

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | December 11th 2020



FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents and Carers,

On the second week of Advent, the focus is on Peace. At school we have continued our spotlight on acts of kindness, which done thoughtfully lead to peace in our school community. On Thursday morning, children watched the CAFOD assembly entitled 'Light of the World'. It was a reflective assembly that looked at young people in many countries working in their communities for peace.

Rosana and Fernando were working for peace and an end to violence in Columbia. Hopefully over the Christmas period, our children will be working for peace in their homes and communities.

On Wednesday, each class in turn had their performance filmed so that we could share with parents on google classroom. The Robins acted out the nativity and sang, with hand actions to carols. They tried really hard to remember what they had to do, I am sure you will be very proud of them. Skylarks and Kingfishers sang like angels and used sign language to emphasise the message of the carols. Goldfinches acted out the classic poem 'It was the night before Christmas' by Clement Moore. The children were amazing as they narrated, danced and pranced their parts.

This week we have seen some wonderful acts of kindness when children have looked after their peers and helped out in class in so many ways. In the CAFOD assembly there was a quote from Pope Francis that said 'Choose Kindness, those who do so becoming shining stars in the midst of darkness'. We, in our community, work towards that common good.

Mrs Price

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO THIS WEEK...

ROBINS

This week has been non-stop in Robins class. The children have been working so hard on their Christmas performance and they did a fantastic job. We have also been working away at our Christmas cards and calendars and cannot wait for you to see them. We have got lots of exciting things in store next week for our final few days but we are looking forward to a rest!



GOLDFINCHES

This week the children have been very busy sewing their stockings in readiness for Christmas Eve!

They have worked very hard to write extremely thoughtful letters to Father Christmas and their performance of *The Night Before Christmas* was very enjoyable.

We are very proud of their confident reading and acting! Thank you so much children for a lovely week!



KINGFISHERS

I'm sure you all agree that it looks beautiful! The tree is positioned on our Advent Prayer Table in our classroom, and is a reminder of the time of preparation leading up to the birth of baby Jesus. Well done to all the Kingfishers for your performance of 'It Was On A Starry Night' on Wednesday too - you all shone like stars! Do keep an eye on Google Classroom for the finished piece!

After telling you all about The Jesse Tree last week, here is our finished product!



SKYLARKS

What is Christingle?

It's a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

As part of an initiative led by The Children's Society, this afternoon, the Kingfishers & Skylarks learned that Christingle is a symbol of Christ's light and love for everyone. The orange is the world, the lighted candle is Jesus, the Light of the World, the red ribbon or tape is the blood of Christ and the cocktail sticks represent the four seasons and the fruits of the Earth as gifts from God. Please take the time to discuss your child's Christingle and its symbolism.



WHAT'S NEW:

ST MARY'S MOVIE PREMIERE

The stars (and angels and shepherds) of the show were... your children!

The cinemas may be closed, but we know there's one film you'll all want to watch. Premiering this afternoon from 4pm on Google Classrooms, please log into your class to view. This is a secure way for all parents and carers to see the bubble performances we filmed earlier this week.

WADDLE OVER TO WADDESDON?:

You may remember last half term your children producing 'wishes' for a Winter Wonderland trail at Waddesdon Manor. The venue has been in touch to say that all the children's wishes are now up, and being enjoyed by their visitors. Some 3,000 children's wishes hang in the branches of the ancient yew trees in Miss Alice's Drive and are lit up magically at night between now and early January.



ATTENDANCE & COVID

Absence Notifications: Schools are required to continue to provide Track and Trace support throughout the holidays. If your child develops symptoms or tests positive over Christmas, you will still need to contact the school office by email. Because we will need to inform others who may need to isolate, we need to know exactly when symptoms started, or the date of a positive test if asymptomatic. Please put COVID in the email subject heading.

A reminder, that parents must notify the school of any absence. For illness this means phoning or emailing the school office on the first day of absence and then each day thereafter (unless we agree a return date on day one, for example a 48hr sickness or Covid-19 isolation period). We will contact parents on a daily basis if they fail to inform us of an absence.

ASK ME ABOUT...

Victorian Times Next week we'll all be dressing up in Victorian theme. Skipping marbles, tag and ballgames were all popular games then and still are now... Skylarks have been playing skipping ropes at break times this week – impressing with 5 children jumping 1 rope!

STARS OF THE WEEK:
Robins – Joseph S
Goldfinches – Cillian & Matilda
Kingfishers – Sofia R
Skylarks – Jacob M

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD:

Sophie B for being an excellent role model; always helpful without being asked
&
Rebecca for her kindness to all, progress in writing and incredibly detailed drawing

THANK YOU TO...

The Original Factory Shop and Napton Cidery

Thank you to both of these local businesses for their fantastic support of our school community. Napton Cidery are kindly donating apple juice for our children's parties next week and this morning Arthur's mum delivered this fantastic host of goodies for us to share with our families in need on behalf of the Southam Original Factory Shop:



SEE, HEAR, RESPOND

Rapid support for children and young people affected by the coronavirus crisis: A new service funded by the Department for Education to quickly identify and support children, young people and families who are struggling to cope with the impacts of coronavirus.
<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/c19>

Believe in children
Barnardo's

It was raining golden house points this week after all your superstar performances – but it's another red banner on the newsletter this week!

St George 158
St Andrew 152
St Patrick 147
St David 132



DIARY DATES

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: 17th December
Christmas Lunch: 16th December

THURSDAY, December 17

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

Friday, December 18

Teacher Training Day
This replaces the training day on June 25th 2021. (The letter sent to parents is also on our website explaining this late change following on from the schools minister's press release earlier this week.)

Tuesday, January 5

Back to school
Our bubble staggered start and finish times will continue: Goldfinches & Skylarks at 8:55/3:10 and Robins & Kingfishers at 9:10/3:20.

PLEASE NOTE: DATES ARE PROVISIONAL & MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE More dates and details on our website [events page](#)

Words, Words, Words...



Learn and Play
with the National Literacy Trust's fantastic Words for Life website. There's activities for all ages and oodles to keep little ones from 6 months to 12 years entertained with games, quizzes and activity sheets – perfect for keeping busy over the holidays:
<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

FESTIVE FUN...

NATIVITY TRAIL:

Keep your eyes peeled for further windows on the nativity trail. Well done to our artists who supplied such beautiful pictures of Our Lady for our trail day.

FATHER CHRISTMAS:

Santa's second Sortie, this time to Southam South will be on the 17th. Starting at Kingfisher Drive at 6pm and finishing at Hodnell Drive at 7.20 – see Southam Lions Facebook for info