

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 7th March 2025

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 95.2%

Attendance Year 94.7%



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,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's Friday Newsletter. It has been another extremely busy, fun and productive week here at St Mary's —including the Bringing Books to Life workshop on Wednesday, the Year 3 & 4 Girls Football Tournament on Wednesday, our Parents/Carers Book Look session on Thursday, our Children's Mental Health Art Gallery (organised by Mr Pike) and World Book Day (also on Thursday, organised by Mr Brown). Phew! Please do have a good read through to find out what we've all been up to!

World Book Day at St Mary's (article by Mr Brown, KS1 & Literacy Leader)

This year's World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of storytelling through movement!

In EYFS and KS1, the children enthusiastically retold *The Gingerbread Man* through dance. They carefully learned each move, piecing them together to create a final performance. It was wonderful to see their excitement as



they brought the story to life in such a creative way. The workshop leader was so impressed with how much the children engaged during the session. Meanwhile, in KS2, the children explored *Kensuke's Kingdom*. Through dance, they captured key moments from the story, using movement to express its themes and emotions. It was inspiring to see them embrace their creativity, with many stepping outside their comfort zones to try something new.

A huge well done to all the children for their fantastic performances – and a special thank you to the staff who helped bring these literary adventures to life!



Please see below for some of the pictures displaying the workshops. Well done, St Mary's!

Girls Football Tournament—Champions!

On Wednesday 5th March, St Mary's Primary School attended a Year 4/Year 3 girls football tournament. It was held at Joyce Franklin High School in Newport. Our team was Penny, Chloe, Cassia, Libby, Millie, Alycia, Linda and Edith.



In total, there were a staggering 14 schools that showed a lot of determination and perseverance throughout the whole tournament. Below is an account from the proud pupils:

'The most remarkable moment was when Penny stepped up to be a goalkeeper when she had never been in that position and it resulted in her saving 2 shots out of 2! We had a splendiferous coach called Olivia who coached us with a lot of ambition. Our hard work paid off, we were victorious in all of our matches and we won the competition. Every team did tremendously well and



they should be very proud of themselves. Thank you very much to Miss Driscoll and all of the other adults who were there to support us.' Yours sincerely, Cassia and Penny

Stars of the Week

Joshua—always being polite and demonstrating the school values

Ernie—for recall and effort in French

Freya—for focus and effort in lessons

Maddison—for perseverance with her learning

Alfie—for always trying his best.

Christianous - for great effort.

Mohona—for great effort

Sydney—for enthusiasm and cheerful disposition.

Sid—for contributions to class discussions

Lily & Vivien - Joint 1st place in the plank competition showing incredible strength and determination.

Maja—for working hard in lessons.



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: in 1st place with 57 points was Fire House, in 2nd place with 51 points was Earth House, in 3rd place with 49 points was Air House and in 4th place with 47 points was Water House.

Well done everybody!



**1st place
(57 points)**



**2nd place
(51 points)**



**3rd place
(49 points)**



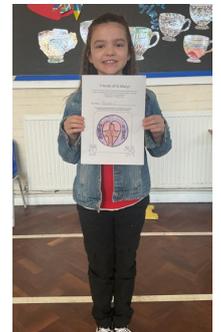
**4th place
(47 points)**

Friends of St Mary's Logo Competition

Friends of St Mary's recently ran a competition to design our new logo. We were overwhelmed by the fantastic entries we received. They really showcased all the creative imaginations you have.

It was a very tricky decision, however, after much deliberation we finally settled on our winner.

Congratulations to Nuala in Year 5 who was our competition winner. We can't wait to see her vision be brought to life by a graphic artist!



Have a great weekend.

Warm regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

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

Parent/Carers Consultation Meetings (11th March and 13th March)

Appointments for the parent consultations are available to book from **Monday 3rd March** via our Parent's Evening System which can be found at <https://stmarys.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.

Please arrive promptly for your meeting. The meetings will be face to face and held in the main school hall from 3.30pm - 6.30pm, with each family having the opportunity to make a 10 minute appointment per child. Please book your appointment before the **booking system closes on Monday 10th March at 12.00pm.**

If your child has already had a One Plan meeting then there is no requirement to book an appointment, as you would have already had your 20 minute meeting.

In order to log on securely parents/carers will need to put in their name as given to the school, your child's given name (or chosen first name as given to the office) and your child's date of birth as an 8 digit number e.g. 25/09/2008. If you need any assistance with booking your appointment, please contact the school office on 01799 523384.



Unlock Parenting Success: The Power of an Online Course

Life today is busy, making it hard for parents and grandparents to attend in-person classes. Online parenting courses solve this problem by offering flexible schedules. Whether you're a working parent, a stay-at-home mum, a dad with many tasks, or a grandparent helping out, these courses give you useful parenting tips from home. This flexibility helps you learn and use new strategies without extra stress. If you want to improve your parenting skills, try an online course and see how easy it can be.

Parenting can sometimes feel lonely, especially when facing unique challenges. Online courses allow you to connect with other families who understand what you are going through. Sharing experiences and offering support to one another can reduce feelings of isolation and provide valuable insights.

Parenting is a journey with changing stages and needs. Online courses teach parents how to handle these changes confidently. They also encourage lifelong learning, helping parents find new tips and strategies. This adaptability is important as parenting norms change.

By choosing online parenting courses, you can stay informed, connected, and confident in your parenting journey.

Online Courses

[Bitsize: Sibling Rivalry](#)

Tuesday 11th March

[Bitsize: Sleep for Wellbeing](#)

Thursday 13th March

[Creative Writing Workshop](#)

Thursday 20th March

[Bitsize: Managing Big Emotions](#)

Tuesday 25th March

[Family Wellbeing](#)

Thursday 27th March

[Understanding ADHD and ASD in Girls](#)

Thursday 27th March

[Bitsize: Managing Big Emotions](#)

Friday 28th March

For more information about our courses, please visit <https://aclessex.com/courses/community-family-learning/>

Call us on: 0345 603 7635



Pupils of St Mary's Choir and
Peripatetic Music Lessons

Music Concert

Tuesday 1st April, 2025

5.00pm

School Hall



Refreshments will be served

ACL

FREE

**FAMILY SUPPORT
SESSIONS FOR PARENT
& CARERS**

ONLINE



An opportunity for parents/carers, to come along and connect with a community dedicated to positive growth and development.
All sessions are online

Sibling Rivalry

11/03/2025 1900 - 2100 Search 'Sibling' via our website

Sleep For Wellbeing

13/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Bitesize Sleep' via our website

Managing Big Emotions

25/03/2025 1900 - 2100 or 28/03/2025 1230 - 1430
Search 'Big Emotions' via our website

Family Wellbeing

27/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Family Wellbeing' via our website

Visit our website acessex.com and type the key words above in to the 'Find a course...' box

**COMMUNITY & FAMILY
LEARNING**


Essex County Council



HOLIDAY CAMPS

Join us for 5 hours of Fab Science fun in the holidays! Camps run 10am to 3pm and are open to all children aged 5-11 years.

For more information visit the Fab Science website.

£37

per child

Sibling
discount
available



EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

All sorts of amazing experiments with sweets, challenges with racing eggs and the science behind yummy honeycomb!



Monday 7th April
Cambridge (Queen Edith)

Tuesday 8th April
Saffron Walden (RAB)

Wednesday 9th April
Bishop's Stortford (Thorn Grove)

Thursday 10th April
Hertford (St Joseph's in the Park)

Friday 11th April
St Albans (Garden Fields)

BOOK NOW AT: FABSCIENCE.CLASSFORKIDS.IO

fabscience.co.uk

campcoordinator@fabscience.co.uk

01279 295669



Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Spring Term

Monday 3rd March	- Secondary School National Offer Day
Tuesday 4th March	- Shrove Tuesday pancake lunch
Wednesday 5th March	- Bringing Books to Life Workshop
Thursday 6th March	- World Book Day (Children are invited to come to school as their favorite book character)
	- World Book Day Special Lunch
	- Parent/Carer Book Look 8.30 to 9.00 (Years 1—6 only) and 3.15 to 4.00 (all year groups)
Monday 10th March	- Reception and Year 6 NHS Screening
Tues 11th March and Thurs 13th March	- Parent/Carer consultations from 3.30pm
Friday 14th March	- Year 5 Saffron Hall Visit (packed lunch required)
Tuesday 18th March	- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Scoot Fit
Wednesday 19th March	- Year 5 Dance Festival @ Saffron Hall (4.00pm—6.00pm)
Friday 28th March	- Year 1 Dance Festival @ Great Sampford Primary
	- Year 6 Swimming Starts
Monday 31st March	- Year 5 Residential Meeting for Parents/Carers (5.00pm—5.30pm)
Tuesday 1st April	- Spring Music Concert—5.00pm School Hall
Thursday 3rd April	- Rainbow Raffle draw
Friday 4th April	- Easter Service at St Mary's Church 11am
Friday 4th April	- Last day of term—finish at 1.30pm
Mon 7th April—Mon 21st April	- EASTER BREAK
Wednesday 16th April	- Reception 2025 National Offer Day
Tuesday 22nd April	- INSET DAY
Wednesday 23rd April	- Pupils return to school at 8.30am

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue

