

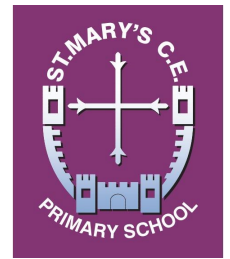
St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 20th December 2024

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Our motto: Let Your Light Shine... as You Grow inspired by Matthew 5: 15-16

Compassion

Friendship

Perseverance

Respect

Trust

Truthfulness

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

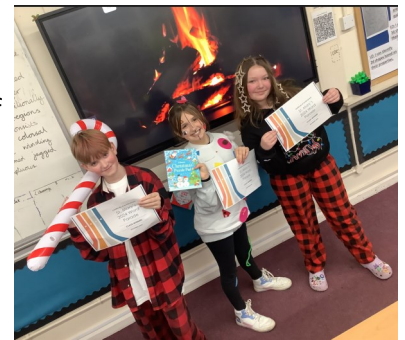
Wow! What an incredibly lengthy term it has been, but what a productive and enjoyable one! As we come the end of our 15th week, which has included 72 pupil days and 3 staff INSET days and I think all the pupils and staff are more than ready for a well-deserved Christmas break. Thank you all for your continued, outstanding support for the school. I hope you all have an fantastic Christmas and New Year.

This will be the final newsletter of the Autumn/Winter term and I look forward to seeing you all back at St Mary's on Monday 6th January at 8.30am for another excellent term.



Word Parade winners

Last week, the PTA held their annual Word Parade. Lots of children and staff came into school dressed as a different (and interesting!) word. There were some outstanding choices amongst all the classes and some very creative costume choices. Towards the end of the day, two children were chosen from each class for their word choices and were presented with special certificates in the school



hall by Jess Dowling (PTA Co-Chair) and Doron Solomon (School Governor). Then, the PTA chose two Key Stage 1 and two Key Stage 2 pupils for a special overall award for their extra creative choices. These were: Roux and Franek from KS1 and Ava and Theo from KS2 (all pictured). Thanks to the PTA for organising this fun event which has also helped to raise additional funding for school projects!

Hamper Raffle

We are delighted to reveal that the winner of the special Xmas hamper raffle (with blue ticket number 287) is our lovely School Crossing Patrol Officer Ged. Congratulations and rather fitting, as we know that Ged will be retiring as our CPO very soon. We are also delighted to report that we raised a massive £142 from this event —which will be put towards our new high-spec school sound system. Huge thanks go to Stansted Airport for kindly donating this beautiful hamper and to Penny, James and Vivien (from Yr6) who sold tickets every day!



Christmas Lunch Day!

Wednesday was extra festive, as the school held its annual Christmas Lunch Day. Every child came into the school hall to be greeted with Christmas music, crackers (complete with terrible jokes), some colourful hats, and a delicious cooked Christmas dinner with gravy, served to every single child by our lovely school staff.



Everyone had an amazing time and I was very proud to see the outstanding teamwork, as all the staff 'mucked in' together. Special thanks to George (the School Kitchen Manager from Dolce) who did an amazing job serving food for such a huge number of children (and then staff), as well as Mr Pike and Ms Dye who expertly rallied the troops, ensuring that this event went like clockwork.



Grow 10 Fundraiser:

On Wednesday this week, we presented certificates to every child who took part in the Grow10 Fundraiser—I was delighted to award 119 individual certificates—which was a simply brilliant level of participation and teamwork from the children (and their supportive families) at St Mary's

I am incredibly proud of all of the children who took part in this fundraising initiative, whether they: baked cakes or other food items; made decorations; walked, jogged, ran or skipped; made Christmas decorations; sold teddies, toys or boardgames, wrote letters to local (or further afield) businesses; completed chores at home - whatever they did they should be extremely proud of themselves for the outstanding effort that they **all** put in. I set the objective for the children to be as creative and entrepreneurial as they could be—and they certainly did that... in spades! To have raised over £6000 in such a short space of time is a brilliant achievement.



I then presented medals to two pupils from each class, who had been chosen by the judging panel for particularly creative or entrepreneurial fundraising ideas. These pupils (pictured below) were given a medal and additional certificate. These were Elijah and Daneen (Reception), Phoebe and Florence (Yr1), Lily and Ruby (Yr2), Freddie and Mason (Yr3); Aoife and Zachary (Yr4); Hugo and Beatrice (Yr5) and Luke and Ethan (Yr6). Well done everyone!

Following this, we then presented the trophy to the winning fundraising class, which were Year 2! They were delighted! These are the final results.

Current Class Grow 10 Trophy - final standings:

- 1st place: Year 2 with 1,709.11**
- 2nd place: Year 4 with 1,051.52**
- 3rd place: Year 3 with 949.94**
- 4th place: Year 5 with 820.27**
- 5th place: Year 6 with 649.28**
- 6th place: Year 1 with 530.10**
- 7th place: Reception with 383.13**
- Overall total: £6093.35**
- Well done everyone!**



Hope you all have a Christmas and New Year.
Warm regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

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



**Carol Service
at St Mary's
Church**



School Crossing Patrol



As you may be aware the amazing Ged (Our School Crossing Patrol Officer) will be retiring in January and his last day will be on Friday 31st January 2025. We will all be very sad to see Ged go!

The vacancy notice for a new Crossing Patrol Officer is advertised further on in the newsletter if you are interested in applying.

School Crossing Patrol Officer Vacancy

Are you looking for an opportunity to support your local community?

Come and join Essex County Council's School Crossing Patrol Team,
We currently have a vacancy serving:

St Mary's C of E Primary School

£12.10 per hour

Term Time Only - Part Time Hours

To apply visit **www.workingforessex.com**, or call the Resourcing
Team on **0333 013 5888**.



INSPIRED TO DO MORE



Primary School Applications for September 2025

(Children born between 01/09/2020—31/08/2021)



Applications for Reception September 2025 open on **Monday 4th November**.

For all information about applying for a school place and to make an application please visit the Essex County Council website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Closing date is Wednesday 15th January, 2025

School Crossing Patrol (SCP) Vacancies

**Are you looking for
an opportunity to support
your community?**

There are around 160 School Crossing Patrol sites across the county of Essex. Sometimes known as Lollipop People, SCP Officers work on school days for approximately 40 minutes each morning and afternoon. Hourly rate from £12.10 ph.



Positions available across Essex, including:

St Mary's CofE Primary School

For more information and to apply please visit
www.workingforessex.com

Or email resourcing.team@essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 6th January | - | Pupils return |
| Friday 10th January | - | Friends of St Mary's coffee morning 9.00am |
| Wednesday 15th January | - | Closing date for Reception 2025 applications |
| Wednesday 29th January | - | Year 1 Saffron Walden Museum School trip |
| Week beginning 17th February | - | Half Term Break |

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue

