

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | February 25th 2021



FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents and Carers,

After the speech from Mrs Johnson on Monday this week, we all now know that nursery and primary aged children will back at school on **Monday, March the 8th**. Here in school, we are delighted to be welcoming you back. In the first week back, on the **Wednesday 10th March**, we have moved World Book day so that all children can wear a costume of their favourite character in a book, poem or play. We encourage children to be creative and make their costume up from wardrobes at home. We would also encourage children to bring in that favourite read to match their costume. It will be wonderful to have all that excitement that first week - we will find a way to parade our costumes! Maybe you can think about your costume during next week?

Next week starts with St. David's Day, the patron saint of Wales on **Monday the 1st March**. St David's Day is a day of parades, concerts and eisteddfodau (festivals of music, language and culture). Flags are flown. The national anthem is sung with extra fervour. Children go to school in traditional Welsh dress, and everyone (well, almost...) proudly pins a daffodil or leek to their lapel. You could all join in wherever you are by wearing a yellow accessory on Monday.

Then we have **Wednesday 17th March**, which will be St. Patrick's Day, the patron saint of Ireland. The holiday has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing and a whole lot of green – and it's celebrated by communities with Irish roots all over the world; in Chicago America they even dye the river green!

Finally, on **Friday 23rd April**, we will celebrate St. George's day, the patron saint of England. George's day may be celebrated with anything English including Morris dancing and Punch and Judy shows. A traditional custom on St. George's day is to fly or adorn the St. George's Cross flag in some way.

So we are lucky we have all these wonderful days that we can look forward to celebrating in the next few months.

Mrs Price

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

ART AT HOME: During half term, it took Gracie (Y6) an hour and a half to draw this wonderful Harry Potter picture. Elena (Y5) and Elijah (Y2) have been getting colourfully creative!

KEEP ON ROCKING: Success multiplies; congratulations to our new TTRS leader Jack (0.97) with Riley (0.99) and Cerys Mae (1.00) hot on his heels.

READY, GET SET GO: INTRODUCING OUR NEW SET TEXTS

GOLDFINCHES: The Goldfinches have been reading about Fantastic Mr Fox and have written awesome Wanted Posters exporting this famously fabulous foxy tale (or should that be tail?).

KINGFISHERS: Year 3 and 4s is 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' by Jan Fearnley. Mr. Wolf wants to make some pancakes for breakfast, but isn't quite sure how to go about it. So off he goes to ask his neighbours Chicken Little, Wee Willy Winkle, the Gingerbread man, Little Red Riding Hood, and the Three Little Pigs for their help...

SKYLARKS: It's 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in the Amazon. Accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess with her own secret reasons for making the journey, both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in *Journey to the River Sea*. Eva Ibbotson's highly colourful, joyous adventure is winner of the Smarties Gold Medal, and shortlisted for the both the Carnegie Medal and Whitbread Award.



THE JUNIOR BAKE OFF COMPETITION
...is looking for the UK's best young bakers aged 9 – 15 (they must've seen your wonderful creations in last week's newsletter!)

Applications close on Sunday March 28th
www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Enquiries:
applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk

Want to be part of an award-winning team?

Boys aged 7-11
Sing

Free
Online Singing Workshops

4:45pm, on Zoom
Wed 3 | 17 | 31 March
sign-up now at
choristers.org

RE-TREAT FOR Y5/6

Retreat News: I am sorry to say, that on reflection, we have decided not to go on the Year 5/6 residential retreat to Alton Castle this year due to COVID-19.

However, we are pleased to announce we are working with the Alton Castle team on putting on a special retreat for the day right here at St. Mary's. This will hopefully be in June and involve a small voluntary contribution of approximately £16 per child.

This retreat will be especially tailored to our needs for our Skylarks, partly involving preparation for Confirmation, but open to the whole class with planned meditation and outside activities such as baking and fire-lighting. It will be all be carefully considered and fully compliant with guidance to be COVID-19 safe.

STARS, VIRTUES & VALUES LEAVES AND HOUSE POINTS

Spring is in the air and a new tree is in full bloom in the St Mary's reception corridor... We're looking forward to seeing the beautiful leaves adorned with this half term's values attentive and discerning. Thank you Ms Lyons for this wonderful display.



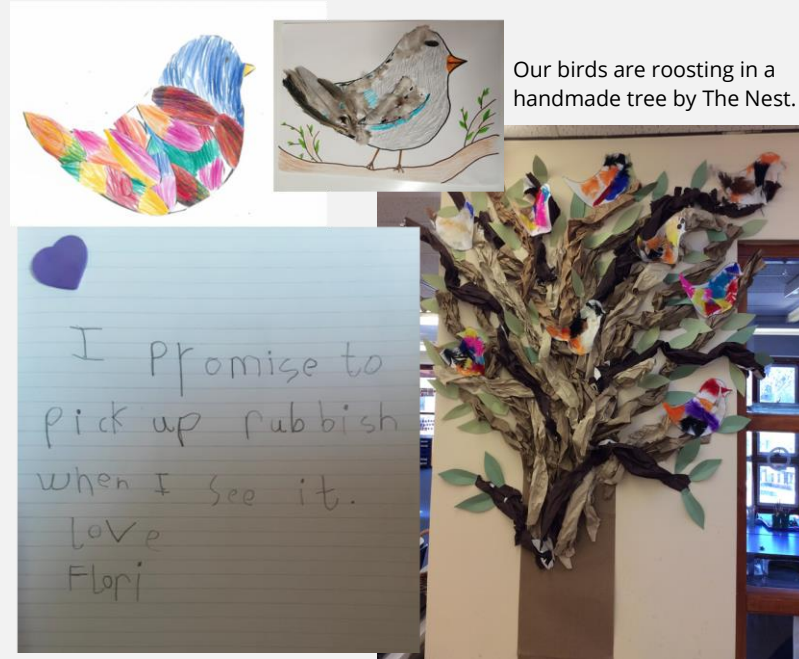
THANKS ♥ FOSM

VALENTINES TRAIL: Thanks to all who took part in the fun half term Valentines Trail and to our Friends for organising. There are still a few sweet treats left for anyone yet to return their completed sheet.

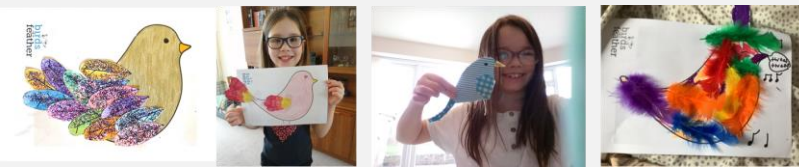
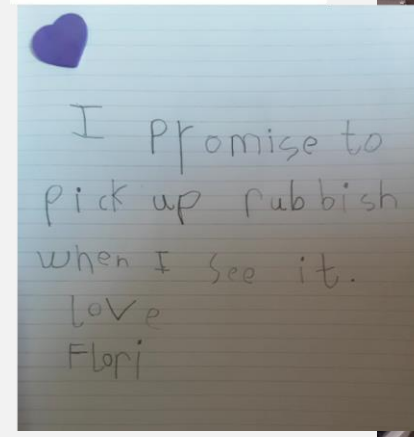
BIRDS OF A FEATHER:

WADDESDON MANOR OUTREACH PROJECT

The children made conservation promises and created beautiful songbirds both at home and in school. The Goldfinches made colourful birds with very thoughtful promises written on their wings. They have made promises to help wildlife by never leaving litter around, using less paper and water and to recycle more than ever. All the children's conservation promises will be written onto feathers and used to create a display in the Aviary at Waddesdon.



Our birds are roosting in a handmade tree by The Nest.



INDEPENDENT BOARDING SCHOOL INVITES BURSARY APPLICATIONS

Christ's Hospital provides over £18m each year to support bright pupils from all backgrounds with fee assisted places. Current Y5 pupils who are considering secondary education in September 2022 are invited to apply. Candidates are assessed on both academic potential and the broader curriculum opportunities. Means-tested bursaries are granted to over 2/3 of pupils; 14% receive a free place with nearly 35% paying less than 10% of the full boarding fee. <https://www.christs-hospital.org.uk/virtual-open-day/> or email hello@christs-hospital.org.uk

TAKE CARE TIM

Thank You Mr Tim
Over the last few weeks Mr Tim has again been helping us out while we search for a new caretaker. With his move imminent, he really is going now, but we are very grateful for his friendship, help and support. If you, or someone you know could be our next Caretaker, please [apply online](#) or via the office (Closing Date March 12).

BACK TO SCHOOL

LOOK OUT FOR: A letter next week outlining revisions and updates to our risk assessment and new pick up and drop off procedures.

You've all adapted so well to home learning but we can't wait to get back to 'normal'.

Please ensure your family follows government guidance and hygiene precautions to protect our school community and this much-needed reopening. The virus is still very much in circulation and we know that some of our families are currently isolating and shielding. We all need to ensure we do all we can to facilitate a safe return to school.

P.s. Why not check shoes, uniform and PE kits still fit this weekend – the children are sure to have grown since Christmas!

STOP & PAUSE

WELLBEING & STAYING SAFE VERY SPECIAL GUEST ASSEMBLY:

If you missed Ant and Dec's Virtual Assembly for the NSPCC this week, you can still catch it online here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/safety/>

The site has lots of resources for home including how to make a Wellbeing Box, a craft activity you can make together and children can fill with reminders of things that make them feel safe and happy: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/safety/activities-safety-kids/wellbeing-box/>

DIARY DATES

Monday, 1 March

St David's Day
Join in wherever you are by wearing yellow, a daffodil or a leek!

Monday, 8 March

BACK TO SCHOOL!
We're so excited to see (and hear!) you all back at school. Face-to-face Music lessons will also resume on March 8th.

Wednesday, 10 March

World Book Day
Dress up as your favourite character in a book, poem or play. You can bring the matching book too.

March 1-5

Justice Week
We'll be joining in the Big Legal Lesson during this week

March 8-12

British Science Week
Fun science themed activities

Sunday, March 14

Mother's Day & Clocks Forward

Wednesday, March 17

St Patrick's Day
Wear green, a shamrock or the flag

Friday, March 19

Comic Relief
Q: Why did closing her eyes remind the Lockdown teacher of her classroom?
A: Because there were no pupils to see ☹️

Friday, April 23

St George's Day
Wear red or the George Cross flag

PLEASE NOTE:

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