St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 17th May 2024
Telephone 01799 523384
Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 96.4%

Attendance Year 94.3%

Our motto: Let Your Light Shine… as You Grow inspired by Matthew 5: 15-16

Friendship **Truthfulness** **Perseverance**
Trust **Compassion** **Respect**

Dear parents and carers and friends of the school,

Walking to School Week:
As you may be aware next week (w/c 20th May to 24th May) is Walking to School Week. This 5 day challenge is designed to help children reach their minimum 60 minutes of exercise per day.

So… What are the benefits of Walk to School Week?
Being active and getting some exercise in the morning before arriving at school can help set kids up for a positive day; improving focus and concentration, and instilling a sense of physical and mental wellbeing. Walk to School Week is also designed to extend further - encouraging healthy habits for life with a focus on exercise, diet and wellbeing.

There are many health benefits to walking - exercise helps develop strong bones and increase muscle strength. Walking gets the heart pumping, which can help improve cognitive function for lessons throughout the school day. Walk to School Week also provides a great opportunity to build strong bonds in the community and enjoy increased social interaction. Why not walk in groups with friends and take a look at your surroundings and what you can see on your route to school. Parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to get involved too!

How can you get involved in Walk to School Week?
The week long challenge is not just about walking, any type of exercise is encouraged, including cycling, riding your scooter or even running! **Although it may not be possible for every child to walk the distance from their house to their school, parents and carers are encouraged to 'drive and stride,' parking further than they normally would and walking the rest of the way.** This also means that traffic congestion and pollution is reduced around school gates. With so many benefits to Walk to School Week, why not get your children involved?

Earlier this week each of our class teachers was given the following:

- A colourful and informative poster; one of these is displayed in each of our classrooms in a highly visible place, so that each of our pupils can see it.
- A set of Activity Diaries (one for each pupil in that class). Pupils will be bringing these home as a fun activity to complete with parents and carers.
- A set of Daily Reward Stickers - staff from each class will give each pupil a sticker every day if they have walked, jogged, sprinted, wheeled, scooted, cycled etc on their journey to school. Basically anything except by car/boat/plane/helicopter!
- Book Marks - there is a bookmark for each pupil; these will be awarded to each pupil at the end of Walking to School Week.

WATER	AIR	FIRE	EARTH
1st place (56 points)	**1st place (56 points)**	**2nd place (44 points)**	**3rd place (41 points)**

House triumphs!

In joint 1st place this week with 56 points was Water House (blue) and Air House (yellow); Fire House (red) was in 2nd place with 44 points and in 3rd position with 41 points was Earth House (green).

Well done everybody!

Stars of the week

A huge well done the following fantastic pupils who have been displaying our values and 3 core skills throughout the last week!
Ernie— for excellent effort in his creative writing.
Joshua— for great effort with reading and in phonics.
Gracie— for brilliant perseverance in improving her dodgeball skills.
Charlie— for fantastic participation during the cricket tournament this week!

Staffing Changes:

At the end of this school year Mrs Caroline Jeewan, our lovely EYFS teacher and KS1 Leader, will be leaving us for a new and exciting challenge! I am delighted to report that Caroline was appointed as a Deputy Head at a school closer to her new home following an interview process last week. I am sure you will join me in wishing Caroline the very best of luck in her new role and keeping her in your thoughts and prayers. Therefore, the school is now recruiting for a new EYFS/KS1 Leader, and the advert has already gone live!

If you know a teacher who would be a great fit for our fantastic school please give them a (not so) gentle nudge in our direction!

Young Carers in Schools

As a result of campaigning by Carers Trust, The Children's Society and other charities, in January 2023 young carers were added to the Spring school census for schools in England for the first time. The data showed that there were significant under-reporting of Young Carers in School.

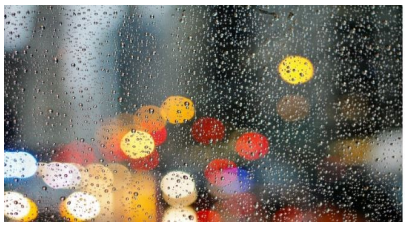
Young carers are children, under 18 who help to look after a relative (parent, sibling or someone from the wider family network) with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. Young carers often do extra jobs in and around the home, such as help with cooking, cleaning or helping someone get dressed and move around, going to the shops for light shopping or collecting prescriptions.

If you have a young carer in your family please let the school office know. We can then add them to our Young Carer database and make sure they are supported appropriately. Young carers are entitled to an assessment in their own right and there is a local Young Carers group which they may like to attend. www.essex.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/support-carers/young-carers

There is a lot of support for informal carers and young carers.
For further details please see www.carers.org

Carers week is happening in June, the theme is "Putting Carers on the map", for more info visit.
www.carersweek.org

Reflect by Ann Sharp, Early Years Advisor from the Diocese of Chelmsford



"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him." Psalm 62:5

I spend a lot of time wondering where the time goes. The weeks fly by, and I then think of all the things I have completed and all those I haven't!

We are already in the summer term, and I am reflecting on the children in our reception classes that are coming to the end of this important first year. My grandson started school this year and we have seen him go from being nervous with a few tears to running in the playground so excited to be there every day! We have seen the emergence of reading and writing skills, but also so important his friendship groups, his independence, and his eagerness to learn.

In the middle of all the end-of-year frenetic activity - SATS, report writing, class transitioning, end of term results, not forgetting the fun of concerts, sports days and trips - let's give ourselves time to pause and reflect not just on the children's academic achievement but also how each child has grown and flourished under our care. By immersing ourselves in the rush of life, we sometimes forget the true value of what we have achieved. In pausing and reflecting we permit ourselves the opportunity to be refreshed and renewed, ready to start again.

So, enjoy this term, its's highs and it lows in the knowledge that God is watching over us, guiding us in our work and rest.

SATs achievements

And finally… well done to all of the pupils in Year 6, as well as Mr Clarke and his staffing team for all of their amazing efforts this week whilst the Year 6 pupils have taken their SATs tests. I know that the children have worked incredibly hard over the course of this year and pulled out all of the stops to ensure that they have put themselves in the very best position to tackle these challenging assessments. Everyone at St Mary's is very proud of them.

Have a great weekend

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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

Parent Invitation Lunch

We would like to invite parents/carers to join their child for lunch, tasting one of our delicious and nutritious school dinners provided by the Dolce catering team.

Reception:- Tues 21st May (2 spaces) & Thurs 23rd May— 12.00pm (full)

Year 1:- Tues 4th June (3 places) and Thurs 6th June—12.10pm (7 spaces)

Year 2:- Tues 11th June (5 spaces) and Wed 12th June—12.20pm (6 spaces)

Year 3:- Tues 18th June (7 spaces) and Wed 19th June—12.30pm (6 spaces)

Year 4:- Tues 25th June (4 spaces) and Thurs 27th June—12.30pm (7 spaces)

Year 5:- Tues 2nd July (7 spaces) and Fri 5th July—12.30pm (8 spaces)

Year 6:- Tues 9th July (6 spaces) and Wed 10th July—12.30pm (8 spaces)

Cost/lunch—£3.00

Payment made via School Money 1 week before lunch required

Spaces are limited to 8 adults/day on a first come first service basis

Menu is available on the school website

Please let the school office know about any allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements in advance

Bee ready for May Half Term!

Pop Divas Live!

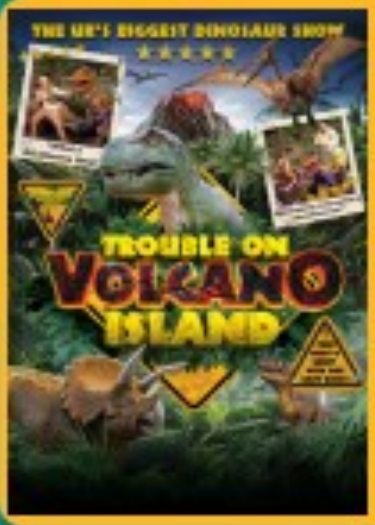
Mon 27th May
2pm | £17.50

Mark Thompson's Spectacular Science

Tues 28th May
2.30pm | £19
£17 Concs.
5+

Morgan and Wests Massive Magic Show

Thu 30th May
2pm | £15
£13 Concs.
£52 Family
5+



Dinosaur Adventure Live - Trouble On Volcano Island

Sat 1st Jun
2pm & 4.30pm
£16
£18 Premium 'Danger Zone'

Plus, don't miss in the Museum!

Kids Craft - Mini Maypoles and Streamers

Tue 28th, Wed 29th & Thu 30th May
Drop in between 10am-2pm
£1 per child | Ages 4+

South Mill Arts
Family

Box Office:
01279 710 200
southmillarts.co.uk

South Mill Arts, 1-3 South Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3JG
South Mill Arts is a trading styling of Bishop's Stortford Museum and Arts CIO
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- Learning For The New Academic Year
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- Crafting To Support Mental Health
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- Managing Big Emotions
- English Conversation & Roleplay

Sign up via the website/phone number below.

Having trouble finding the session/course you want information on?
Email us at aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk & we will send you a direct link

'Family Learning'
aclessex.com

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Essex County Council

Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Summer Term 2024:

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th May	-	Yr6 SATs Week
Thursday 16th May Census Day	-	Special Lunch
Monday 20th May	-	Yr5 Residential Parent Meeting (5pm)
Tuesday 21st May	-	Yr6 Residential Parent Meeting (5pm)
Tuesday 21st May (all day)	-	Cricket Tournaments for Year 5 and 6
27th—31st May	-	HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 3rd June	-	(8.30am) Pupils return to school
Monday 3rd June	-	Yr4 Multiplication Checks to be completed - next 2 weeks
June 2023	-	Yr 1 & Yr 2 Phonics Screening checks
Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June	-	Yr6 Residential Trip
Wednesday 5th June at 9.30am	-	New Reception Parents/carers Meeting (new intake)
Friday 7th June at 1.30pm	-	Bishop Roger visiting St Mary's to bless the school
Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th June	-	Year 5 Residential Trip
Monday 10th June	-	One Plan Reviews this week
Tuesday 11th June	-	Crucial Crew Event for Year 6 pupils
Monday 17th to Friday 21st June	-	Disability Awareness Week
Monday 17th – Friday 28th June	-	ASSESSMENT WEEKS
Tuesday 18th June	-	Governors Day
Thursday 20th June	-	Class Photographs (Kittle)
Thursday 27th June	-	KS2 Athletics (Carver Bks)
Thursday 27th June	-	Year 6 Bridging Day (TBC)
Friday 28th June	-	French Theatre Sans Frontieres Visit (Yrs 2—5)
Friday 28th June	-	Year 6 Secondary School Transition/Taster Day (all day)
Friday 28th June (1.30pm)	-	Year 5 Quiz (for 4 Year 5 pupils, 2 boys and 2 girls)
Friday 28th June	-	Homework due in
Wednesday 3rd July	-	Sports Day (all day)
Saturday 6th July	-	School Fete (all day)
Monday 8th July at 10.30am	-	Yr5 & Yr6 Dress Rehearsal Performance to whole school
Tuesday 9th July at 6pm	-	Yr5 & Yr6 Performance in School Hall Parents Invited (6pm)
Friday 12th July	-	School reports out
Friday 12th July at 9am	-	Reception Graduation Assembly
Friday 12th July	-	PTA KS2 End of Year Disco (5pm to 6.30pm)

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue.

Diary Dates

Key Dates for the Summer Term 2024 (continued…):

Monday 15th	-	Friday 19th July - Book Fair Week TBC
Monday 15th July	-	Moving up afternoon
Monday 15th July (at 3.15pm)	-	Meet the Teacher Event for Yrs 1 & 2
Monday 15th July (at 3.30pm)	-	Meet the Teacher Event for Yr 3
Tuesday 16th July (at 3.15pm)	-	Meet the Teacher Event for Yrs 4 & 5
Tuesday 16th July (at 3.30pm)	-	Meet the Teacher Event for Yr 6
Thursday 18th July	-	Yr6 Leavers Lunch
Tuesday 23rd July	-	End of Term/Y6 Leaver's Service at St Mary's Church
Tuesday 23rd July	-	Last day of the academic year (1.30pm finish)

Please note all new or changed dates are in blue.

MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY EVENTS AT HANNINGFIELD RESERVOIR

MONDAY 27TH

BANK HOLIDAY
NO EVENTS

TUESDAY 28TH

DROP OFF DAY:

9AM-4PM

£30 PER CHILD

WEDNESDAY 29TH

POND DIPPING:

10AM-11AM
11AM-12PM
1PM-2PM

£5 PER CHILD

THURSDAY 30TH

NO EVENTS

FRIDAY 31ST

NATURE TOTS
MAY SPECIAL:

10AM-12PM

£7 PER CHILD

SATURDAY 1ST

EVENT AT THAMESIDE NATURE PARK:
30 DAYS WILD LAUNCH

10.30AM-4PM

SUNDAY 2ND

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

HTTPS://WWW.ESSEXWT.ORG.UK/EVENTS:

Essex Wildlife Trust