free) via Eventbrite using the QR code on the left or via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/726810227957?aff=oddtcreator>

Friday 1st December, 10-11am online via Zoom

Register an interest via Eventbrite using the QR code on the right or via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/726824340167?aff=oddtcreator>



Thursday 14th December 1-2pm online via Zoom

Book (free) via Eventbrite using the QR code on the left or via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/726833477497?aff=oddtcreator>

For more information contact: scitt@catrust.co.uk



BOOK ONTO A FREE HALF TERM CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto **FREE**, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations across Essex, brought to you by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council!

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Essex ActivAte offer club spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years), who are eligible for benefit based free school meals, or from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will run in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford! Due to half term programmes being solely funded by Essex County Council, unfortunately there will not be any clubs running in Thurrock.

WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal!

HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

To book your child/ren onto one of our half term clubs, you will not receive a Holiday Activities voucher from your school, and you will need to book on through the Essex ActivAte website. Simply select your area, find what clubs are available and book your child on through the link provided. Depending on the club, you may need to book through our website, or contact them directly.

[Find out more about October half term clubs and book on here.](#)





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

Thursday 12th October	-	Kittle Photographic - Individual and Sibling photos
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
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)
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
Wednesday 6th December	-	PTA Panto
Friday 8th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8th December	-	Key Stage 2 Christmas Disco
Tuesday 12th December	-	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance in St Mary's Church at 6pm
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*

