

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | January 8th 2021



FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am really sad that we are having to do a full Lockdown again at the start of 2021. Please bear with us as we switch to remote learning for our children. This time we hope to do more direct teaching through Google Classroom, at present we are accessing some training via our consortium and supporting each other to be able to teach direct. I think it is important for you to know that our teaching assistants are working in classrooms with our vulnerable and critical worker children and our teachers are supporting the set work for all children, whether remotely or face to face. They are also helping parents with technical and password difficulties as well as supporting families at home for a variety of reasons. If you could bear this in mind at this time.

Unfortunately, I have realised that for a number of reasons it is safest for us not to do wraparound care for the foreseeable future. It would, in the first place, mix bubbles, meaning we would jeopardise both our key worker bubbles. In addition, I need the hours of the staff to come into the school to allow teachers more time to work on remote learning for all children. I trust I have your support in this.

Although this does not feel like the right time to tell you, I have decided to retire at the end of this academic year. I will have given 9 years of service to the school and feel in that time I have helped build a stronger learning community with your help.

When I retire, I intend to move to Ireland with my husband, which has been a lifelong aim. I have informed the Governors early so that they can have the maximum amount of time to secure my successor and so to a smooth transition. Until that time, I will continue to dedicate my efforts to the smooth running of our school.

Mrs Price



Dear Parents and Carers,

Just before Christmas I accepted Mrs Price's letter explaining that she has chosen to retire at the end of this academic year. Over the past years she has worked with a quiet determination to lead the school and its community, ensuring the best education for St. Mary's children, especially during these difficult times.

There will be opportunities in the future to thank her for all she has done for the school, but on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank her now for her dedication to the head teacher role and everything that she has done to ensure that ours is a happy, safe and successful school.

The Governing Body, along with the Diocese and Local Authority, are already in the initial stages of finding a suitable replacement for September and we shall keep the school community informed of progress over the coming months. Please keep the school in your prayers over the challenges ahead, as we prepare for the next stage in the school's story,

Mrs Angela Scull
Chair of Governors

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

STARTING SCHOOL?

Applications for 2021 Reception places close on January 15th

Apply online at:
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-school-place-reception/apply-school-place-reception/1>

TECH TROUBLE

The School Voicemail service is still down. Please bear with us

NEED PHONE DATA AT HOME?

We have a few 90 day 30GB mobile SIM cards courtesy of Vodafone.

Please contact the office if one would help your household.

VICTORIAN TIMES

WEDNESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2020

LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL STEPS BACK IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

The last week of term saw chimney sweeps, street urchins, nurses, suffragettes, school teachers, elegant ladies and smartly dressed gentlemen, scullery maids and even Isambard Kingdom Brunel himself descend upon our school for a day of good old-fashioned fun.

The teaching staff (in splendid attire, especially Mrs Lyons in her original hand-stitched school apron!) wove living history in to their lessons and activities, from playground games to the making of traditional Victorian festive crackers. A selection of Victorian era objects including household objects and toys were on display in the reception area – to the amusement and bafflement of many who couldn't imagine what they'd have been used for!

Thank you for all your creative costume ideas. A spiffing time was had by all.



Display of Victorian memorabilia

Isambard Kingdom Brunel
by Jimmy
(Kingfishers)

Isambard Kingdom Brunel
Isambard Kingdom Brunel was one of Britain's greatest engineers. Brunel built the SS Great Britain's massive steam ship. He also built the Great Western Railway which span from London to Cornwall. He built many tunnels, bridges and viaducts including the Clifton Suspension Bridge. I am very interested in Brunel because I want to be an engineer myself when I am older. I enjoyed dressing up as him on Victorian Christmas day.
by Jimmy



HOME SCHOOL LINKS:

With us missing seeing so many of you all and hearing your news, it's been a solace to see such lovely photos, submitted work and messages across Google Classrooms.

This week has necessarily been one of rapid response, setting up core home learning. More interactive and inclusive content will be added as we progress through this half term to link school and home pupils. Our first blended learning project starts today:

SPRING LEARNING LOGS

Scripture Art Project due back on 5th February

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. *Matthew 7:7-8 NIV*

This half term we're asking that the learning log be a physical artistic effort. Please send in photos of your finished work and we will create a display in school which unites home and bubble pupils.

RESOURCES FOR LOCKDOWN:

The local Library has gone high tech! During lockdown Click and Collect and the booking of computers is still available to members and from the comfort of your own home you can also access children's, and adult's eBooks and audio books via BorrowBox. (You can [join online](#); library card number & pin needed for [BorrowBox](#))

Oak Academy provides video lessons in a range of subjects to help supplement your classwork (or give you quiet time for a work call, or to support a sibling):

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>.

BBC From 09:00 on Monday CBBC will be showing 3 hours of Primary education daily (also available via the Red Button).

Their iPlayer app has BBC Bite Sized and Live lessons while favourites such as Blue Planet and the Royal Institution

Christmas Lectures will appeal to KS2 children:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer>

HOUSE POINTS & STARS OF THE WEEK

Everyone, children, parents and teachers alike deserve a hero's clap for resilience this week.

From next week we'll be awarding virtual House Points for good work submitted, effort and attitude to learning. From the amount of times the newsletter header was red, I'm sure it will come as no surprise that the termly house competition was won by... St George!

Congratulations to all in this house, and everyone else – let's try to catch them up this term!



STOP & PAUSE

MINDFULNESS & WELLBEING

While motivation to exercise and get outdoors may be more challenging during the Winter, a bracing walk and change of scenery really does blow the cobwebs away; take your permitted exercise if you can –or join Joe Wickes PR again indoors

As well as educational resources, Twinkl has wellbeing resources for workers, parents and families. Content ranges from isolation exercises, to relaxing music, to books helping you to talk to your child about coronavirus, to fun news stories to break the 'doomscrolling' cycle: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/wellbeing/element/school-closures>

A PRAYER FOR ISOLATION

God of heaven and earth,
in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones
distant from friends
away from neighbours
thank you that there is nothing
in all of creation,
not even coronavirus,
that is able to separate us from your love.

Keep us all in your care.
Amen.