

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | January 22nd 2021



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,



This week we have been busily making hearts for carers in and out of school. The EYFS and KS1 have made origami hearts that are now up in the Reception area. The KS2 children have been making delicate tissue hearts with ribbon. At home, you will also have been making hearts which will by now be in your windows. Remember to look out for them if you are taking your daily exercise walking around Southam.

At school, our younger children have been bird-watching with their binoculars. They have sighted many species of birds and recorded these on tally charts. They have been helped by the seed fat balls that they made last week, which are now hanging from our trees. The information will go to the RSPB at the end of the month. Don't forget to do the same at home.

Children in Kingfishers have enjoyed their vocation work. They have researched the Saint called Josephine Bakhita. She had a calling to become a Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious sister who lived in Italy for 45 years, after having been a slave in Sudan. She was known for her gentle voice, smile and kindness.

Blended learning is going well; teachers have been excited to teach some lessons on Zoom. They have been impressed by the level of engagement of the children that have been able to make it to the Zoom sessions. Please get in touch with the school office if you are having problems with technology. We may be able to help you or loan out an iPad. Feedback from parents has suggested that it would be good for the fun sessions to be open to all children inside school or outside as it is a way for all the children to remain connected to their friends. We hope to put this in place next week.

Finally, look out for the first signs of spring, they are there; I spotted snow drops and some trees with buds on them. A hopeful sign!

Mrs Price

What we've been up to...



FAILURE TO LAUNCH?

ZOOM HELP

You can join a meeting straight from your web browser by going to <https://join.zoom.us/> and entering the meeting ID and password your class teacher has sent.

How to join Zoom meetings from all device types:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193>



NMA

NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM



FISHY FRIDAY FUN:

NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM WEEKLY ASSEMBLIES

Each Friday KS2 have been virtually exploring an underwater world with special themed assemblies and activities. This week the children have produced some wonderful art inspired by their learning. Here is a beautiful sea creature mobile and a painting representing waves.



JUST FOR FUN:

What does a dolphin say when he's confused?
Can you please be more Pacific?

What do you call a three eyed fish?
A fiiish!

CLICK HAPPY



SAFE HOME, HAPPY HOME ONLINE PARENT WORKSHOP

Free 2-hour course from Warwickshire Children and Families to help parents consider their home environment to reduce accidents:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/safe-home-happy-home-online-parent-workshop-tickets-134637816333?aff=>

(Various dates available throughout the coming months)

COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.



PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

The **NHS** will:

- ⊗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ NEVER ask for your bank details
- ⊗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

STAFF TESTING UPDATE:

From next week, starting the 25th January, we have been asked by the government to have two Lateral Flow tests a week.

The whole staff, including support staff, will take the test and if a positive result comes in then the bubble may have to close if there has been close contact with the staff member. Obviously if the staff member is in a role that means they haven't had close contact with others, then the bubble would not have to close.

Staff will do the tests at home in an evening, so if a bubble has to close we would endeavour to let you know that night via email and update the school website. I have had correspondence with Education Corona and they have said: "After seeking advice from PHE and NHS Test and Trace, the government has decided to suspend the requirement for routine confirmatory PCR for positive LFD results. Under the new system, an LFD result will trigger the legal duty to self-isolate for all close contacts/school bubbles."

STOP & PAUSE

Child Mental Health & Wellbeing 10 Top Tips for Parents

Good mental health is just as important as having a healthy body. It affects the way children think, feel and act.

See the tips and video here: <https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents>

Read with a cuppa? The Winter issue of the *Raring2go!* newsletter is online: <https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/southwarwickshire/winter/10-11/>

HOUSE POINTS, STARS, VIRTUES & VALUES

Well done to everyone who has sent in work, photos and news this week. Delilah and Florence F are the latest additions to our 'Grateful and Generous' tree; the sisters are walking as many miles as they can during January to raise money for Zoe's Place. Speaking of sisters, Esther reports hers have been really supportive cheering her on in their family run. Well done too to Chelsea who is making bracelets with a view to selling them for charity.



DIARY DATES

January 29-31

RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Friday, February 5

Learning Log Return Date
See Google Classrooms for details

February 12

Chinese New Year
The year of the Ox

February 15 - 19

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

February 16

Shrove Tuesday

March 4

World Book Day

March 14

Mother's Day

PLEASE NOTE:

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
More dates and details online at:
<https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/events/>

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 fortnightly on a Friday for Robins and from 9:30 on Mondays 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)