

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 13th December 2024

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 92.8%

Attendance Year 94.38%



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,

As we rapidly approach the end of the Autumn/Winter term, the staff and pupils are working ever so hard in the lead up to Christmas. I would particularly like to thank Mr Brown and the EYFS/KS1 team of Miss Nicholson, Miss Hunter, Mrs Holmes, Mr Powlesland, Mrs Tickle, Miss Murnane, Mrs Wulfse, Mrs Slade, Miss Marks and Mrs Brighten, for the outstanding Nativity performance which was held in St Mary's church at 6pm on Tuesday evening this week. I think you will all agree that it was a very accomplished performance, and the children delivered their lines beautifully and with lots of confidence. The singing was wonderful and the children's costumes were amazing (well done mums and dads!). Please read Mr Brown's article below to find out more!

Nativity Success, by Mr Brown (EYFS and KS1 Leader)

On Tuesday, we shared the Key Stage 1 and EYFS performance of *The Nativity* by Niki Davies! The children have been rehearsing since early November, and their hard work and dedication truly shone through on the day. Every child gave their absolute best, and it was wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm bring the story to life. Their beautiful singing, expressive acting and performances created a fantastic atmosphere that we're sure will be



remembered by everyone who attended. I was so impressed with all the children who learned their lines off by heart- what an amazing achievement. I would also like to say a massive thank you to all our fantastic parents and carers, for your invaluable support in providing such lovely costumes and attending the performance. Your effort and creativity added so much to the performance, and we are incredibly grateful. Thank you again for helping make this year's nativity so special!

Shining Stars of the Week

Well done to the following pupils for being our Shining Stars this week:

Teddy - for his effort & focus

Nika - for being brave on her first day

Isla - for her focus during maths

Aalyian - for being super in the nativity

Whole of Year 2 - for a fantastic nativity performance in the church

Maja - for her excellent nativity performance

Esther - for challenging herself in reading

Penny - for her effort

Harry - for demonstrating school values

Woody - for his hard work and being an excellent role model

James - for his great effort and focus in assessments

Lily-Mae - for her great effort and focus in assessments

Archie - for showing respect and effort



Inclusion Event, by Mrs Robinson (Inclusion Leader and SENDCo at St Mary's

Thank you to everyone who came to the Inclusion event on Tuesday this week. It was wonderful to see so many faces and I hope it was useful to you. The children loved their craft activities and were great company, although I'm not sure I've ever seen so much glitter...



The next event will be held in the New Year; the date will be circulated soon and the meeting will focus on emotional regulation. If you would like to join but missed the first sessions, please let the office know and we will add you to the list.



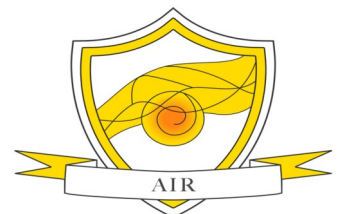
**1st place
(328 points)**



**2nd place
(325 points)**



**3rd place
(277 points)**



**4th place
(202 points)**

House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 328 points was Fire House; in 2nd place with 325 points was Earth House; in 3rd place with 277 points was Water House and in 4th place with 202 points was Air House. Well done everybody!

GROW 10!

Our St Mary's Grow 10 Fundraiser has now finished and I am delighted to report that our amazing pupils have raised a simply stunning **£6012.60** which is nearly 3 times our original target of £2,100 and we are **still** receiving pupil's fundraising money. As you know, our aim for the whole of this academic year is to raise £6,000 for new computing equipment, as well as a sound system for the school hall, so what an achievement by the school community to have raised so much in just one term! On Monday we aim to reveal our final totals, including which class has won the Fundraising Trophy, as overall class winner. So if you are yet to bring in your child's hard-earned fundraising total please could you bring this into the school office by the end of the day on Monday 16th December. ***If your child did not complete a fundraiser could we please have the £1 coin returned to their class teacher? Thank you for your support in this matter.*** Thank you.

Huge congratulations to the following children who have been developing their creativity and their entrepreneurial skills both at home and at school by doing the following recent fundraising activities:

Sofia (in Yr3) helped with some jobs around the house and raised £20. Super!

Skye (in Reception) baked some delicious cakes for her family and raised £37.50. Great work!

Freya (in Yr1) changed her £1 into 10ps then swapped them with family and friends to £1s. She ended up raising £12.50! Clever!

Mason (Y3) cycled for 14km (whilst aiming for 10km) & raised an amazing £67.05

Sydney (Yr5) ran an impressive 4 miles, incorporating hers with the Accuro Santa Run, and raised a whopping £210!

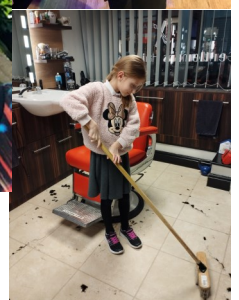
Zachary (Yr4) did loads of jobs around the house—hoovering, dusting, clearing up leaves, cleaning the car, polishing shoes, cleaning the floor and raised a fabulous £60

Woody S (Yr3) cleaned cars, did some odd jobs, helped at the allotment and made £10

Freddie C (Yr3) made some tasty cakes and sold them at his dad's work and made £52.50

Laura (Yr6) did a bake sale after cubs and raised a super £28.75, Good girl!

Luke (Yr6) sorted through some old books at home and raised £25. Great work!



Teddy T (Yr4) did a sponsored silence and raised £25. Great idea!
Franek (Yr2) was very helpful at home and raised £10. Keep it up!
Adrian (Yr1) made cakes, sold shoes and raised £22. top effort!
Hattie (Yr5) did lots of jobs around the house and raised £20. Super work!
Theo P (Yr4) raised a brilliant £25 by selling things at home. Good lad.
Blake (Yr5) washed some cars and raised £18.75. Super effort!
Archie A (Yr2) sold some cupcakes and raised £10. Good lad!
Thomas E (Yr4) swept lots of leaves and baked a yummy cake, raising £41.25. Great work!
Bertie (Yr5) made a cake for grandads birthday; grandma bought it for £12! Well done!
Alycia (Yr3) and Micky (Yr1) sold some toys and made an excellent £20.
Teddy C (Yr3) held a Christmas decoration sale and made a super £18.
Esther (Yr3) sold lots of clothes on Vinted and raised a whopping £25.
Edith (Yr4) made flashcards for her baby cousin and raised a fantastic £20.
Thomas M (Yr3) did a Readathon and made a brilliant £29.
Maisie (Yr4) began her efforts by doing odd jobs for neighbours in her street including feeding chickens, collecting eggs, planting tubs and watering house plants. She managed to grow her £1 to £29 this way. She then decided to take part in a stall at school with some friends selling things they had made and raised £55 collectively. In addition to this she also completed a sponsored swim independently and raised a further £75 for the cause. She has been very animated and keen to do her most for this challenge. Well done Maisie!

Current Class Grow 10 Trophy

Competition standings:

1st place: Year 2 with 1,693.11

2nd place: Year 4 with £1,051.52

3rd place: Year 3 with £949.94

4th place: Year 5 with £794.27

5th place: Year 6 with £610.53

6th place: Year 1 with £530.10

7th place: Reception with £383.13

Overall total: £6012.60

Early next week we will reveal the overall class Fundraising Class Champions to the pupils in assembly with our special trophy, as well as presenting our special awards for the individual entrepreneurs and top fundraisers. We will share this on our final newsletter of the term.

Well done everyone!



Well done everyone for your efforts on the PTA Word Parade today; I was incredibly impressed with some of the creative word choices (and outfits!) worn by the children today. Next week we will share some photos of the event, as well as the winners of the competition. A super effort!

Finally, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Neil, Ada and Hayley who are passing over the PTA baton to some new members of the PTA. I would like to thank all three for their excellent stewardship and excellent organisational skills, whilst they have been diligently running the PTA over the last few years. Thank you on behalf of the school.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Warm regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

Spring 2025 clubs will begin the week beginning **Monday 6th January**. Please see the club timetable for the full list of club dates and prices. **Please pay special attention to the dates when clubs will not be running.**



To secure a place on any of the paid clubs, you must make a payment via School Money (this will be your confirmation). If you are unable to make a payment this will mean that the club is full. Please do not hesitate to contact the office with any questions regarding payments of clubs or to add your child to a waiting list. Bookings for Drama and Karate are made directly, contact details can be found on the timetable.

Please email the school office to sign your child up for any free clubs (Choir). Children in receipt of Pupil Premium will be offered one free club subject to availability (contact the school office directly to book a place). Please note this does not include Drama, Gymnastics or Karate. If your child starts a club and then changes their mind, we will not be able to offer a refund.

For safeguarding purposes, please ensure that you inform the school office if your child is unable to attend a club on any given day. We reserve the right to cancel clubs due to poor weather conditions etc, where possible we will do our best to accommodate all children and offer them an alternative activity to participate in.

Festive Fun at the PTA - and some leadership changes



Thanks to all the children for making last Friday night's disco a roaring success! We hope everyone enjoyed themselves. We raised a whopping £700 for the PTA fundraising pot. Thank you to everyone involved in helping out (PTA volunteers rock!). Thanks to all the staff who stayed to help and ensure a good time was had by all - especially DJ Pike!

In other PTA news, we are excited to announce that we will soon be appointing new leaders who will be in touch once the formalities have been completed. We want to thank in particular Hayley Leverett, who has led the finance side of the PTA for the past nine (yes, nine!) years. And to Ada and Neil who have co-chaired the PTA for the past couple of years.

With new Chairs in place, we are now looking for a new Treasurer to help keep the PTA accounts in good order. This requires a couple of hours per month. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact us on pta@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk. The school office can also connect you if you prefer to contact offline.



Christmas Raffle

Don't forget to get your raffle tickets for our fantastic Christmas Hamper (which is absolutely choc full of delicious goodies) which was donated by Stansted Airport.

Penny, and some Year 6 pupils will be selling raffle tickets at the start and end of the school day —for £1 a strip— with the draw being completed on the very last day of term.

Special Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th December



Dolce will be offering the children a special Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 18th December**. Please pre-order as soon as

possible to avoid any disappointment .

Pre-Orders to be placed via the School Grid by **Tuesday 10th December**. If you experience any trouble logging into your account, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.



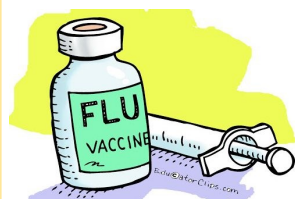
Pixie Post Office is now open

Children are invited to bring their Christmas cards to the Pixie Post Office.

Please remember to address the envelope with the name and year group the card is for.



Flu Vaccination Clinics



If your child was unable to have their flu vaccination this week, please feel free to call the West Essex NHS Immunisation Team to book a time at a local venue.

0300 790 0597 option 1
Immunisation Team
Monday- Friday 9am-5pm

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

Christmas

LUNCH

18th December 2024

MAINS

Roast Turkey, Stuffing & Chipolata
Puff Pastry Christmas Cracker (VG)

SIDES

Homemade Roast Potatoes
Carrots
Peas
Sprouts
Gravy

DESSERTS

Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard (V)
Reindeer Shortbread (VG)
Fresh Fruit

dolce



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2024:

Tuesday 10th December	-	Inclusion/ACL Essex Coffee Morning—all welcome
	-	EYFS & KS1 Nativity at St Mary's Church 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursday 12th December	-	Flu Immunisations
Friday 13th December	-	PTA Word Parade
Wednesday 18th December	-	Christmas lunch
Thursday 19th December	-	Carol service at St Mary's Church 9.30am—10.30am
Friday 20th December	-	Last day of term—1.30pm
Monday 6th January	-	Pupils return
Wednesday 15th January	-	Closing date for Reception 2025 applications
Week beginning 17th February	-	Half Term Break

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue

