

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 6th December 2024

Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 92.7%

Attendance Year 94.8%



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,

It has been extra, extra busy this week, with the Inclusion Coffee Morning on Tuesday, the fab PTA Panto taking place on Wednesday, Xmas Jumper Day today, the exciting KS2 Xmas Disco taking place after school this evening, the Spirit of Christmas Choir Performance at St Mary's on Saturday and just two weeks left of this term... so let's see what our fantastic pupils have been up to at St Mary's this week!

Stars of the Week

Oliver—for putting himself forward more in lessons

Henry—for fantastic focus and attention

Sky—for always being so kind and thoughtful

Pippa—for all her hard work in her maths, both in lessons and homework

Thomas—for amazing hard work and effort in his homework

Lily—for always displaying perseverance in all subjects

Oscar—for real effort to focus and get involved with class discussions

Joshua—for always showing safe, respect and effort, well done!

Becky—for such amazing progress in her writing, working so hard and contributing to lessons with ideas and opinions

Harper—for always making a huge effort in phonics and persevering with tricky words

Aoife—for always working with enthusiasm and effort and always having a happy smile on her face

Isobel—for her effort and enthusiasm, learning the words and actions to the nativity songs



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 62 points was Fire House; in 2nd place with 35 points was Water House; in 3rd place with 33 points was Earth House and in 4th place with 25 points was Air House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(62 points)**



**2nd place
(35 points)**



**3rd place
(33 points)**



**4th place
(25 points)**



Word Parade

As a reminder, the Word Parade (which takes place on Friday 13th December) is a fun event where children come into school 'dressed' as a word of their choosing. It could be through a costume, an accessory, face paint, or however they choose to represent their chosen word. In exchange, we are asking for a suggested minimum donation of £2 per child, which can be brought into school on the day.

The children will get lots of opportunities to share their word throughout their day, whether in collective worship, the playground or in class. At the end of the school day, each class will choose their favourites and the PTA will select an overall winner for KS1 and KS2. We will share all the fun via the school newsletter that week. This should not feel like a contest though; rather, the key idea is that children get to think about a word, how they want to represent it and then get lots of opportunities to talk about it in school.

GROW 10!

I am delighted to report that our original Grow 10 Fundraising target of £2,100 is now but a distant memory with our current total standing at **£5,093.44** (well over double our original target!) With 6 days to go let's see what we can achieve! Our aim this academic year is to raise £6,000 for new computing equipment, as well as a sound system for the school hall, so the more we can raise this term—the better!

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:

Chloe (in Yr4) potted up plants and sold on a stall outside the house and made a brilliant £35

Alfie (in Reception) - his parents and grandparents kindly donated £29

Elsie (in Yr1) made and sold some delicious cupcakes outside her house and made a fantastic £16.10

Teddy F (in Yr5) raised £32 by selling his homemade cakes to his big brother's football team. Great work!

Pippa and Lottie (in Yr6 and Yr2) created and sold Christmas decorations at home and sold them from the school playground, raising £65 so far

Frankie and Gracie (in Yr3) —made and sold Christmas gifts and reindeer food and are still selling them!

Teddy (in Yr3) —made some fantastic Christmas decorations and then sold them from the school playground.

Class Grow 10 Trophy Competition:

1st place: Year 2 with £1,587.61

2nd place: Year 4 with £800.17

3rd place: Year 5 with £713.02

4th place: Year 3 with £692.56

5th place: Year 6 with £565.53

6th place: Year 1 with £490.10

7th place: Reception with £244.45

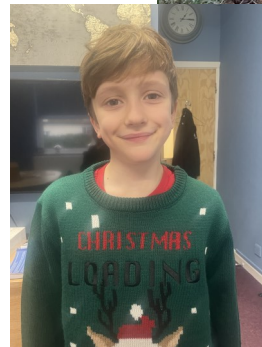
If your child has not completed their fundraising activity yet and you would like to find your child's class fundraising page these are saved on the school website. Please click this link <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/school-fundraising/> to go straight to the seven class fundraising pages.

If your child completed a Grow10 fundraiser and collected funds in cash please could we ask that all children have brought in their money to the school office by Friday 13th December, next week, at the latest so we can complete all of the class and overall totals. 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.

In next week's newsletter I will update you all with our final fundraising examples as well as what each class managed to raise overall—revealing the overall class winner. On the following week, when the Grow10 fundraising is completed and all monies have been collected, I will share every child's fundraising initiative and how much they raised. It is going to be quite an impressive role of honour!

If they haven't been mentioned in our newsletter so far and you would like us to share a photograph of your child, along with a brief description of their fundraising initiative and what they have raised so far, then please email this in to the school office on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Good luck! Remember: **the closing date for the Grow10 fundraiser is Wednesday 11th December** —so just under 1 week to go. **Keep up the great work everyone!**



Christmas Raffle

One of our lovely parents, Vicky Boraster Sharpe, has very kindly donated a fantastic Christmas Hamper (which is absolutely choc full of delicious goodies) for the school to raffle over the last two weeks of term, leading up to Christmas.

Therefore, next week her daughter, 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.

Good luck everyone!



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.

Have a great weekend.

Warm regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

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



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.



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.

Inclusion/ACL Essex Coffee Mornings



We are very excited to be holding a series of coffee mornings organised by St Mary's Inclusion Team and run by ACL Essex (the largest provider of adult education in the county). The sessions will be open and welcoming to all – your child does not need to be receiving support from the Inclusion Team or have a diagnosis in order for you to attend. The initial session will help establish which areas parents and carers would like help and support with; for example, sleep, emotional regulation, anxiety, neurodiversity and positive

behaviour strategies.

The first session will run on **Tuesday 3rd of December at 10am** in the school library. It will be a relaxed, welcoming environment with the aim to provide a supporting, non-judgemental space. The second session has already been booked for **Tuesday 10th December at 10am** and the children of parents/carers attending will join us to create Christmas crafts. Further sessions will be booked for the New Year and will not normally be held on consecutive weeks.

If you would like to join us for these sessions, please complete the form that was sent out last week

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

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

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



Your child's Annual Flu vaccination is now due, please click the below link to complete a consent form.

[LINK HERE](#)

Essex Partnership University Trust Immunisation Team will be visiting St Mary's school on Thursday 12th December 2024 for the annual flu immunisation session.

The deadline for parents to complete is **10th December 2024**. We cannot guarantee any forms submitted after this date and time will be accepted at the school session.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose.

The nasal spray vaccine is the most effective vaccine. The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of porcine gelatine as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available – please call 0300 790 0597. Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

For further information, please refer to the following leaflet:

[Flu vaccination primary school - for parents - Health Publications](#)

A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided on the consent form. **If you do not receive this confirmation within 24 hours please contact the service on 0300 790 0597.**

If you have any queries, or need to discuss the alternative flu vaccine injection please contact the immunisation team on 0300 790 0597 or at epunft.dunmow-west-immunisations@nhs.net

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 3rd December	- Inclusion/ACL Essex Coffee Morning—all welcome
Wednesday 4th December	- PTA Pantomime
	- Grow10 Christmas Decoration Sale —3.15pm
	- Grow10 Reindeer Food and Play Dough Sale—3.15pm
Friday 6th December	- Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 6th December	- PTA KS2 Disco 5.00pm—6.30pm
Friday 6th December	- Grow10 Christmas Decoration Sale—3.15pm
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 Immunisation
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

