

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 15th September 2023

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 96.7%

Attendance Year 96.7 %



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,

Welcome to our new Reception children (and our other new pupils!)



A very big welcome to our new Reception cohort who have joined us this term and a warm welcome to all of the children who have joined us in other year groups. All of these new pupils have all settled in so beautifully and I cannot believe how well they have settled in to school life at St Mary's. Mrs Jeewan (our Butterfly class Teacher as well as Head of EYFS and Key Stage 1) and Mrs Hunter (our lovely Butterfly class Teaching Assistant) have already told me how well their new starters are already doing and how

happy they all are. They are particularly impressed with those pupils who have come into their classrooms independently, bringing in their own bags, snacks, water bottles and coats on their own. Very well done! Can I just take this opportunity to say thank you to the Early Years team.

Reception Parents/Carers Lunchtime Welcome Event

Thank you to all the Reception parents and carers for coming to have lunch with their child. We were so pleased to find that every child had a parent/carer or relative to sit with!

Thank you to our amazing staff for organising the event!



Tesco Stronger Starts Campaign

We are delighted to report to our school community that our application to the Tesco Stronger Starts campaign has been successful and our project has been put forward to a customer vote in two local Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store from the first week of October 2023 until mid-January 2024.

As you will be aware, our school - St Mary's Church of England Primary School in Saffron Walden - is currently continuing to raise funds for the creation of a new dedicated school library and some other vital learning spaces for all of our pupils.

However, our fundraising project is facing competition in these stores, with a number of other local fundraising efforts. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500, the second placed project will receive £1,000, and the third placed project £500. Therefore, if we finish in first position, we will receive £1500, if we finish in second, we will receive £1000 and if we finish in third, we will receive £500.

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to



receive a token. The two local stores, where parents, carers and friends of the school can support us by shopping and using their votes/tokens are:

- 3130 Saffron Walden, (large unit) CB10 2JP
- 6812 Saffron Walden Exp (small unit) CB11 4AW

Please feel free to share this list of stores amongst your family, friends and neighbours.

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here: <http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk>

Reading, Phonics and 'Encouraging Independence in Young Children Training Event for Parents & Carers



On Tuesday 19th September Mrs Jeewan, our KS1 Reading and Phonics Leader, and myself (Mr Jarman, Headteacher) will be holding a short talk about our Reading / Phonics programme 'Little Wandle: Revised Letters & Sounds' and a short session on encouraging independence in young pupils. This will be for current Reception/KS1 parents. This will be a great opportunity to find out more about the scheme and to have a look at the new books and new resources we are using in school, and to see how we are teaching phonics and early reading in school. It will also be a useful opportunity (if you are interested) in finding out

ways to further develop independence in our youngest pupils.

We will be holding these two sessions at 9.00am in the morning and 6.00pm in the evening. We anticipate that both sessions will last approximately one hour. We look forwards to seeing you there!

School Attendance

The DFE are keeping a very close eye on school attendance again this year. May I please remind you not to book routine medical appointments (where you can avoid it) or family holidays, including long weekends **during term time**. Also, please remember that registers are taken at 8.45am, so please do be punctual to ensure our pupils get into good habits at this start of the school year.



The first two weeks of the Autumn Term are pivotal in settling pupils into school and embedding strong foundations for a solid and positive start to the new academic year. A study recently found that "Overall, around 36% of Year 1-6 pupils who missed school at the start of the year went on to miss at least 10% of sessions across the whole academic year". We know that identifying potential barriers to attendance at the earliest opportunity is key in preventing issues. As a school we will continue to monitor attendance and for those where attendance is an concern we will invite parents and carers in to discuss any barriers and aim to work together to establish an appropriate support plan.

ProStrike Sponsored event:



On Thursday 21st September the pupils of St Mary's Church of England Primary School will be taking part in a sponsored 'Speed Challenge'. There is no fee for participation and every child in the school will take part.

The Speed Challenge will involve a giant inflatable football goal with integrated speed camera system. When a pupil (or teacher/staff member) takes a shot at the goal the speed is displayed on a digital screen for all to see. Every child in the school will receive a personalised certificate showing their top speed on the day of the event.

Like many fundraising events, funds are raised via pupil sponsorship; children will ask friends and family members to sponsor them to take part in the speed challenge. The more each child can raise, the more prizes they will win. Prizes will include, drinks bottles, gym bags, wristbands, medals, trophies and footballs! Our school will receive 50% of all the money raised and all costs associated with running the event come out of the remaining 50%.

Earlier this week, the pupils were shown a virtual assembly where the event was explained to the pupils and

staff. During this assembly the children were informed about the importance of 'safe' fundraising, where it was explained that any funds raised are received from friends and family only and pupils are not to knock on doors or ask strangers to sponsor them.

Your child should also have already received a sponsorship form. This sponsorship form shows what prizes can be won as well as the ProStrike website and contact details. Please do not hesitate in contacting them if you have any questions regarding this first fundraising event of the school year.

Good luck with your fundraising!

Term dates

Just a reminder that the school term dates are available on the school website in the Parents and Pupils section. 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://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/>

Thank you for your support in this matter.

A famous poet in our midst!

Huge congratulations to Vivien, a pupil in our Busybees class, who has recently had her very own book of poetry published! What an achievement for a 9-year-old child!

The Poetry anthology, entitled 'Topsy Turvy: The exuberant poetry of Vivien Neupauerova (courtesy of the Writer's Room and Creative Walden), is chock full of fascinating and creative poems and photos of the author-poet in action and very, very much worth a read!

I asked Vivien what had inspired her to produce this work of poetry and she told me: 'it all started with Writer's Room—I started writing poems there. On my birthday Paul Bettany—the Leader of Creative Walden—surprised me with my very own book and that's how I got Topsy Turvy published.'

If anyone is wondering what my favourite poem is (or rather one of my favourites) it is Book (which can be found on page 34 of Topsy Turvy), as I love, love, LOVE to read! It was Mrs Robinson who first encouraged me to write in Year 1 and Year 2.'

Wow! What a journey Vivien is on—I cannot wait to see where her creative writing talents will lead her!

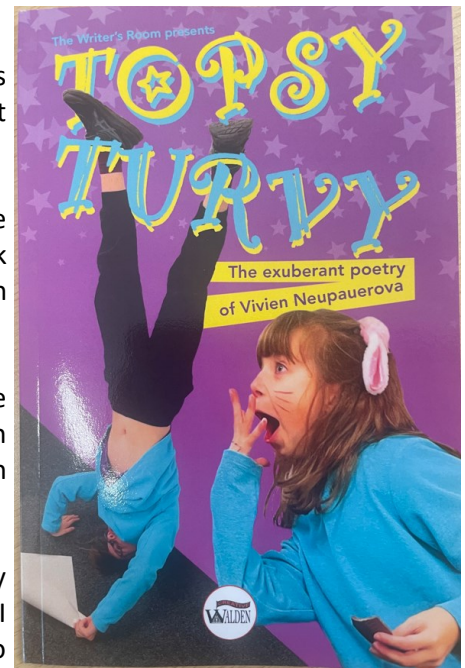
As ever, please don't forget to check out our Diary Dates (on the last page of this newsletter) as well as our Class Updates, which will be sent out separately.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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



Year 6 to 7 secondary admission round for September 2024

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened on Tuesday, 12 September 2023, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2024.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2023.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

All of the application information is available on the website above. The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2024-25 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

For any questions you may have about applying for a secondary school place, please call the Admission Team at Essex County Council on 0345 603 2200.

GATE CLOSED
PLEASE USE
MAIN ENTRANCE

As you will be aware, building work continues at the rear of the school site, the Caton's Lane gate will remain closed for health and safety reasons. Therefore, we remind parents and carers that they must **NOT** come into school via the new car-park entrance. All gates from the meadow to the playground will now be closed until further notice.

Access to the school will be via the Castle Street playground entrance only.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that may be caused by this closure.

Girls Football Festival – Thursday 21st September 2023.

All of our KS2 girls will be attending a football festival on **Thursday 21st September** at Katherine Semar Primary School. We will be walking to and from the event.

Children will be required to wear their school P.E t-shirt, jumper, shorts/tracksuit bottoms, socks, and trainers. Please can children also bring a **water proof jacket**, a snack and a bottle of water with them to this event. If your child has **shin pads**, they will be **allowed** to wear them. **No football boots** are allowed to be worn at the festival.

Timings

9.00 – 12.30 Years 3 and 4

12.30 – 3.30 Years 5 and 6. Please note that Years 5 and 6 pupils are not permitted to walk home from the event and must return to school with the accompanying adults.



Rotary
Saffron Walden

Help the homeless Ukrainians as winter approaches.

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 30 Sept from 9.00am until 1.00pm on Saffron Walden Common next to the car park.

The need is for warm winter clothing, shoes including waterproof items, bedding – clean and new/nearly new sheets, pillows, blankets etc (but not duvets). Other items needed are toiletries and towels – soaps, shampoos for adults, children and babies, plates, cutlery, cooking utensils, cleaning materials, washing powder, wet wipes, dish cleaning gel/antibacterial gel. Haberdashery for repairs and crafts and knitting wool and needles, torches and batteries, bicycles, generators and basic first aid items – bandages, aspirin, paracetamol etc. Cash donations to assist in transportation costs are also accepted and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on the 30 Sept.



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

Monday 11th September	- Air Quality Awareness—parent surveys and Years 5/6 workshop
Friday 15th September	- First day for Year 5 Swimming—check website for all dates
Tuesday 19th September	- Parent/Carer Workshops—Phonics and Independence (9.00am and 6.00pm)
Thursday 21st September	- 9.00am—12.30pm Yrs 3&4 Football Festival - 12.30pm—3.03pm Yrs 5&6 Football Festival
Tuesday 26th September	- Harvest Service at St Mary's Church (2pm)
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
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)
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*

