

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | November 6th 2020



FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents,

Our children have come back to school refreshed after their holidays. It has been a lovely autumnal week in school. Children have helped to sweep up the leaves as many have fallen.

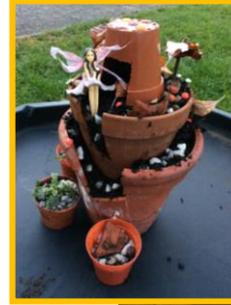
I have been delighted this week to witness many acts of kindness. Children have worked alongside their classmates to facilitate their learning.

This half term we will focus on the Catholic values and virtues of *Prophetic and Intentional*. We will be fostering our children to be guided by their conscience in the way they live their lives. We will put careful thought into how we use the resources of our world. Our children will be encouraged to be prophetic in the example they set for others. They will live out the Christian values of kindness and care for others and the world.

Mrs Price

What's New

Thanks to all the pennies coming in to the playground, we've raised lots of money for the Royal British Legion this week. The red poppy is a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future, we hope children will wear their poppies bought or homemade next Wednesday when our Acts of Remembrance will take place across the school.



In After School Club the children have been busy collecting all sorts of treasures for our fairy garden. On Wednesday afternoon they had fun putting it all together to create a beautiful home for our fairy. We also enjoyed hot chocolate to keep us warm! The fairy will be a new addition to the secret garden – see if you can spot her!

Something new – look out for an email next week about our new scheme called TENTEN. Backed by the Diocese to support us in our statutory duty to teach Relationships and Sex Education to our children. The email will introduce the scheme and be your chance to feed back any thoughts or reservations you may have in advance. We are not as yet using the scheme in school but will be doing after this consultation with parents.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS

This week Robins have learnt the nursery rhyme 'Baa Baa Black Sheep'. However, on Thursday we learnt about Bonfire night and did different activities around this theme. One of these was making a sparkler out of chocolate, breadsticks and sprinkles. I'm sure you'll agree that these looked very tasty!



GOLDFINCHES

The children walked to the Congregational Church to look at the poppies on the wall. We have talked about why we wear poppies and we have made a poppy wreath for the classroom. We have started learning about old and new toys and the teachers brought their special teddies to show. We have written stories about our special teddies. It has been a fantastic start to the term!

SKYLARKS

Each Friday, the Skylarks tackle an investigation in Maths, using and applying their problem-solving skills. As requested by the children, these challenges are posted every Friday on the Google Classroom, so that as a family you may try to solve it, whilst your child/ren showcase their learning from the activity. Today's tasty challenge is a game - Doughnut Percents! Why not give it a whirl!



Reminders & Requests:

Lockdown 2: Childcare Bubbles, Grandparents and the Vulnerable

We've had a few requests for guidance on the new lockdown. 'Childcare Bubble' rules mean you can still rely on a family member or friend for pickups – but once in a bubble you can't swap. Guidance for this and protecting over 60s / the clinically vulnerable is on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november> (sections 8 & 9)

Please speak to the office if you are reliant upon a vulnerable person for pick-ups and we'll do our best to provide enhanced distancing where practicable.

Plain PE kit only:

Please adhere to our uniform policy on PE kit of plain, muted colours – ideally navy, black or dark grey – and absolutely no fashion brands or club strips, thank you.

A micro request:

If anyone has a small microwave in good condition that they no longer need, we'd be grateful of it in school to support in class activities. Please let your child's teacher know if you can help.

ASK ME ABOUT...

Saints and vocations.

We have all marked All Saints Day with an Assembly in our classes and talked about St Martín de Porres to support our new termly topics of Intentional and Prophetic.

St George 113

St Patrick 110

St Andrew 105

St David 95

STARS OF THE WEEK:



Robins – Maisie B



Goldfinches - Antoni



Kingfishers - Hamish



Skylarks - Gracie



HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD:

Connor G

for improvement in sustained writing & kindness as a good friend



Luiza

for living out the Christian values, showing great kindness, working hard & making huge progress in all areas



ROCKING EVERY DAY:

With outdoor activities now curtailed somewhat, what better time to get back in the habit of a daily blast of rock? Results really do improve rapidly with a little and often approach. Congratulations to this week's chart toppers: Cerys Mae and Luiza.



CARETAKER VACANCY: We are still looking for a Caretaker to join the team here at St Mary's. The application deadline is this **Monday, the 9th November**. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please help us spread the word!

<https://www.wmjobs.co.uk/job/84051/caretaker/>

Can't get out this weekend?

This weekend our children would ordinarily be getting out and about watching fireworks displays and joining in in Remembrance Sunday parades. While it won't be the same, you can still have your own Lockdown versions of these events at home.

For lots of poppy-themed ideas:

<https://www.redtedart.com/remembrance-day-activities>.

Put the hot chocolate on, dig out the marshmallows, turn off the lights and head to YouTube for lots of free, totally safe fireworks displays from the comfort of your sofa – much warmer and a far better view than the real thing!

It has been wonderful to welcome Mrs Hopkins back to St Mary's this week. She is thoroughly enjoying teaching the Year 5 Skylarks and is very impressed by their learning behaviours and sense of industry.

DIARY DATES

Thursday, November 12

Kingfishers Class Mass
(Due to lockdown 2 we're going digital with Father Arul joining us online!)

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:

(more info to follow from class teachers)

Goldfinches / Robins:

Party: 15th December

Christmas Lunch: 17th December

Kingfishers / Skylarks:

Games & Quiz: 18th December

Christmas Lunch: 16th December

Friday, December 16

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/>

Scammer Scores

Please be aware that Warwickshire trading standards are warning of a number of local 'in person' scams and cyber frauds. Find out more at:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards>

The FCA website can show you a list of authorised businesses:

<https://register.fca.org.uk/s/>

You can find out more about fraud and report it here:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>