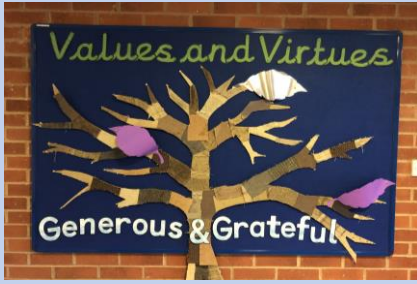


# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021



## FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents and Carers,

Each half term we focus on a particular value and virtue. This term we are looking at being *Generous and Grateful*. At the front of school, you will remember we have a tree display and leaves go up with examples of when children have shown the virtues. I have asked teachers to share this focus on google classroom and if parents or, in school, teachers and support staff have witnessed times when children have shown these virtues, then please let us know (It can be a photograph or brief explanation).

The local authority have asked us to promote 'Hearts for Carers'. The idea is that school children make hearts in any form or media that can be put in windows for all to see. By doing so, we will be demonstrating our support for all carers and they will bring a smile to passers-by.

Waddeston Manor will be having another totally virtual project starting, called 'Birds of a Feather'. It focusses on conservation and endangered species, including the songbirds in their Aviary and the Elephant Sculptures that are their newest addition to the grounds. They will be asking pupils to make a Conservation Promise for the planet, which will be used to create a display at Waddeston for their visitors to enjoy. The teachers will ask for these promises in the near future.

All these above projects will help with well-being and having a balanced view on these difficult times we are living through. What we can do, at the moment, is limited, but to be grateful for small things, like the magic of the snow, is invaluable and helps us feel better.

Mrs Price

## BLENDED LEARNING:

We are seeking over the next week to have more blended learning for children. The government says that children in KS1 should have 3 hours a day remote learning and that KS2 are to have 4 hours a day.

Already we are fulfilling this through the learning platform 'Google Classroom', however we recognise that we can improve this offer by having more face-to-face contact with the teacher. To this end, we will:

### For Early Years Foundation stage:

- ✓ Continue to read stories for the younger children on a daily basis.
- ✓ Provide the children with a Maths/Literacy focused activity each morning and another activity for the afternoon which will encompass the other subjects.
- ✓ On a Friday morning, both members of EYFS staff will share a Zoom meeting with the class.

### For KS1 and KS2:

- ✓ A pre-recorded session each day attached to Google Classroom to explain what the children will be learning.
- ✓ We then hope to have small group sessions, splitting the class into thirds or quarters to see how learning is progressing or to teach particular things in core subjects. Teachers will invite children to these sessions through Google Classroom, so it's important to check your account regularly.
- ✓ Finally, we will have a special fun whole class session in a form appropriate for the key stage: This will be on a Thursday afternoon for Year 1/2 and Year 5, Friday afternoon for Year 6.
- ✓ We will also put out an assembly for the beginning of each week.

Hopefully, this offer will help the children to feel more connected with the children in their class as well as the teaching staff.



The teachers in KS1 & KS2 will be setting work and linking with children through the above face-to-face sessions, they will also be giving feedback. I have asked them to focus on the Maths and English for feedback, though they will look at all work. I would ask you to be aware that the bulk of work comes in about 4 pm, if your child could be earlier that would be wonderful. Otherwise, teachers will mark that day but may need the next day too. Obviously, we may have teething problems but we will push through and do value your feedback.

## ♥ JOIN THE SHOW YOU CARE CAMPAIGN ♥

To help connect people during lockdown, when we can't physically be with our friends and neighbours, #WarwickshireHearts is encouraging Warwickshire residents to display a picture of a heart in their window, or share it on social media, as a tangible sign of solidarity and that they are thinking of others in the pandemic. Displaying or sharing a heart can mean many things such as:

- ♥ I care about our key workers
- ♥ I care about my neighbours
- ♥ I care about my grandparents who I haven't been able to see
- ♥ I care about missing my school friends and teachers.

Make your own designs, or use some of the ones attached to brighten up your windows – we'd like to brighten up the school's windows with them, so please send in your finished hearts to us too!

**With your grown up's permission** you can send a photo to any Warwickshire County Council social media accounts with a message about who you're especially thinking of tag it

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

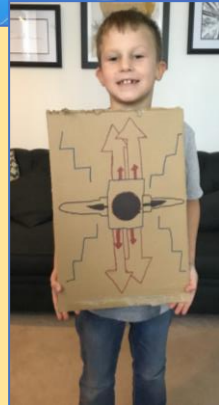
Whether at home or in school we know you all enjoyed last week's snow. Thank you for all your photos.



This week has been all about birds - we have been visited by a large Heron seen out the KS2 Classroom windows, made bird feeders and joined in the RSPB Bird Watch.

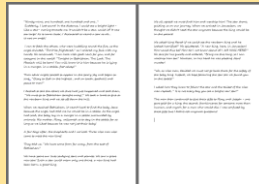


In History some Rotten Romans came to life with amazing work from our KS2 Children. Miriam has used Hama Beads to make this fantastic Roman Mosaic and Hamish made a fabulous Roman shield, after researching typical patterns and colours used. We're sure it would warn off any enemies!



In PE both school bubbles took part in an online 'Move Your Feet!' Street Dance session – we'll be sharing the video soon so you can all join in at home. And in an impressive, unusual personal challenge, Jimmy has been fundraising for the local Foodbank by completing a marathon equivalent distance – BACKWARDS!

"Ninety-nine, one hundred, one hundred and one..." Suddenly, I lost count! In the distance, I could see a bright light - like a star - moving towards me. It couldn't be a star, could it? It was too large! As it came closer, I discovered it wasn't a star at all... it was an angel! So begins Scarlett's beautiful Epiphany piece linked to last week's RE lesson. The [full piece](#) is on the website.



## DIARY DATES

**Monday, January 18**

Winnie the Pooh Day  
Grab a bear, watch a Pooh Bear film or read a book to celebrate author A. A. Milne's Birthday – perhaps even play Pooh Sticks.

**"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."** - Christopher Robin

**Tuesday, January 19**

St Wulstan's Day  
Our very local saint was born in Long Itchington c. 1008

**Friday, February 5**

Learning Log Return Date  
See last week's newsletter or Google Classrooms for details

**February 15 - 19**

Half Term  
This year Lent starts during Half Term  
<https://kids.kiddle.co/Lent>

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

## CHURCH SERVICES

### ISOLATED BUT NOT ALONE:

With a heavy heart, Fr Arul has made the difficult decision to cancel public masses at Our Lady and Saint Wulstan until further notice. A list of livestream Birmingham parishes to attend virtual masses is here:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-with-live-streams>

For virtual pilgrimages, prayer groups and children's resources as well as a beautiful booklet *inspiration in times of isolation* visit:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/pages/category/domestic-church-resources>

## CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteers from across Warwickshire are needed to help support Warwickshire County Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Phone someone who's shielding, run errands, support a foodbank, give blood... there's lots that you can do to make a difference during Lockdown: <https://www.wcava.org.uk/page/what-you-can-do-support-your-community-during-covid-19>

## PRINTED WORK PACKS & WEEKLY FOOD HAMPERS:

Please ensure you adhere to government guidelines and social distancing when you visit the school to collect or drop items:

- ✓ Wash your hands before leaving home and when you return
- ✓ Wear a facemask
- ✓ Keep socially distanced from staff 2m+
- ✓ Don't talk to other families
- ✓ Limit your visits to once a week
- ✓ Leave returned items in the quarantine box

If you need printed packs due to a lack of a printer/electronic device at home: Work is ready weekly on a Friday for Robins and from 9:30 on a Monday for Goldfinches and other pupils who have requested it.

Food hampers are available from 12 on a Tuesday. Work can be collected and returned for marking at the same time. (Please return work by photo upload/Google Classrooms/email if you can)

## HOME SCHOOL LINKS:

**Blue Peter:** This staple of parents' childhoods is still going strong – now on [YouTube](#), as well as on CBBC Thursdays at 5pm or iPlayer.

Check out Adam, Lindsey, Mwakxy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog in the longest running kids TV show in the world has world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances as well as behind the scenes footage and extra content. (They also feature ways of getting a coveted Blue Peter badge which - once Lockdown is over - still gets you into 200+ places free!)

## STOP & PAUSE

## MINDFULNESS & WELLBEING

Accompanying this week's newsletter is the January update from the School Health team who are still available virtually over lockdown: [Video Message](#). BBC Bitesize have also prepared a Primary Parent's Toolkit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkyr47h>

## HOUSE POINTS, STARS, VIRTUES & VALUES

Look out for **GOLD STARS** on the Google Classroom stream and **LEAVES** on our school tree We love seeing your work and photos of what you've been up to at home and home school! Keep sending in all your best work – and extracurricular hobbies and activities too – and we'll share them in Google Classrooms.

The best examples of attentiveness, effort and achievement will earn Gold Stars in Google and, where they've shown our values of 'Generous and Grateful' a leaf on our in-school display. We'll also share some work and photos via the Newsletter where we have permission.

