



13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

With Coronavirus still in the news, it is very much on all of our minds, and by the sounds of it will be for months to come. If there is a suspected or known case amongst your family or friends who your son or daughter has come in contact with, please email me on <u>head@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk</u> straight away. It is important that we support the school, local and national community in taking action when needed.

The advice remains that, to slow down and reduce the potential spread of Coronavirus, the NHS recommends we:

- wash your hands with soap and water often do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

They also suggest that you do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean. There is no evidence that the wearing of facemasks will reduce the spread of Coronavirus, so these are not to be worn in school. I would like you to discuss this with your son/daughter and instil in them the need for good hygiene for everyone's sake.

British Science Week runs from 6th to 15th March, and Mr Araujo and the Science Team have been organising activities this week to mark that.

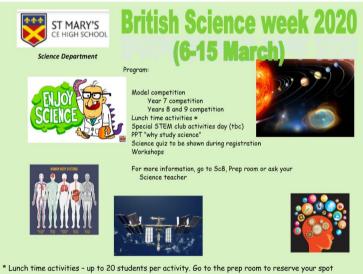


Fig 1: Science Week activities at St Mary's

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Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN7 5FB t: 01992 629124 f: 01992 643354 e: admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk w: www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk *Head Teacher:* Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

> 'Students feel happy and safe at school' OFSTED 2019 'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection (2020)

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Fig 2: Enthralled students at a Science Week activity

There has been a model competition, special 'STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) events, a Science Quiz and Workshops running this week. I will be involved in the Model Competition Judging today and look forward to seeing the standard of the models and the range of different science topics covered.

A few months ago I mentioned that students had designed flags to celebrate Antarctica. The winners were sent off, and this week we received pictures of the flags in situ.



Fig 3: St Mary's students' flags

The photographs show our flags in Antarctica (with penguins). It is incredible to think that our students' work is literally the other side of the world, sharing a late summer with the penguins! I am very proud of the students and their work, and I know Ms Douglas is too.

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The Year 8 Basketball team won their first fixture of this year against Simon Balle School (35-15) on Monday 2^{nd} March. The team found themselves trailing at the end of the first quarter but fought back in a real show of resilience to claim victory. Harvey made an outstanding contribution with his offensive rebound collection. The group look ahead to their remaining fixtures.

The Year 9 boys football team have qualified for the semi-final of the District Football competition. In similar fashion the Year 10 boys football team have also qualified for the semi-final in their competition. Both teams will be hoping to progress to the finals.

The Y11 boys basketball team have progressed to the semi-final of the county competition. This is a real achievement to reach this stage in what is a very high quality competition. The boys faced a tough game against St Columbus in order to reach the final, and unfortunately did not win. I will send the match report in the next newsletter, but we commend the boys for their excellent work in getting this far in the tournament.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully

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Nicholas Simms Headteacher

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