

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 29th November 2024

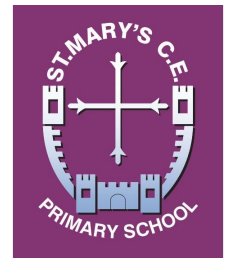
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Attendance Weekly 96.3%

Attendance Year 95.4%



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,

Welcome to this week's newsletter which includes lots of information about some important events which have taken place in and out of school over the last week. Also, don't forget to check out our Diary Dates (on the last page of this newsletter) as well as our Class Updates (posted separately to this document), where you can find out what our pupils have been up to in their individual classes this week!

Archery Tournament

This week St Mary's archery squad attended the first Archery tournament of the year! The weather wasn't on our side for the walking involved but it certainly didn't dampen our team spirit and determination.



Year 3 and 4 had a wonderful morning with some amazing scores for their teams. It was Year 3's first experience of a tournament; they took it all in their stride. Year 4 played superbly and finished with a 1st place victory. Huge congratulations to Zachary who also came third in overall individual score. All teams finished in high ranking out of the 13 teams they faced. A fantastic job, well done!

Years 5 and 6 took on some tough teams across the tournament. They held their nerve, remained calm and focussed leading them to a 2nd place finish and only 2 points off from the winners. This tournament consisted of 16 teams. All four of our teams finished with their heads held high and only just missed out on a 3rd and 4th place finish for another 2 of our teams.



Our 1st place and 2nd place finishing teams will move onto the next stages of the event in the Spring Term.

Our archers displayed many of our school values throughout the morning - determination and honesty with their scores. The support they displayed to each other was exempt. A true display of team spirit. Well done to all St Mary's pupils that attended.

Stars of the Week

Sylvie - for achieving 93% on his phonics test

Quentin - for his fantastic handwriting

Oliver - for working hard in nativity practice

George - for always showing great effort

Lexi - for her perseverance and being a good buddy

Gracie - for her great effort in writing

Jasper - for working well to manage himself on the playground

Aydin - for his perseverance in maths

Sydney - for his positive attitude

Olivia - for being a fantastic role model

Holly - for her perseverance in computing and not being afraid to ask for help

Zach, Barney, Libby & Linda - for their participation and representing the school in the archery Competition



GROW 10!

I am delighted to report that we continue to soar past our original Grow 10 Fundraising target of £2,100, with our current total standing at **£4,577.34** (over double our original target!) With 13 days to go who knows how much we will manage to raise! As you will know, 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!

Massive 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 fundraising activities:

Daneen: Selling onion bhajis to her neighbours and has raised a brilliant £15.80

Ethan: selling board games and has raised a fantastic £34.20

Max in Year 1 has been selling cakes to his neighbours (who said they were delicious!) Max has raised £35!

Noah and Ernie: selling Pokemon cards and cakes and raised an amazing £28.60

Cassia: made delicious biscuits with her mum and brother and sold to friends and family and has raised £25.77 so far

Lili and Millie: held their very own sweet shop and raised £66.15

Class Grow 10 Trophy Competition:

1st place: Year 2 with £1,508.61

2nd place: Year 3 with £682.56

3rd place: Year 4 with £639.92

4th place: Year 5 with £563.03

5th place: Year 6 with £535.52

6th place: Year 1 with £424.75

7th place: Reception with £222.95

Quick reminder: don't forget to **tick Gift Aid** to ensure even more of your fundraising money goes to the school and that you **enter your child on their class page** so that their fundraising goes towards their class' total—on the fundraising leader board. **Don't worry if you have already signed up your child and they aren't linked to their class page as we will continue to keep a running total on our excel spreadsheet to ensure each class' total is accurate.** If 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 7 class fundraising pages.

In next week's newsletter I will continue to keep you updated with other fundraising examples as well as what we have raised so far. On the final week after the fundraising is completed 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 now 11th December**—so just under 2 weeks to go. **Keep up the great work everyone!**

Certificates for 2nd place at Inclusion event

Following on from the Inclusion event, which took place last week, the children were presented with their certificates in assembly this week.

Well done everyone involved—they all had an amazing time and came back with a lovely new trophy—which is now on display on our reception area!

House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: In 1st place with 214 points was Fire House; in 2nd place with 213 points was Earth House; in 3rd place with 196 points was Water House and in 4th place with 167 points was Air House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(214 points)**



**2nd place
(213 points)**



**3rd place
(196 points)**



**4th place
(167 points)**

Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

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

Grow10 Christmas Decoration Sale

Wednesday 4th December
at 3.15pm



50p

Christmas gift sale & Reindeer food

With only approx. **4 weeks** to Christmas Gracie and Frankie have made **joke gifts** for people who have everything!

They have also been busy making homemade Play Doh for you all to enjoy.

Benefits to play doh: -

- * Develop fine motor skills
- * Improves Social skills
- * Enhances hand-eye coordination
- * Encourages creativity and imagination
- * Calming for children and eases anxiety
- * Builds sensory pathways
- * Colour mixing



Date- Wednesday 4th December

Location- School playground

So please come visit our stall and check out the following items: -

- Christmas gifts
- Magical Reindeer food
- Lucky dip
- Homemade Play Doh



Are you feeling the pressure of Christmas?

Christmas is often a time of stress and conflict within families. Expectations of perfection, tiredness, past grievances, and changing family dynamics can all contribute to tension. To avoid conflict, it's important to set clear boundaries, seek support, make time for yourself, suggest a family walk, and cool off when necessary. If you would like some tips to help yourself and your family over Christmas, we are here for you

The Community and Family Learning team at ACL Essex can offer a non-judgemental safe space to discuss concerns and to share tips on coping with difficult moments over the festive period.

This December, we have the following FREE online session available:

- Zones of Regulation
- Positive Parenting
- Managing Big Emotions
- Talking so children will listen
- Sibling Rivalry

For more information and to sign up to one or more of the sessions, please click on the link below.

<https://aclessex.com/courses/community-family-learning/>



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2024:

Monday 25th November	- Grow10 Polish Cake Sale—3.15pm
Tuesday 26th November	- Reception 2025 Open Morning 9.30—11.30
Friday 29th November	- Star Radio in to record a Christmas song—9am
Friday 29th November	- Grow10 Christmas Decoration Sale—3.15pm
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
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

