

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 21st July 2023

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 96.3%

Attendance Year 95.1%



Our motto: Let Your Light Shine... as You Grow Matthew 5: 15-16

Friendship

Trust

Truthfulness

Compassion

Perseverance

Respect

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

Last week of the Summer term:

This last week at St Mary's has sped by and, as ever, it has been full to the brim of educational activities. On Monday, Ben and the team from Sprit of the Wild visited the school to share a wide range of creatures and their habitats with our hard-working pupils. Ben talked to the children about the different creatures habitats, what they eat and about parts of their body—such as the thorax and abdomen.

On Tuesday, at 6pm, parents and carers were treated to a magnificent performance of **Olivia**, a play with a **twist** (if you pardon the pun!) by our fantastic Year 5 and 6 pupils, who brought a touch of the East and West End to Saffron Walden. Afterwards, everyone was in complete agreement that the singing, acting and dancing was simply outstanding. **A HUGE well done to every single one of the pupils for their undoubted efforts in all of their rehearsals, which I am very well aware have gone into making such a polished performance.** Thanks must also go to Mr Clarke for directing and producing (and choreographing!) such a masterpiece, as well as Music Co-ordinator, Mrs Norman, who (along with Ms Hunter) created the stunning background scenery which has so clearly added to the atmosphere and quality of the Year 5 and 6 performance.

Thursday brought the Danceathon—each class spent 30 minutes having fun on the lower meadow, twirling, whirling, spinning and even pirouetting (for the more adventurous) to a range of high energy dance and pop tunes. Thank you to everyone for supporting and sending in your children in a range of vibrant clothing for this school fundraiser! A great way to round off the year!

Stupendous SATs results!

Over the last week, St Mary's has received our official Key Stage SATs results for the tests that the Year 2 and Year 6 children completed back in May and June this year. Needless to say, we were absolutely delighted to find out that the children had performed really well in these tests. St Mary's SATs results were as follows:

Percentage of year group working at expected standard:

	Maths	Reading	Writing	Science
St Mary's	70%	83%	63%	83%
National (2022*)	68%	67%	58%	77%

*National data for 2023 not yet available.

Year 2 SATs results:

Maths: 70% of our Year 2 pupils achieved the expected standard.

Reading: 83% of the Year 2 children achieved the expected standard.

Writing: 63% of our Year 2 pupils achieved the expected standard.

Science: 77% of our Year 2 pupils achieved the expected standard.

Please note that the Year 2 SATS national results have not yet been released—so we have included the national results from 2022.

Year 6 SATs results:

	Maths	SPAG	Reading	Writing	RWM
StM	91%	81%	84%	78%	75%
Nat	73%	71%	73%	71%	59%

Maths: 91% of our Year 6 pupils achieved the expected standard.
SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar): 81% of our Y6 pupils achieved the expected standard.
Reading: 84% of the Year 6 children achieved the expected standard.

Writing: 78% of our Year 6 pupils achieved the expected standard.

Reading, Writing and Maths: 75% of our Year 6 pupils achieved the expected standard in all 3 tests.

To put these results into context, nationally, 59% of children passed all three tests – but at St Mary’s 75% of pupils passed these 3 tests. So, as you can see, these are very impressive results. Thanks go to the whole of the Year 2 and Year 6 teams for all of their hard work over this academic year and, of course, the excellent pupils for working so very hard.

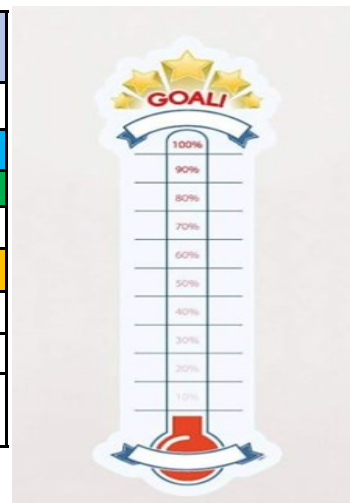
Sponsored Family Fun Run—Final results!

Congratulations to Firefly Class (Year 4) for winning the inaugural Sponsored Family Fun Run trophy. Year 4 stole an early march in the fundraising competition, bursting into an early lead and have led the standings throughout—although they have been pushed close by Year 1 (2nd place) and Year 2 (3rd place) , who have certainly kept them on their toes!



The Year 4 pupils were awarded their special trophy (pictured to the right) and individual trophies during today’s Leaver’s Service. A HUGE thank you to everyone (including the wider community) for contributing to this very worthy cause and also if you were able to join in the Sponsored Family Fun Run yourself, on Wednesday last week. I have been amazed at the amount of money that some of the children have raised—so incredibly generous. **Overall the school raised £3213** (including additional donations) which is an amazing achievement for a small primary school!

Class	Amount Raised on Investmycommunity	Cash donations (paper forms)	Total:	Current Overall Position:
Reception/Butterflies	£380	£10	£390	4 th
Year 1/Ladybirds	£545	£33	£578	2nd
Year 2 /Caterpillars	£544	£10	£554	3 rd
Year 3/Grasshoppers	£336	£5	£341	5 th
Year 4/Fireflies	£578	£70	£648	1st
Year 5/Busybees	£339		£339	6 th
Year 6/Dragonflies	£196	£20	£216	7th
Staff & Friends of the school	£60		£60	8 th



Thank you all, on behalf of the school. I would also like to say a special thank you to Amelia G and Will B—our two Year 6 Fundraising Ambassadors (pictured) for all of their hard work in promoting and helping to organise this important event. I am sure they have developed a plethora of key skills which they can take with them into secondary school and beyond.



Finally, to add to our Fun Run pot, I am delighted to announce that we have currently raised an additional **£232.90** from selling bacon butties and selling programmes on Sports Day and **£204.10** from selling lollies and ice creams after school on the playground and **£35** from selling programmes and videos of the Year 5/6 Olivia performance. Our next school fundraiser will be the ProStrike Football fundraiser on Thursday 21st September.

A Fond Farewell

Sadly, today, the school says goodbye to two lovely members of staff. Miss Allin, who has been teaching at St Mary's school since September 2018 and also Mrs Wilkinson, who has been working as a 1:1 Learning Support Assistant during this academic year; both are moving on to new challenges. I am sure you will all join me in sending them both your very best wishes as they embark on their new and exciting journeys. Please keep them both in your prayers.

Thank you all

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your steadfast and continued support of our school throughout this academic year, one which has—finally—brought our long awaited, but nonetheless extremely positive, Ofsted inspection back in May. Thank you, by the way, for all of the lovely and supportive comments which I — and many members of my staff — have received before, during and after this important inspection. I often say it, but one of our key strengths is undoubtedly our strong St Mary's community; with the school working closely in partnership with our parents, carers and friends of the school and wider community and the spirit of togetherness and support for one another that makes this such an amazing school to be part of. This was, I firmly believe, reflected in the Ofsted report which was finally published a few weeks ago.

End of term:

I wish everyone from the St Mary's community a very well deserved rest and some time together with your children before we all meet again, for another jam-packed academic year in September.

Please remember that the school is **breaking up today at 1.30pm on Friday 21st July** for the last day of term and the last day of this academic year. Please note that there are **two INSET days for St Mary's school staff on Monday 4th September and Tuesday 5th September**. Therefore the **children will return for the new 2023 to 2024 academic school year on Wednesday 6th September** and we will look forward to welcoming you all back from 8.30am on that day. Term dates are available on the school website, which you can find by following this link: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/school-opening-hours-term-dates/>.

Please do have a lovely Summer break, whatever you choose to do.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Garmain

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

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SCHOOL DINNERS



As you will be aware by now, we are changing the way we serve school dinners from the Autumn 2023 term. **By now you should have received a welcome message from School Grid. Please log onto your account before September to check that all information is correct.**

There are some important changes that will be made, which you will need to be aware of:

- **Parents/Carers must pre-order a school meal via the School Grid. Children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and KS2 Free School Meal children will not be charged. KS2 children who have a paid meal will be charged £2.55/meal.**
- Orders close at 08.55 of the morning the lunch is required, **no orders can be placed after this time. No orders will be taken in class or by the school office.**
- We will be starting back in September with the Week Two menu.
- Once the system closes for the day, changes to orders cannot be made. Please talk to your child/ren to make sure they are aware what has been chosen for their lunch each day.
- Dolce will not be running a credit system and School Grid accounts will need to be kept in credit at all times. The school cannot take payments on their behalf.
- Log in information for the School Grid will be sent out soon. Please note that the School Grid only allows one parent/carer contact per child.
- If your child has a medically confirmed allergy, Dolce will need a copy of medical evidence from a GP or consultant.
- **If you have any questions regarding your child/ren account etc, please call the Dolce Customer Care Team on 01942 707 709 (Opt. 1) or email customercare@dolce.co.uk (8.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday).**



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Summer Term:

- Monday 17th July - Spirit of the Wild visit to the school to Reception & KS1 pupils
- Monday 17th July - Year 5/6 Dress rehearsal to the school of Olivia (1.30pm)
- Tuesday 18th July - Year 5/6 Performance to parents/carers of Olivia (6pm)
- Thursday 20th July - PTA Danceathon Fundraising Event
- Friday 21st July - Leavers Service at 9.30am in St Mary's Church
- Friday 21st July - Last Day of School Year—1.30pm Finish

** new or amended items added are in blue*

Key Dates for the Autumn/Winter Term:

- Monday 4th September &
- Tuesday 5th September - St Mary's INSET Days (for school staff)
- Wednesday 6th September - All pupils return to St Mary's at 8.30am for the start of the new academic year

