

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | December 4th 2020



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful start we have had to the Advent season. On Monday, the Advent wreath began in Kingfishers as part of their Class assembly with Mrs Hopkins. The children knew all about the symbolism of the wreath and even the meanings of the plants within it. We lit the first candle and remembered that it stood for hope. Throughout school, our prayer tables have been prepared for Advent by being covered in purple cloths with bibles open at passages linked to Advent readings.

On Thursday, invited teachers and children from the Liturgy group met together in an upstairs room for an Advent liturgy. The children shared reflections on their feelings about Advent and Ada read about the fact that Mrs Hall has now had her baby Douglas. We too are awaiting the coming of baby Jesus, as well as the second coming of Jesus into the world.

The COVID pandemic has been a difficult time in so many ways, but during this Advent, I feel we are getting closer to the real meaning of Christmas. In school, we are having a real push on acts of kindness, as children are trying to get ready for Jesus by being kind to children and staff. Hopefully, this extends out to their families as they make preparations at home too.

Thank you to FOSM for our Christmas lights on our outside Christmas tree; we also have a lovely lit up Christmas tree in the hall. In class, we are decorating ceramic hanging decorations provided by FOSM to take home at the end of term. All classes are practising their Christmas pieces for the filming next week. There is an industrious, Christmas buzz about the place.

Mrs Price

We lit the first candle on our Advent Wreath

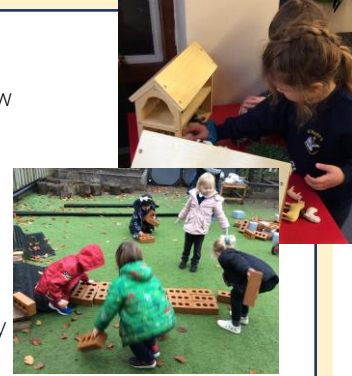


WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

After last week's Inset Day, it's a bumper issue:

ROBINS

This week in Robins class we have been so lucky as we have had some new play equipment. We have new foam building blocks for our outside area which we have loved using to make all sorts of creations. Here we are building some houses! We have also had some new trains for our train track, a new farm small world set and some new gardening equipment. It feels like Christmas has come early for us! We have also been working hard on learning our Nativity ready for next Wednesday morning. We can't wait to show



GOLDFINCHES

We are getting ready for Christmas! The children have created a class advent calendar and the prayer corner is showing some of own prayers alongside our school prayers. The children have started sewing their stockings and we are writing wishes for our families and the world to send to Santa! We are enjoying learning our poem to perform and love sitting in our new table groups in class. We have been trying very hard to be extra kind this week so there have been lots of smiles in class. There is a little elf watching over us too! We have been reading his messages about sharing our favourite books and we practise reading every day.



KINGFISHERS

This week, the Kingfishers were very excited to celebrate the beginning of Advent - the classroom was filled with stories of naughty elves and the first opening of calendars! On Wednesday, we learnt all about The Jesse Tree, a Christian tradition that is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories from the Old Testament on Jesus's family tree. The children then designed their own symbol for a class Jesse Tree, representing a significant person from the Bible leading up to the birth of Jesus. Here is a representation of Mary sketched by Sophia K- isn't it beautiful?



SKYLARKS

There's been a great sense of industry in the Skylarks classroom this week! Linked to our key text, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne, the children have been exploring the work of Bridget Riley (below) - I am sure that you will agree that the two pieces of student work below are amazing examples of the artistic genre of Op Art:



FAITH & COMMUNITY:

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY:

Are you a practising Catholic?

Do you care about Catholic education?

Can you commit a few hours a month?

If the answer to these is yes – for you or someone you know - then you, or they, would make a great Foundation Governor here at St Mary's. If you're interested, please send your contact details to Angela Scull to find out more.

CHURCH SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS:

Dec 24 | Christmas Eve:

5.30pm Christmas (Vigil) Mass

8.00pm Christmas (Midnight) Mass

Dec 25 | Christmas Day:

8.30am Christmas (Dawn) Mass

10.00am Christmas (Day) Mass

NOTE: To adhere to strict COVID guidelines, as well as the now familiar mandatory face coverings, hand sanitizing and social distancing, it is very important that parishioners and visitors alike book their places to attend any of the above Masses. You can book by signing up at church (ask a steward) or contacting Peter Guy on 01926 814436 / 07495 006232. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

CONFIRMATION

& FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Letters will shortly be coming home to offer children in Year 3/4 and year 5/6 the opportunity to prepare for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, commencing in 2021.

SOUTHAM NATIVITY TRAIL:

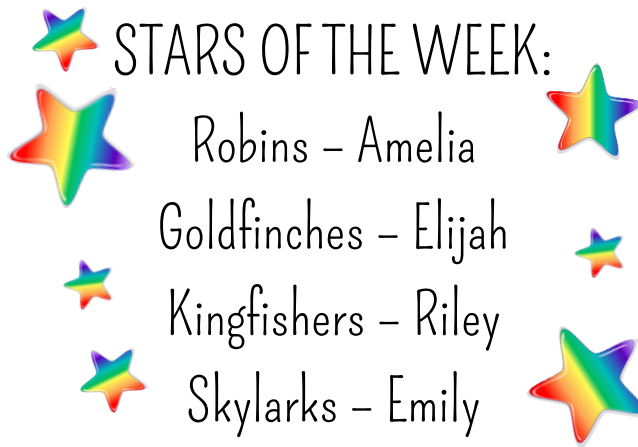
The Congregational Church is running a Nativity Trail using windows across town to be a real-life Advent Calendar! The trail starts and ends at the Church in Wood Street and a new 'window' appears each day in homes, shops, businesses, fences and – you've guessed it – schools in Southam. Play along and collect all the letters to spell the first line of a well-known carol.

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthamAndBishopsItchingtonCongregationalChurch/>

ASK ME ABOUT...

What I'm using devices for

With all this lockdown time this year children's screen time has understandably gone up. Check out [CommonSenseMedia.org](https://www.common-sense-media.org/) for age-appropriate TV, movie, app and game information as well as 'Parents need to Know' guides for online safety and controls.



HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD:

Paula for being really kind and helpful to friends and listening and taking part during carpet time

&

Leon for his kindness and his excellent presentation of his learning

THANK YOU TO...

The librarians

Thank you to my librarians Lydia, Maya, Elena and Sophie B. They have worked tirelessly this week helping put new books away. Thanks also to my retired librarians Toby and Zach C.

FINANCES, WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

The Family Information Service (FIS)

The service provides information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including: family relationships; finance; housing; parenting support; special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); childcare; health and wellbeing: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>

Families Warwickshire Magazine:

View the November/December digital issue [here](#)



A FOOTBALL WONDER-ER

Congratulations to David in Kingfishers who has been selected as a trialist at the Academy for Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Fantastic news; keepy-uppy the good work!

It's a points roll-over this week as there was no newsletter last week. Monday saw a Blue and Tartan Army descend on the school to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

St George 195

St Andrew 159

St David 143

St Patrick 134



DIARY DATES

* **ROBINS:** Please remember to wear black trousers or leggings and a black top on both Monday and Wednesday for our performance *

MONDAY, December 7

Dress Rehearsal for Nativity
EYFS - Note change of date (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

WHY IT'S PANTS

Thank you to everyone who asked questions during our consultation for the new Relationships and Health Education Policy. One of the questions that came up was regarding the NSPCC's PANTS resource which is used in Key Stage One. You can find out all about what it means and why it's important for your child on the NSPCC website. There is also a handy parents' guide so you can have your own conversations at home: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/pants/pants-2018/pants-parents-guide-online.pdf>

FESTIVE FUN...

HO HO HOME VISITS:

On Thursday 10th December Father Christmas & his sleigh will be in Southam. (Starting at Park Lane at 6pm and finishing at Black Shale Drive at 7:15 – see Southam Lions Facebook for more dates & routes.)