

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 31st January 2025

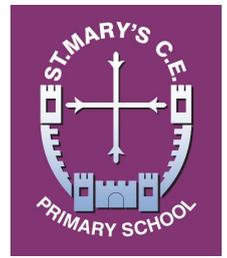
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Attendance Weekly 95.4%

Attendance Year 95.1%



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,

Today we said a fond farewell to Ged, our School Crossing Patrol Officer, who has retired from his role after 12 years (2340 days) doing this incredibly important job; diligently and conscientiously serving the school community and ensuring that our children and families are able to remain safe when crossing the Little Walden Road.

Ged was presented with a number of cards and gifts from the school community, including some Amazon vouchers totalling nearly £400. Ged was very touched. He spoke to the children to say how much he has enjoyed his time doing this role and that he had not missed a single day doing his job in the entire 12 years! **How incredible!** He then asked the children to make sure that they stay safe when crossing the road and that the younger pupils make sure that they hold an adults hand. Ged finished off the Collective Worship by blowing out our special candle. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Ged the very best in his retirement. Please see page 3 with a thank you message from Ged.



Just to make you all aware, that the School Crossing Patrol Team have not managed to recruit a replacement School Crossing Patrol Officer, so please make sure that you (and your child/ren) are extremely vigilant when crossing the roads just up from the school. Please see the advert on page 3 of this newsletter if you (or someone you know) are interested in this vitally important role.



Indoor athletics

This week saw our Year 3 and Year 4 Indoor Athletics team storm the Saffron Walden Family event finishing in 1st place out of 9 teams. They had a 7 athletes finish in the top three positions overall on the field events and ran like the wind on the track. Their dedication to training and preference in their P.E lessons paid off. As a results the team will compete in the finals on Wednesday 12th February at the lord Butler Leisure Centre taking on winners from all the school areas of Uttlesford.

Well done everyone!



Cultivating Change survey by Mrs McInnes

As you may already know, we have been working closely with a charity called Cultivating Change since 2024 who are helping us to develop a productive gardening and growing space for the pupils of St Mary's and the wider school community. Through having a functioning gardening space, the pupils will have the chance to be involved in hands-on gardening activities, benefit from spending time outside in nature in a calming growing space and learn to grow food (primarily vegetable, herbs and flowers). Last year, Cultivating Change kindly donated all of the seeds and we grew a lot of produce such as courgettes, pumpkins, lettuce, chard, sunflowers and potatoes which were enjoyed by pupils, staff and the school kitchen. This year we aim to do even more and with this in mind, we will be collecting recycled containers to use for growing radish and cress seedlings in the classrooms later on in March. If you have any spare packaging in your recycling, please could you bring it to reception? Plastic/cardboard fruit trays, boxes, large yoghurt cartons and large milk bottles all work well. Also, if you have any interest in gardening and would like to help us with clean up days or even a gardening club then we would love to hear from you!

Many thanks, Miss McInnes

Stars of the Week

Lilianna—for all her work as playleader and helping Miss Dye
Calie-Mae—for fantastic effort and focus in maths this week
Ruby— for good participation in all her lessons
Kiara— for her fantastic progress in phonics
Mason— for pushing himself to make his writing more interesting
Lara— for extending her writing and interesting use of vocabulary
Sebastian— for representing St Mary’s with exemplary behaviour at the indoor athletics tournament
Damarie—for his effort and resilience with his learning
Timmy— for showing safe, respect and effort in class
Jake— for his effort in his arithmetic homework and scoring so well
Rosie— for he perseverance in English and improved handwriting
Linda—for consistent improvement in time tables



House triumphs!

These are the results for this week: In 1st place with 78 points was Earth House; in 2nd place with 70 points was Fire House; in 3rd place with 66 points was Air House and in 4th place with 65 points was Water House. Well done everybody!



**1st place
(78 points)**



**2nd place
(70 points)**



**3rd place
(66 points)**



**4th place
(65 points)**

Children’s Mental Health Week

What is Mental Health?

Mental health describes our emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing.

Everyone has mental health - it effects how you feel and think, and sometimes how you act and cope with things going on in your life.

It is completely normal for us all to feel all sorts of emotions. We all feel sad, angry or worried sometimes. But when those feelings won't go away and they start to really affect day-to-day life, that is when there might be a problem. Some people can experience [mental health problems](#), which can massively affect their thinking, mood, and behaviour. This year [Children's Mental Health Week](#) takes place from 3rd—9th February. The week is all about helping young people speak up and feel empowered to talk about mental health. This year’s theme is 'Know yourself, Grow yourself' and is all about encouraging self-awareness.

At St Mary’s we will be doing various activities over the week as part of Children’s Mental Health.

On Tuesday 4th February, MIND will be on site at school drop off to share resources and chat with parents and carers. Please take a moment to say hello.

More info can be found: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Warm regards

Mr C. D. Jarman

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



My time as the School Lollypop person is drawing to a close. My wife Sue and I were invited to this week's School Assembly as very special guests where I was thanked by Mr Jarmain for 12 wonderful years of service without ever missing a day, and he must have spent hours working out just how many thousands of days that was in total. The children proceeded to deafen me with their applause and their happy, cheery faces will always remind me of the joy of seeing them every day. They really are a credit to the school.

A group of children presented me with two, yes two, 'Happy Retirement' books full of personal messages and wonderful drawings from the whole school along with a personal card from the Staff with some equally lovely messages. But I truly must thank all the Parents, Carers, Staff and Children for the extraordinarily generous amount of gift vouchers, which will take some considerable time to spend! The common message that everyone has recorded is that they will miss me and I shall so, so, miss all of you!

Kind regards,

Ged

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

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

WORLD BOOK DAY

6TH MARCH
2025



MAINS

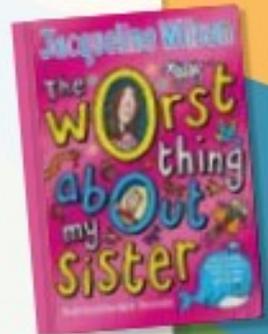
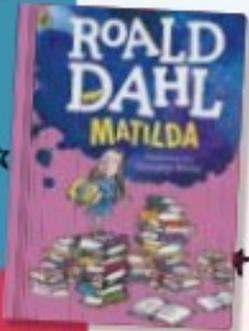
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs & Pasta
Katsu-in-the-Hat Quorn Dippers & Rice (V)
Wheres Wally's Wrap bar (V)
Jaqueline Wilson Jacket Potatoes (V) (VG) (GF)

SIDES

Walliams Super Sleuth Slaw
Golden Snitch Sweetcorn
Snozzycumber Salad Bar

DESSERT

Mr Messy's Ice Cream & Sprinkles (V)
Queen of Hearts Jam Tart (VG)
Fresh Fruit (VG) (GF)



dolce

A vibrant spring-themed illustration. The background is a gradient of light blue to green. In the foreground, there are green grass blades and a green caterpillar with two antennae. Two yellow tulips with green stems and leaves are positioned on the left and right sides. Several small yellow dots are scattered in the upper right area. The text 'Events this February Half Term!' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered in the upper half of the image.

Events this February Half Term!

**South
Mill Arts
Spring**



Visit our site for all
the latest listings!

southmillarts.co.uk



Museum: Kids Crafts - Fans

Tue 18th, Wed 19th & Thu 20th Feb

Drop in between 10am-2pm

£1 per child | Ages 3-11

Fun with Fans! Which shape will you choose?

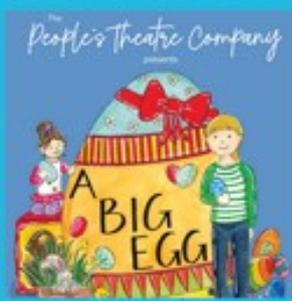


Cinema: Mufasa

Tue 18th Feb | 11am & 2pm

£10 Adults | £8 Children (under 16s) | PG

Disney's latest live action feature on the big screen!



Theatre: StoryTime - A Big Egg

Wed 19th Feb | 1pm | £12 | Ages 2-102!

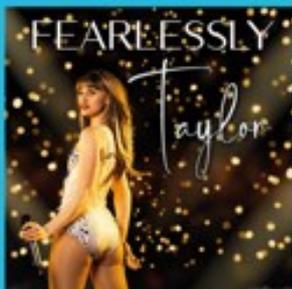
A magical mixture of live action, animation and puppetry, this scrumptious, sing-along musical will delight even the most hard boiled of theatre goers!



Theatre: The Magic of Science

Thu 20th Feb | 2pm | £17 | £14 Concs.

Top Secret is a fast moving colourful magical science show filled with mystery, suspense, and lots and lots of mess!



Music: Fearlessly Taylor Swift

Fri 21st Feb

1pm - £17.50 | Featuring backing tracks

7pm - £22.50 | Featuring full band

Celebrating the magic of Taylor Swift's music and pop legacy!

February Half Term Events!

We've a bloomin' lovely selection of shows for you!



Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024:

Wednesday 29th January	- Year 1 Saffron Walden Museum School trip
	- Year 5 Saffron Hall Workshop at School
Thursday 30th January	- Year 3 Active Maths Festival (PE Uniform required)
Thursday 30th January	- Pre-loved uniform sale before and after school
Mon 3rd - Fri 9th February	- Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
Friday 14th February	- Year 3 Swimming Starts (5 weeks)
Week beginning 17th February	- Half Term Break
Monday 24th February	- Pupils return to school at 8.30am
Friday 28th February	- Non uniform day Rainbow Raffle
Wed 26th February—Tues 4th March	- Book fair
Tuesday 4th March	- Shrove Tuesday pancake lunch
Thursday 6th March	- World Book Day Special Lunch
Wednesday 5th March	- Bringing Books to Life Workshop
Thursday 6th March	- Parent/Carer Book Look 8.30 to 9.00 and 3.15 to 4.00
Monday 10th March	- Reception and Year 6 NHS Screening
Tues 11th March and Thurs 13th March	- Parent/Carer consultations from 3.30pm
Friday 28th March	- Year 1 Dance Festival @ Great Sampford Primary
	- Year 6 Swimming Starts
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

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue

