

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | November 20th 2020



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Our children have had many great opportunities this week. One third of the children have had forest school. This allows them to build up team skills, cooperating to explore their environment and create wonderful inventions from the natural environment.

In Robins, a group of children worked together to build a driving castle. As a group, they went on an imaginative journey together. Ms Costa, the supply teacher, managed to capture this on the class iPad. ▶▶▶

Incredibly, Mrs Scull recognised Ms Costa as a child she taught at St. Anthony's at the age of 6. Mrs Scull, obviously did a really good job!

As always FOSM have been incredibly supportive; they have contributed towards new books for Goldfinches, Forest School and the pond renovation and new resources for Early Years. All these things enrich the children's experience and learning. Thank you to them all.

Mrs Price

What's New

As you will know, one of our pupils had a road accident outside the school on Wednesday this week. She is now back at school and fine. I have been in touch with Councillor Crump who will take up our campaign for measures to make the Daventry Road safer for our children. Please see overleaf to find out how you can help.

We're thrilled to have received a £500 grant from J&B Moore trust for our Prayer Garden. This will allow us to complete the garden with further plants, and seating. We also have new saplings arrived this week and will have more trees coming from the Woodland Trust next March – blooming marvelous!



SKYLARKS

As well as enjoying their chosen text, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret** the Skylarks have been exercising their maths brains this week by tackling some challenging work. While the year 6 children have been investigating fractions, the year 5s have been impressing Mrs Hopkins with their knowledge of factors and multiples. We are very fortunate to have the teaching skills and physical space available to us in Skylarks to again be teaching the core subjects each morning, as last year, in a 1:15 ratio - rivaling even private school schools' numbers. The Friday challenge this week is to match fractions, decimals and percentages. Don't forget to check it out on Google Classroom!

* check out our beautiful classroom display of this text and our artwork which can be seen in our new school video

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS

A happy, settled week in Robins. All the children are now used to the class routines and feel secure in them. We have looked at the rhyme Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and made our own glittery stars as well as making smelly, sensory PlayDoh - great for learning shapes – and the children had fun guessing what the smells were (Cinnamon smells like Christmas)! Mrs Finch visited on Friday and let the children see her beautiful, bony baby, Rory. We look forward to the return of Miss Maclean next Tuesday.

GOLDFINCHES

This week Goldfinches have been learning to add using the column method and subtract using number lines. They have been reading about old and new toys and comparing their different materials. In PE we have been practising our ball skills using our feet.

In RE we have been learning about our class saint Mother Teresa and how John the Baptist prepared people for the coming of Jesus.

KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers have coped brilliantly without their usual class teacher this week and have demonstrated resilience, patience and understanding. Miss Righton was so pleased to reunite with the class on Friday! Today they have completed some fabulous Iron man sketching.

Putting St Mary's on the map...

You can now see inside our empty Robins and Goldfinch classrooms as well as our field, back playground and carpark on [Google Maps 360°](#)

PARENT POWER:

NEW PARENT GOVERNOR:

Welcome **Briony Walster**

We are pleased to confirm, following our recent appeal that Mrs Walster – mum to Jimmy in Kingfishers – was nominated and now becomes our new Parent Governor. A long-time Southam resident, she is an experienced music teacher with experience in primary and secondary school – and many of you will know her from our school choir. Keen to represent the views and interests of all the St Mary's families, she will bring a parents' perspective to Governors' meetings.

CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE:

Please support us in campaigning for additional safety measures around our school gates.

There has been a marked increase in traffic and speed along the Daventry Road since our previous applications were turned down. If every parent could spare a few minutes to email the council, particularly with any of their own experiences, this will help strengthen our case to get a crossing or other safety precautions installed.

The email address is:

signals@warwickshire.gov.uk

Please make sure you state the school, the location and the reasons you think we need one.

See also: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pedestriancrossing

Thank you so much,
Abi, Heather, Abbie, Bex and Heidi

Thank you to the parents coordinating this, and also, to Jacob and Brody's dads for making use of their contacts to help us.

ASK ME ABOUT...

Anti-Bullying Week

All our classes have been having age-appropriate conversations during this national awareness week:
<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

It's a first!









- our front banner is a stripey tie:

St George & St Patrick = 81




St Andrew 79

St David 77

STARS OF THE WEEK:

 Robins – Mason W 
 Goldfinches – Samuel T 
 Kingfishers – Darcy S 
 Skylarks – Maya G 

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD:

 Sophie S for working diligently & always being ready to learn 
&
 Theo B for being a good friend with a positive attitude and making huge progress as a consequence

Thank YOU... To our super mums who are planning to help transport our new soil delivery for the Robins' play area and raised beds just as soon as Lockdown restrictions allow – the children will love bringing it home to you via their once-clean uniforms!!!
...and a please It is important that your child comes in a coat EVERY day. The weather is too changeable and the wind too cold for them to be risking coming in without them. Moreover, with the current bubble precautions, we are already incurring extra lunchtime staff costs, and don't have spare capacity to keep individual students indoors.

BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS!

Congratulations to **Riley** who is the new kid on the block this week entering the TTRS leaderboard for the first time this week!
Cerys Mae's fantastic sub-minute time earns her Rock Hero status while Luiza at 1.17, Riley and Elena at 1.19 and Logan at 1.32 are all Rock Legends **BUT...** We really do need all children to practise regularly to secure our school's Rock Status because we're slipping down the Schools Nearby charts - Come on St Mary's!



Food for thought...

FOOD VOUCHER SCHEME: APPLY NOW

A reminder from Southam United Charity that they have a number of food vouchers redeemable at the Southam Co-op store. Families who live within the Civil Parish of Southam and are in need can apply by completing the form on our [website](#).

BRAIN FOOD: TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

We know lots of you are at home over this Lockdown 2 with babies, toddlers and pre-school children without access to all the usual groups, clubs and support networks. Check out this great resource from the BBC which has lots of fun ideas for development and bonding in handy age-specific sections:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/activities/zjh8hbk>

DIARY DATES

Wednesday, November 25
Year 6 only (see class letter sent)
Health Needs Assessment

Friday, November 27
Inset Day

Monday, November 30
St Andrew's Day (ALL wear a blue or tartan item with your uniform.)

Tuesday, December 8
Dress Rehearsal for Nativity EYFS (Sadly no audience)

Wednesday, December 9
Christmas Performance Day
All Years (we will film all bubble events and Nativity to share these with parents)

Wednesday, December 16
A Victorian Christmas
Children are invited to dress in traditional Victorian clothing for a day of festive art and crafts Victorian style.

Bubble Christmas Parties & Christmas Dinner:
(info sent home from class teachers)

Goldfinches / Robins:
Party: 15th December
Christmas Lunch: 17th December

Kingfishers / Skylarks:
Games & Quiz: 18th December
Christmas Lunch: 16th December

Friday, December 18
Last Day of Term &
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!
£1 donation for Save the Children

PLEASE NOTE: DATES ARE PROVISIONAL & MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE More dates and details are online at:
<https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/events/>

No News is Good News?

There will be no newsletter next Friday due to our School Inset Day.

Let's Keep COVID Safe

Please remember to wear a face covering at school and follow the latest government guidance.
WASH HANDS, COVER FACE, MAKE SPACE



Our Virtual Open Day video is now available on our website!

www.stmaryssoutham.org.uk/video

Do take a look – I'm sure you'll all agree your children are absolute stars! We're inviting new parents with children due to start school or nursery to contact the office to book individual out-of-hours meetings with Mrs Price – please pass this on to anyone who you think might like to join our school community next September.