

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 22nd November 2024

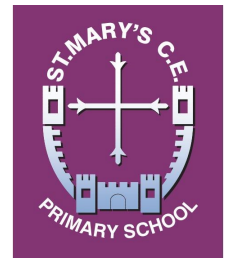
Telephone 01799 523384

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

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 96.4%

Attendance Year 96.2%



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,

A warm welcome (in this very, very cold weather) to this week's Friday newsletter. This week I am going to share some more examples of our wonderful pupil's Grow10 fundraising exploits, starting off with an update of how each class is doing in the overall fundraising competition. There is also an article about our Tag-rugby accomplishments and an article about appropriate age ratings written by our Welfare Support Officer, Jo Crocker. As ever, don't forget to check out our Diary Dates (on the last page of this newsletter) as there are lots of important things still to come in the remaining 4 weeks of this Autumn/Winter term, including lots of pupil-led fundraisers—including cake sales, toy sales and craft sales! Very exciting! Also don't forget to read our Class Updates (sent separately to this document), where you can find out what our pupils have been up to in class throughout this week!

GROW 10!

I am delighted to report that we have absolutely demolished our target of £2,100, with our current total standing at **£4318.03** (over double our original target!) With 20 days to go who knows how much we will manage to raise! As

you will know, our aim this academic year is to raise £6000 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 finely honing their entrepreneurial skills by doing the following fundraising activities:

Lily: raised money by doing a 10 mile sponsored bike ride earlier in November. Lily raised a whopping £202.50!

Hugo: sold raffle tickets, creating a cash prize and a special video and carried out a live draw and raised an amazing £101.25!

Henry: made and sold Planet Cookies (as part of his class DT lesson). He sold £25 worth of cakes in his playground and then sold the remaining £10 of cakes to one of his neighbours! Very enterprising!

Freya and Finley: made some delicious cakes and decorated them and then sold them raising £40.50!

Isla and Blossom: cooked up some butterfly cupcakes, which they then sold for £1 each! They managed to raise £18.50!

Jasper and Matthew: did a Teddy Tombola and a Jumble Sale after school on the school playground! Both boys raised a fantastic £47.50!

Sebastian and Maja: baked some yummy Polish cakes. They are selling these at school on Monday 25th of November!

Lily and Olivia: carried out a raffle and sold some sweets. Both girls raised a brilliant £20.70!

Sydney: has set herself an ambitious target of raising £150, with £60 pledged so far!

She is going to do a 4 mile run on the 24th November! Good luck Sydney!

Florence: is currently doing a sponsored litter pick, using her original £1 to buy rubbish bags. She has currently raised £18.75!

Class Grow 10 Trophy Competition:

1st place: Year 2 with £1,426.01

2nd place: Year 3 with £682.56

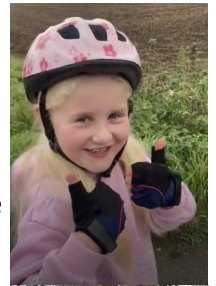
3rd place: Year 4 with £573.00

4th place: Year 5 with £542.33

5th place: Year 6 with £528.83

6th place: Year 1 with £378.30

7th place: Reception with £187.00



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 different class fundraising pages.

In next week's newsletter I will continue to keep you updated with other fundraising examples and what we have raised so far. If 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 to the school office on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk Keep up the great work everyone!

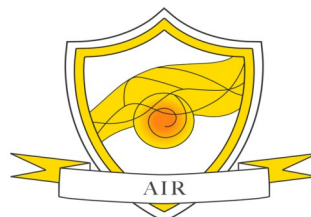
Good luck! Remember: **the closing date for the Grow10 fundraiser is now 11th December** —so 2 and a half weeks to go!



**1st place
(51 points)**



**2nd place
(33 points)**



**3rd place
(28 points)**



**4th place
(27 points)**

House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: In 1st place with 51 points was Water House (blue); in 2nd place with 33 points was Fire House (red); in 3rd place with 28 points was Air House (yellow) and in 4th place with 27 points was Earth House (green). Well done everybody!

Stars of the Week

Isla L – for helping out her classmates with their work and showing compassion

Phoebe —for amazing progress across all subjects

Frank – for his stellar English writing

Blossom – for being such a kind, patient and helpful friend

Chloe— for putting lots of effort into everything she does and challenging herself

Henry – for working hard and being a team player

Lili – for her adaptability and resilience at the dodgeball tournament

Tommy – for his incredible throwing arm at the dodgeball tournament

Carter— for always trying his hardest and showing respect to his friends and teachers

Sofia – for challenging herself in her writing

Archie – for showing safe, respect and effort

Isla – for always trying her best in class

Zachary —for amazing progress across all subjects



A Day of Triumph and Team Spirit: Tag Rugby Tournament Success at Carver Barracks

The energy and excitement were palpable on Thursday this week, as St Mary's attended the Uttlesford Partnership Tag-rugby Finals. This event brought together students from across a number of local schools stretching from Saffron Walden to as far away as Dunmow, for a morning filled with teamwork, determination, and a lot of running! St Mary's parents and carers turned out in full force, lining the field to cheer on their young athletes. Their support added an extra layer of encouragement, making the event a memorable occasion for all involved.



From the very first whistle, our St Mary's pupils showcased their budding rugby skills, honed during weeks of dedicated practice in PE lessons and lunchtime sessions. Our A Team (which over the two tournaments consisted of:

Toby, Henry, Leah, Laura, Penny, Blake, James, Oscar, Blakely, Lily Z, Pippa, Vivien, Woody and Hugo from Years 5 & 6) brought their A-game, displaying impressive agility, strategic thinking, and sportsmanship. The tournament format ensured that everyone got a chance to shine, with games structured to encourage participation and fair play. The team impressed with their boundless energy and enthusiasm, while the children displayed growing tactical awareness, setting up clever plays and executing swift tags. It was heartening to see players supporting one another, celebrating tries, and shaking hands with their opponents after each game.

One of the highlights of the day was the nail-biting match between St Mary's and Katherine Semar which finished with St Mary's winning 5-4, with St Mary's clinching victory with a final try in the closing moments, sparking cheers from their supporters on the side-lines.

While the competition was fierce, the tournament's true success lay in its emphasis on inclusivity and character-building. Teachers and coaches were proud to witness the boys and girls demonstrating respect, resilience, and teamwork. As one Year 6 student put it: "We all wanted to win, but the best part was playing with my friends and trying our hardest."

Overall, St Mary's played 11 games, **winning 9 of these with a winning run of 8 victories in a row.** Congratulations to all participants for making this tournament a true celebration of effort and team spirit! Here's to many more victories, both on and off the field for this school as the year progresses!

Appropriate age ratings

It's understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows children watch, as well as the video games they play. In the attached helpful guide (on page 6 of this newsletter) from the National College, it looks at two ways you can assess if a particular movie, programme or game is suitable for a child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their sites that can be used to look up individual titles, so you can check their age ratings. This guide provides tips on avoiding potential hazards such as violence, sexual content and inappropriate language.



Inclusion Event

On Thursday 21st November some of our KS1 children took part in an inclusion event at the Lord Butler centre. There were a number of activities that they competed in, including boccia blast, basketball, Messi football and bowling. The children attending did an amazing job and showed great teamwork. The team came home with medals and ranked 2nd overall and were presented with a winner's trophy. Congratulations to all involved.



Dodgeball Success!

On Wednesday morning, Year 4 attended a dodgeball tournament at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre. Grouped in four St Mary's teams, we competed against lots of other schools in several rounds of competition. The final result saw Mrs Norman's Green team picking up third place certificates in their group. Congratulations to all the students who participated, you were hard working, confident, courteous and honest! A real credit to St Mary's.



Have a great weekend.

Warm regards

Mr C. D. Garmain

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

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

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 earlier this week

KS2 Disco and Word Parade



The PTA is proudly supporting two events in December to help close 2024 and the school term with a splash of fun / festivity!

The first is the KS2 end of term school disco on December 6 from 17:00 - 18:30.

This is only open to Year 3 - 6 and tickets can only be purchased through the

Classlist app: [https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1190990678?](https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1190990678?s=859640953&utm_source=SCHOOL&utm_medium=SHARED_LINK)

[s=859640953&utm_source=SCHOOL&utm_medium=SHARED LINK](https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1190990678?s=859640953&utm_source=SCHOOL&utm_medium=SHARED_LINK)

Tickets are £5, which includes refreshments for the children. As always, we will be running a sweet shop and selling tattoos / stickers. We hope to see as many Y3 - 6 as possible enjoying the fun!

The second activity is the annual Word Parade, where children get to come into school dressed as a word of their choosing on December 13. 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. There will be two winners from each class and the PTA will select an overall winner for KS1 and KS2.

We can't wait to see you all get involved over the next few weeks!

Ada, Aime, Carla, Hayley, Jess & Neil



Maja and Sebastian will be selling cakes on 25th November. 15:00 - 15:20 near school entrance.

Saffron Players—Robin Hood (January 2025)



Our very own Ava from Year 6 is starting in the Saffron Players' January 2025 panto – "Robin Hood"! Oh no she isn't! Oh yes she is! Ava's playing the part of Scarlett Williams, a young, confident and determined girl in Robin Hood's crew! The shows are all in January, so Ava is going to be super busy with a grand total of eight shows in total! Break a leg, Ava



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

Publish date: 06/02/19

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



Universal, suitable for all ages



Parental Guidance required



Suitable for people aged 12 and over



Suitable for people aged 12 and over, anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult



Suitable for people aged 15 and over



Suitable for people aged 18 and over



Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info



www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info

**STUDY
SMART**
Free Online Courses



ncfe. | cache



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Fully Funded School Support Course

www.studysmartuk.online

Available in
Levels 1, 2 & 3

CACHE Certificate in
Understanding
Safeguarding & Prevent
CACHE Certificate in
Understanding Challenging
Behaviours
CACHE Certificate in the
Principles of SEN

Six Week Course
Mon - Fri
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2:30pm
3rd session 4 - 4:30pm
(optional session for
reflection and support if needed)



St Mary's Book Shop



Did you know St Mary's
now has it's very own book
shop?

We have lots of low cost
second hand books in great
condition for sale.

Visit the book shop in
reception.

Donations welcome.

*Please pay with cash or via
the QR code to our
gofundme page.*



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





Saffron Walden Christmas 2024

Brought to you by Saffron Walden Town Council

NOVEMBER

Saturday 09 & 16, 10am - 2pm
Lantern Making Workshops
Jubilee Hub

Friday 22

5.30pm, Lantern Parade
leaving from St Mary's Church

6pm, Light Switch On

Market Place
with food and entertainment,
4pm - 8pm

Sunday 24, 10am - 3pm

Christmas Fayre in the Square
Market Place

Christmas Gift Fair in The Town Hall

In aid of Mayor's Charities

November

Friday 22 - Tuesday 26

December

Friday 06 - Tuesday 10

DECEMBER

Sat 07 & Sun 08, 11am - 3pm,
Santa's Grotto
The Town Hall (via back door),
£2 per child

Sunday 08, 10am - 3pm

Christmas Market
Market Place

Friday 13, 1pm - 2pm

Christmas Carols at the Memory Tree
Market Place

Saturday 21, 10am - 12 noon

Christmas Pop-up Cinema

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

The Town Hall

In aid of Mayor's Charities
Chargeable; tickets available from
Tourist Information Centre



visitsaffronwalden.gov.uk/events/
01799 524002 - Tourist Information Centre
events@saffronwalden.gov.uk

Intercounty

McCARTHY STONE

Life, well lived





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2024:

Monday 18th November	- Reception 2025 Open Morning 9.30—11.30
	- Grow10 Teddy Tombola/Toy Store—3.15pm
Tuesday 19th November	- Grow10 Cupcake sale—3.15pm
Wednesday 20th November	- Grow10 biscuit sale—3.15pm
Thursday 21st November	- Grown10 Bracelets/sweets/raffle 3.15pm
Friday 22nd November	- Grow10 Sweet Sale—3.15pm
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
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
Wednesday 15th January	- Closing date for Reception 2025 applications

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue

