

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 21st April 2023

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Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 96.6%

Attendance Year 94.4%



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,

I would like to start this newsletter by warmly welcoming you all back to St Mary's, as we come to the end of our very first week of the Summer term. I do hope that you all managed to enjoy the two weeks away from school and that the children feel rested and re-energised ready for the longer Summer term. I also hope that you all managed to benefit from some of the good weather, particularly during the first week—the weather of Easter Sunday was particularly lovely.

At the end of this week's newsletter we have included some of the key dates for this Summer term—please do look at these carefully, as many of these will be relevant to your child or children. Please also enjoy the Class Updates where you can find out what your children have been learning about and experiencing in school throughout this week, including some lovely photographs of the children in action!

Warm welcome and a fond farewell

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, our school Kitchen Manager, Riina Driscoll, sadly left the school at the end of the Easter term for a new career as a Prison Officer—how exciting! Riina had been serving delicious and nutritious meals to our pupils for just over 6 years! We were, of course, very sad to see her go and the staff and pupils presented Riina with some gifts, which included vouchers (from a staff collection) as well as some class posters and individual pictures, as she served her last school meals on the very last day of term.

However, we are very excited to welcome Graham Banks as our new Kitchen Manager. Although Graham is new to working in schools he is extremely experienced in working in catering—in fact he has over 30 years of knowledge and skills built up during this time and he has also been a Saffron Walden resident all of his life! Graham has already started the first week brilliantly and his food is amazing!

I am sure you will join me in keeping both Riina and Graham in our thoughts and prayers as they embark upon their new respective journeys!

House point successes

At the end of the last term, we revealed the results of the House points totals for the Spring term—which included the two most recent Inter-House sporting events—the Fun Run and Tag-rugby tournament. A huge amount of points were awarded—including for pupils displaying our 6 school values (please see at the top of this newsletter to see what these are).

The totals were as follows:

1st Place - Yellow House with 1402 points

2nd Place - Blue House with 1399 points

3rd Place - Green House with 1354 points

4th Place - Red House with 1294 points



As you can see the points totals were very close—particularly between 1st and 2nd places!

The pupils in the winning house, Yellow House, enjoyed their special reward from Mr Pike at the end of the term! Let's see who wins this half term!

PTA Thanks!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the PTA-led activities over the past few weeks. First, the sponsored Easter Hop that took place in school just before the Easter break raised a whopping £1300! Thank you to all the children for hopping so well, to the staff who coordinated the activity in school and all the parents and carers who gave so generously. The money will be used to purchase bikes/trikes for KS1 classes and books for KS2. Second, thank you to everyone who brought in a sweet treat for the raffle we will run on May 5 in celebration of the King's coronation. We're sure the children enjoyed their non-uniform day today. Activities planned for the rest of the term include our ever-popular parent/teacher quiz night (June 16) and a Danceathon later in the term. Stay tuned for more information!



Child Protection and Safeguarding

Online safety

We recognise that our children are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. Whilst this presents many positive and exciting opportunities, we recognise it also presents challenges and risks, in the form of:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material.
- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users.
- **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm
- **commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and / or financial scams



All staff in our school are aware of the risks to children online. We understand any child can be vulnerable online, and that their vulnerability can vary according to age, developmental stage and personal circumstances. We aim to equip all our pupils with the knowledge they need to use the internet and technology safely, and we want to work with parents to support them to keep their children safe online.

Role of Parents/Carers Parents/carers are:

- asked to work hard with the school to establish excellent home-school relationships;
- aware that we have a responsibility for the welfare of all our pupils;
- aware that we have a duty to involve Social Services if we have any concerns about a child;
- aware they will be informed of our actions

For further information please see the child protection and safeguarding policy on the school website www.stmaryssw.org.uk/policies/

Please see the attached information sheet produced by twinkl regarding Social Media APPs and age ratings.

I hope you have a lovely week and I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday.

Kind regards

Mr C. D. Jarmain

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



King Charles III Coronation

On **Friday 5th May** we will be celebrating the up and coming coronation of King Charles III.

Children are invited to come to school wearing Red, White or Blue. We will be having a special lunch (menu can be found on the school website), each class will be doing some fun activities and then finishing with the PTA Raffle.



**Essex
Megafinal
2023**

A Gigafinal Qualifying Event

Sunday 21st May, Colchester Town Hall, CO1 1PJ

An official UK Chess Challenge qualifying Event for the Gigafinals

UK CHESS CHALLENGE
Proudly sponsored by Delaney

Supported by
ESSEX JUNIOR CHESS

Time control

Six rounds of rapid games with 15 minutes for each player and 10 seconds increment for each move.

Eligibility

Open to all juniors born after 31-Aug-2004.

There are five main age sections: U8, U10, U12, U14 and U18. Ages are calculated as of 31-Aug-2022. Please visit the page below for detailed "Age Categories" calculations.

<https://bit.ly/UKCC-2023>

Prizes and Qualification for Gigafinals

The top boy and top girl in each section will receive trophies with medals for second and third-placed boys and girls. These players will qualify for the Gigafinals. Please note that ties for third place will all qualify, but tiebreak rules will be used to determine trophies and medals. All players scoring a minimum of 3.5 points will qualify for the Gigafinal.

The top 3 U7s, U9s and U11s will also qualify automatically (boy and girl) – assuming they haven't done so already using the criteria above.

Registration

Please register on the UKCC website using the link below or Scan this QR code:

<https://bit.ly/Essex-MF-2023>



Venue

The games will take place in the "Moot Hall" on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall.

There will be sitting space for parents/guardians in the following rooms of the same building.

1. Community Room (Ground Floor)
2. The Grand Jury / West Committee Room (1st Floor)
3. The North Committee Room (1st Floor)

We encourage one parent/guardian per child at the Town Hall to abide by the fire safety regulations. Colchester Castle and Castle Park are within 100 meters of the venue. If the weather permits, there are lovely outdoor spaces for accompanying family members.

Schedule

Arrival	09:30	Lunch break	13:00
Playing hall meeting	09:45	Round-4	14:00
Round-1	10:00	Round-5	15:00
Round-2	11:00	Round-6	16:00
Round-3	12:00	Prize giving	17:30

Refreshments

All popular food chains are available nearby. We will confirm the on-site arrangements nearer the time.

Travel

1. Car

There is NO onsite parking. The Britannia car park is about 8-10 minutes of walk and costs only £1 on Sundays. A closer alternative is Greyfriars Hotel Car Park by Castle Park, which costs £5 for 12 hours on Sundays. Several other public car parks are within a 10 mins walk from the venue.

Further details on <https://bit.ly/COL-CAR-PARKS>

2. Park and Ride

Details on <https://bit.ly/COL-PnR>

3. Trains

There are two stations in Colchester. The Colchester Town station is only 10 mins walk away. Colchester North station is only 20 mins walk away. Please check <https://www.greateranglia.co.uk/> for the service.

Notes

A professional photographer will take photos which may be published on chess websites or in chess-related articles. If you do not wish your child to be photographed, inform the organisers in the "Requirements" box of the registration form.

Please note that the organisers take no responsibility for looking after the children outside the playing hall. The organisers also cannot take responsibility for any theft or accident during the event.

The organiser reserves the right to change the above on the day if required.



Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Summer Term:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Monday 17th April | - | Teaching staff INSET Day |
| Tuesday 18th April | - | Term commences for pupils |
| Friday 21st April | - | PTA Non-Uniform Day/Sweet Raffle |
| Monday 24th April | - | Year 3, 4 & 5 Music Workshop |
| Tuesday 25th April | - | Year 6 Residential Trip Parent Meeting (5pm) |
| Wednesday 26th April | - | Year 5 Residential Trip Parent Meeting (5pm) |
| Monday 8th May | - | Bank Holiday (for King Charles' Coronation) |
| Wednesday 10th May | - | Reception, Years 1-3 Coram Life Education Zoom Meeting |
| Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May | - | SATS Week (for Year 6 pupils) |
| | - | Year 5 Residential Trip |
| Thursday 18th May | - | Ascension Day (and assembly) |
| | - | KS1 Multi Skills Event |
| Monday 22nd to Friday 26th May | - | Year 6 Residential Trip |
| Wednesday 24th May | - | Fit4Kids workshop (all classes) |
| Tuesday 6th June | - | Reception 2023/2024 Parent Information Meeting (9.30) |
| Friday 16th June | - | PTA Quiz |
| Friday 30th June | - | Year 6 Secondary School Taster Day |
| Monday 3rd July at 7.00pm | - | Saffron Walden County High Year 7 Transition evening for Parents and Carers |
| Wednesday 5th July | - | Sports Day—timings TBC |
| Thursday 20th July | - | PTA Danceathon |
| Friday 21st July | - | Last Day of School Year—1.30pm Finish |



** new or amended items added are in blue*

