

# St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 4th October 2024

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Attendance Weekly 96.2%

Attendance Year 96.8%



*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.

## Harvest Festival Service:

On Monday next week, the school will be visiting St Mary's Church for our annual Harvest Festival Service, which starts at 9.30am. **Parents, carers and friends of the school are most welcome to join us.** Beforehand, the school will be **hosting a tea/coffee morning in the school hall from 8.45am to 9.15pm** —so if you'd like to pop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a yummy biscuit (priced at £1) or a cup of squash and a biscuit (50p), then please do join us. At 9.15am we shall then head over to St Mary's church for the **Harvest Festival Service which starts at 9.30am.**

Thank you, once again, for all of your generous Harvest donations. These can be brought into school until the end of the day on Monday 7th October, where they will then be taken to the Uttlesford Foodbank to be shared with local families.

## Cultivating & Collaborating!

On this morning's gate, Jasper and Matthew proudly showed me the pumpkin that they have been growing from the seeds that they were given by the school towards the end of the last school year. Jasper and Matthew (from our Grasshopper and firefly classes have patiently nurtured their pumpkin and then cut it off the vine this morning to allow it to ripen before the end of the month. With Harvest Festival in mind, the boys wanted to share with you all.

Well done boys—what an amazing achievement and thank for sharing your amazing efforts!



# School Council

# GROW 10!

## Grow 10—School Fundraiser:

A HUGE well done to all of the pupils who have managed to get started with their Grow10 Fundraisers! As of lunchtime today, you have already managed to achieve nearly 1/4 of our Fundraising target of £2100, with **£467 already pledged!**

A massive St Mary's shout-out to the following children who are finely honing their entrepreneurial skills by doing the following fundraising activities:

**Charlie and George Cass** are washing cars and with their initial £1 and have already raised a whopping **£83.75**

**Darcey and Ernie Dowling** have planned out their strategy: Ernie is being extra helpful by doing jobs for people and Darcey will be selling chocolate apples very soon (see advert on page 3 of this newsletter). Already both siblings have **raised £70** between them!

**Aoife Duncan** is doing some dog walking, babysitting (with mummy's help), pet sitting, & collecting rubbish off the streets and has already raised an amazing **£73.75**

**Aydin and Kayhan Abit** spent their initial pound and bought a packet of cookies which they sold to their family and friends. With the profit generated by this they then bought a few packets of cake mix and made some cakes and cookies that they then sold to neighbours, showing how you can keep 'growing that pound!', very entrepreneurial! Next they will be making some bookmarks! Both boys have raised a fantastic **£35** between them so far!

**Keep reading>>>**

**Antoni Jankowski** is producing some delicious Gummy Jelly Bears and has already raised **£10**.

**Ruby Rule** has been helping her mum to craft some Gonks, which are on sale now through her fb page (Rule of crafts) or direct through them. Ruby has already raised £7.

In next week's newsletter I will keep you updated with other fundraising examples and what we have raised so far. 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—we will keep a running total on our excel spreadsheet to ensure each class' total is accurate. Keep up the great work everyone!

### Stars of the week

**Jackson** - Working hard on his handwriting

**Florence** - Being a fantastic and consistent role model

**Mabel** - Being respectful and following the school rules

**Ernie** - Being respectful and following the school rules

**Brogan-Grace** - Working hard on her reading and quizzes

**Daya** - Using excellent writing techniques this week

**Thomas** - Effort in his maths throughout the week

**Layla-Mae** - Challenging herself in maths

**Darcey** - Being a good buddy and always working hard

**Sydney** - Being a super role model and always working hard

**Lumi** - Always working hard

**Rebecca** - Always working hard



### Reflect (written by Julie Sarti, School's Advisor from the Diocese of Chelmsford)

In Matthew 6:22-23, we learn that Jesus said "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light."

It is not only what we see, but how we perceive what we see, that makes the difference.

A favourite story in our house goes something like this—A traveller coming down from the mountains asked a fisherman if he could take her across the valley to a village on the opposite bank. Once settled in the boat, she asked, "What sort of people live in the next village?"

"What were the people like where you've come from?" replied the fisherman.

"They were unfriendly and cold. The most selfish people in the world. I'm happy to be leaving."

"Is that so?" replied the fisherman. "Well, I'm afraid that you'll find the same sort in the next village."

Disappointed, the traveller trudged on her way, and the fisherman rowed back.

Later another traveller, coming from the same direction, hailed the fisherman. "What sort of people live in the next village?" he asked.

"What were the people like where you've come from?" replied the fisherman once again.

"They were the best people! Hard working, helpful, and friendly. I'm sorry to be leaving them."

"Fear not," said the fisherman. "You'll find the same sort in the next village."



This summer, we were lucky enough to spend three glorious weeks interrailing in Scandinavia, travelling 4,500km on 20 train journeys. We met some inspiring, interesting, wonderful people – some fellow explorers, some from the cities and some who lived in the remote, wild places we discovered deeply nestled in the Norwegian mountains. I'm so glad we knew that story before we set off on our travels - an experience that was indeed full of light.

### House triumphs!

In 1st place this week with 63 points was Earth House (green); in 2nd place with 53 points was Water House (blue); in 3rd place with 47 points was Air House (yellow) and in 4th place was Fire House (red). Well done everybody!



**1st place  
(63 points)**



**2nd place  
(53 points)**



**3rd place  
(47 points)**



**4th place  
(46 points)**



### **Bags2School:**

A HUGE thank you for all of the Bag2School donations we have received so far! As you can see from the impressive photo we have already been given over 40 bags full of clothes, forming a clothes mountain in our reception foyer area and there is still a few more days to go! If you haven't had the chance to do so, or still have more clothing at home you would like to get rid of, please fill in a bag (it can even be bin liner if you have run out of bags), where they will be collected by the Bags2School team on the morning of Tuesday 8th October. All proceeds raised will go towards our **fundraising objective for this academic year: new computing equipment and a sound system for the school hall.** Have a lovely weekend!



Warm regards

*Mr C. D. Jarman*

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



## Darcey's Chocolate Apples

*It's Autumn and we're ready for  
treats!*

Instead of toffee apples, Darcey in Year 3 will be selling chocolate covered apples (with sprinkles/marshmallows!), after school, on:

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**

**(£1 each, raising money for the school's new computers!)**



### **Essex Activate Holiday Activity and Food Programme**



The [Essex Activate Holiday and Activity Food Programme](#) is running again during the October Half Term for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and working families. Bookings go live today (**Monday 30 September 2024**) **at midday.**

#### **Please note:**

- You do not need a WONDE e-voucher from school to book your child onto a half term club.
- Once bookings go live, you will need to book your child/ren onto a club through the [Essex ActivAte](#) website.
- Simply select your area and find what clubs are available, then book your child/ren onto a club.
- For more information see flyers on the following pages.

# COFFEE MORNING

*in the School Hall*

*Tea—£1.00*

*Coffee—£1.00*

*Squash—.50p*

*7th October*

*8.45 - 9.15*



*Parents, Carers and extended  
family are invited to relax and chat  
before the Harvest Festival at 9.30*

# WHAT IS ESSEX ACTIVATE?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the Holiday Activity and Food programme across Essex, run by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education.

## Who is the programme for?

Clubs are suitable for children aged 4-16 years old who are eligible for benefits based free school meals or from 'low income' working families who benefit from this extra support. Some clubs may offer paid spaces that run alongside Essex ActivAte, however these can be limited.

## What do the clubs offer?

Essex ActivAte clubs offer mainstream primary and secondary provision across the county, also dedicated mental wellbeing and SEND clubs. Each club delivers a variety of physical and enrichment activities, fun food education and a nutritious meal. Family support is also available alongside the programme.

## How can I book my child onto a club?

To book onto a club during February, May/June or October half term, head over to the Essex ActivAte booking page on our website, then select the area you live in or the category you require and follow the steps.

To book onto a club during the easter, summer or winter holidays, use the link on your WONDE e-Voucher to find a club and book on, or contact a club directly.

## What is considered 'low income'?




We understand that all families circumstances are different, therefore if you are in employment or on an income which means you are unable to attend a holiday club without our support – you can book on.



## HALF-TERM & HOLIDAYS EXPLAINED...





### EASTER, SUMMER & WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS


-  The HAF programme runs in the easter, summer and winter holidays and is funded by the Department for Education. This is aimed solely at school children who receive benefits based free school meals during term time.
-  Limited spaces are available for low income working families and other vulnerable groups who would otherwise not be able to afford holiday clubs. You can book onto our programme self-certifying.
-  WONDE e-Voucher codes are sent by schools to all families eligible for benefits based free school meals. This code allows you to book onto local clubs and verify you are eligible for our programme.



### SPRING & AUTUMN HALF TERMS

-  Funded by Essex County Council, Essex ActivAte run clubs during February, May/June and October half term for children on benefit based free school meals or from 'low income' working families.
-  The half term programme is funded to provide spaces to those areas most in need across Essex.



-  You will not receive a WONDE e-Voucher code to book onto our clubs during half term.

You will need to book your child/ren onto a club through the Essex ActivAte website – simply find what clubs are available in your area then book onto a club using the link provided or by contacting the club directly.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE!



# BAG 2 SCHOOL



Our next Bag2School collection  
has been arranged for  
Tuesday 8th October

*Any questions, please speak to the  
School Office*



# Diary Dates



## Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2024:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 30th September (9am)                       | - | EYFS & Yr 1 Parent Phonics & Independence Workshop      |
|   | - | EYFS & Yr 1 Parent Phonics Meeting (6.00pm)             |
| October   | - | Black History Month                                     |
| Thursday 3rd October                              | - | School Special Lunch & Census Day                       |
| Friday 4th October                                | - | Yrs 4 & 6 Benedetti Workshop at Saffron Hall (9.30am)   |
|   | - | Yrs 1 & 2 Benedetti Workshop at Saffron Hall (11.00am)  |
|   | - | Yr 3 Organ Recital at St Mary's Church (afternoon)      |
| Monday 7th October                                | - | Parent and Carer Coffee Morning 8.45am-9.15am           |
|   | - | Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church at 9.30am          |
| Tuesday 8th October                               | - | Bags2School pick up date                                |
| Friday 11th October                               | - | Grow10 Chocolate Apple Sale—3.15pm                      |
| Monday 14th October                               | - | Individual/Sibling Photos                               |
| Friday 18th October                               | - | Grow10 Bird Feeder Sale—3.15pm                          |
| w/c Monday 21st October                           | - | One Plan Meetings take place (for two weeks)            |
| Friday 25th October                               | - | Light Day—non uniform day (wear colourful clothes)      |
|   | - | Year 5 Book Sale  |
| Monday 28th October to<br>Friday 1st November     | - | Half term   |
| Monday 4th November                               | - | INSET training day for staff members                    |
| Tuesday 5th November (8.30am)                     | - | Pupils back to school (from 8.30am)                     |
| Thursday 7th November                             | - | Parent/Carer book look 8.30—9.00 and 3.15—4.00          |
| Friday 8th November                               | - | Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church 11.00am         |
| Tuesday 12th November                             | - | Parent/Carer Consultations (School Hall) 3.15pm-6.00pm  |
| Thursday 14th November                            | - | Parent/Carer Consultations (School Hall) 3.15pm-6.00pm  |
| Monday 18th November and<br>Tuesday 26th November | - | Reception 2025 Open Morning 9.30—11.30                  |
| Wednesday 4th December                            | - | PTA Pantomime   |
| Friday 6th December                               | - | Christmas Jumper Day                                    |
| Tuesday 10th December                             | - | EYFS & KS1 Nativity at St Mary's Church 6.00pm - 7.00pm |
| Thursday 12th December                            | - | Flu Immunisation  |
| Monday 16th 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                                       |   |   |

