

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 29th September 2023

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 94.3%

Attendance Year 96.4%



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,

Responsibility and Leadership at St Mary's:

At the beginning of each academic year, following the important British Values of Democracy and the Rule of Law, each class at St Mary's holds elections for a large number of important areas of responsibility. These opportunities give our fantastic pupils the opportunity to show leadership and to represent and support their fellow peers in number of areas, which include

- ◆ 12 School Councillors (two for each year group, starting at Year 1);
- ◆ 14 Worship Councillors (two for each year group);
- ◆ 4 Sports Ambassadors (selected from Year 6);
- ◆ 4 Librarians (selected from Year 6);
- ◆ 8 House Captains (selected from Year 6, 2 for each house—Fire, Water, Earth and Air);
- ◆ 3 Computing Monitors (selected from Year 6);
- ◆ 15 Hall Monitors (selected from Year 6);
- ◆ 15 Playleaders (selected from Year 6);
- ◆ 14 Cloakroom Monitors (two for each year group).



Over the last two weeks, during my Daily Worship assemblies with Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils, I have talked to all of the children at St Mary's about some of our core values: respect, trust and friendship and also of the importance of responsibility and how we can show leadership and what it means to wear a badge. After a good discussion about what this means, including some good questions and answers from the children about the meaning of democracy, I then presented these special badges for the first five area listed above to a large number of our pupils. Before the children found out who had been nominated I reminded the children about what we do when receiving a special award: saying thank you –clearly, shaking the hand of the person presenting the award and holding eye contact throughout. I also talked about the

importance of wearing these badges, proudly, at all times. Very soon I will be presenting the remaining badges to the Hall Monitors and Play Leaders.

Huge congratulations, therefore to the 89 pupils who have received important positions of responsibility and leadership here at St Mary's for this academic year—I am sure that they will do a great job and make us very proud!



Amazing Achievements and Sharing Wonderful Work

Congratulations to the 14 children (pictured above) who either received a special Achievement certificate in assembly this week, or shared some of their fantastic work with the rest of the school. Needless to say, the children were extremely proud to share their work with the rest of the school and to receive these special certificates!

Harvest Festival and Church Service

Thank you to everyone involved in our Harvest Festival Service, which took place on Thursday afternoon at 2pm, in St Mary's Church. Children from each of our classes shared examples of some of the lovely Harvest themed creative crafts that they had been working on throughout the last two weeks and the choir regaled us with a beautifully sung version of Lord of the Harvest. At the end, members of the Worship Council read some Harvest prayers. Thank you also to Reverend Jeremy Trew who gave us an interesting Harvest talk and shared some interesting fruits and vegetables with the children, asking them to identify which ones they knew - some of the children really impressed me with their knowledge. Finally, thank you to all of the parents, carers, governors and friends of the school who attended to support our wonderful pupils and the school. All donations will be sent to the food bank; thank you for your generosity.



ProStrike

On Thursday 21st September the pupils of St Mary's Church of England Primary School took part in a sponsored 'Speed Challenge' which involved a giant inflatable football goal with integrated speed camera system. When a pupil (or teacher/staff member) took a shot at the goal their speed was displayed on a large digital screen for all to see. Like many fundraising events, funds were raised via pupil sponsorship; children asked their friends and family members to sponsor them to take part in the speed challenge. The more each child was able to raise, the more prizes they would win. Every child in the school also received a personalised certificate showing their top speed on the day of the event.

I am delighted to report that our pupils and their families have **raised an amazing £1369.38** (from the 50% of the overall funds that were raised on the day).

Furthermore, we have just been informed that all of the children will be receiving their prizes today or early next week, which will include: drinks bottles, gym bags, wristbands, medals, trophies and footballs!

Well done everyone!

Census Day!

Next Thursday 5th October, is the annual Autumn/Winter term Census Day. On this day the school office team completes a detailed statutory census report which records a large amount key information about the school, which is then returned to the government. This Census, includes numbers of pupils at the school, staff members employed, subjects taught and so forth. One of the key questions on this data return is about school meal numbers taken on that day. As I am sure you all know, each school receives a large proportion of its funding from the information entered on each Census Day – and the greater number of our pupils enjoying a healthy and delicious cooked school meal on that day means that the school receives a greater amount of funding later in the school year.

October 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			5	6	7	1
2	3	4	12	13	14	15
9	10	11	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	31			29
30	31					

Thursday 5th Oct 2023

Therefore, please support us by getting your child (or children) to eat a delicious school meal on Thursday 5th October, so that we can receive as much funding as we can - especially in these challenging economic times! A special menu for that day has already been circulated and can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

School Uniform and P.E Kit

Thank you so much for what has been undoubtedly the best start to the school year in my time as headteacher in regards to the children's school uniform. As a whole, the children are looking the smartest than I have ever seen them.

Please continue to support us by ensuring that your child (or children) are wearing the correct St Mary's uniform every day that they come to school. In regards to footwear, the children should **wear black shoes**, not trainers (unless it is their PE day). When the children arrive in school in their P.E kit, please can we ask the children to wear their purple P.E top and either their purple school jumper/cardigan or a jumper that is black and does not have any large logos on. **Please could you also support us by making sure that their shirt (including their PE shirt) is tucked in.**



Earrings: For health and safety reasons, earrings **must** be removed by the children before PE. Please note that we are not allowed to tape up your child's ears. If your child is unable to do this themselves, please make sure the earrings are removed before coming to school. Please also avoid getting your child's ears pierced during the school term, as this may mean that they cannot take part in PE lessons until the piercings have healed—meaning a long period without PE lessons. Thank you for your help and support in this matter.



If you have an issue with school footwear (or uniform in general), please contact the school immediately and we will see if we can support you. The school has a huge amount of school uniform which is in excellent condition and is freshly laundered (in our very own washing machine and drier). If you need any specific items of uniform please contact our Welfare Support Officer Jo Crocker on jocrocker@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk and Jo will very gladly try to source any items you need – we even have lots of pairs of boys and girls school shoes and trainers. We will be delighted to help!

Haircuts/hair styles: Finally, just a reminder that: no hair dye, colourful hair extensions, or shaved symbols should be visible in/on children's hair. There should be no ponytails at the front of the head either, and **please only use plain black/purple/white hairbands and hairclips** which fit in with our school uniform colours.

Further information about our uniform policy is available on our school website by following this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/uniform-information/>

What's mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health affects how we feel, think and act. It refers to our emotional, psychological and social wellbeing.

When children and young people look after their mental health and develop their coping skills it can help them to boost their resilience, self-esteem and confidence. It can also help them learn to manage their emotions, feel calm, and engage positively with their education - which can, in turn, improve their academic attainment.

At St Mary's we help children develop social and emotional skills, providing them with the coping skills and tools they need to understand and manage their thoughts, feelings, behaviour, goals and relationships. We do this through teaching health and wellbeing education (RSHE) and weaving these topics and skills throughout the broader curriculum and school life. The zones of regulation are used throughout the school and are a great tool for children to access to help them understand their feelings and to build a personal toolbox of strategies.

For more information visit www.zonesofregulation.com

PTA message from the St Mary's PTA Team:

Dear Parents & Carers... The Friends of St Mary's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) would like to say a big hello now that the new school year is underway. We hope everyone is settling in well. As a PTA, it's our mission to provide the experiences and little extras that the children might not otherwise get. We run events, help the school on big days like Sports Day and coordinate fun treats, all with a view to raising money to help the school.

Contacting you: We do not have your contact details as a PTA and we rely on parents/carers to get onto the Classlist app in order to stay in touch. We use Classlist to sell tickets and keep in touch with any announcements about our activities. The app is also a good way of contacting other parents/carers in your children's class. **Please make sure you have the app and have added your child to the right year group.** If you are new to Classlist, follow this link to get started: <https://classlist.page.link/J5Ci5fJjrWHRBkX7>

We strongly advise that you download and use the mobile app, but you can use the Classlist website if you prefer to log in on a browser. Your username and password can be used on both. All parents need to be approved by the PTA team, so it's very much a closed group, however, relatives can be added if you would like.

Getting Involved: We are currently building the team to help organize and run the activities this year. It's so important that parents from every year group are involved with PTA, so anyone that would like to be involved in organising events at the school, would be hugely welcome. Please get in touch with us at any time on pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

A very full newsletter this week! I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards.

Mr C. D. Garmain

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



Term dates

Just a reminder that the school term dates are available on the school website in the Parents and Pupils section. You can also access the term dates for this academic year following this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/school-opening-hours-term-dates/>

We have also included an electronic copy for this academic year, for your perusal. As ever, please remember to avoid taking your child out of school for a holiday during term time, as the school is not permitted to authorise such absence and this may well result in a fine by the Local Authority (Essex). If you would like to read our Attendance Policy, please follow this link to the school website <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stmaryschurchofengland/UploadedDocument/133df93a-b96b-4876-905b-b7b140e5862a/attendance-policy-2022.pdf> Thank you, as ever, for your support in this matter.



COMMUNITY SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSIONS

Drop in sessions held once a month around the Uttlesford District, support and advice offered by a School Nurse and the 5-19 Healthy Family Support Practitioner.

Parents can ask advice about behaviour and emotional needs, bed wetting and soiling issues plus other health needs that may be impacting on both home and school life.

15.30 – 17.00

Tuesday 3.10.23

SPANGLES FAMILY HUB, St John's Rd, Stansted Mountfitchet, Stansted CM24 8JP

Wednesday 8.11.23

~~Dowdan Pavilion~~ The Causeway, Dunmow CM8 2AA

Tuesday 5.12.23

Clinic Room outpatients department

Saffron Walden Hospital Radwata Rd, Saffron Walden CB11 3HY





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

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.

**NUT FREE
ZONE**



**SPACE DAY
5TH OCT**

MAINS

- Asteroid Chicken Nuggets
- Meteor-Bite Burger
- Venus Veggie Burger (VG)
- Big Bang Baked Potato Bar (V)

SIDES

- Guardian Fries of the Galaxy (VG) (GF)
- Planetary Peas
- Black Hole Beans
- Tomato Ketchup
- Solar System Salad Bar
- Fresh Bread

DESSERTS

- Jupiter Jelly & Ice Cream
- Cosmic Cookie (VG)
- Fresh Fruit (VG) (GF)

dolce



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Tuesday 26th September | - | Yrs 1—6 Harvest Service at St Mary's Church (2pm)
Parents/Carers invited |
| Thursday 5th October | - | Census Day & special Space Menu |
| Thursday 12th October | - | Kittle Photographic - Individual and Sibling photos |
| 23rd—27th October | - | HALF TERM BREAK |
| Tuesday 31st October | - | Light Day—children can wear bright/light clothes |
| 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 |
| 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 3rd December | - | Spirit of Christmas Choir Performance (St Mary's Church) at 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 6th December | - | PTA Panto |
| 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*

