

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | March 12<sup>th</sup> 2021



## FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

On return from Lockdown, the children have settled so well. The first day back they were a little quiet, but by World book day (which we delayed) all children were back to themselves. When I asked them if they were enjoying themselves it was an overwhelming yes! All children had made a huge effort with their costume; they were extremely well supported from home.

We had many lovely foxes from Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox, an array of witches, characters from Charlie and the Chocolate factory, Thing one and two, to name but a few! Most children brought their matching book or comic. Even the staff looked splendid as you will see in the photograph. There is nothing like the excitement of being together on book day, listening to stories, telling about your favourite authors and looking at all that myriad of costumes. These experiences will often live with your children forever long after they leave primary school.

On a practical note, this week has gone well, however I want to maximise the learning time so I have tweaked the start and finish times for all year groups. To make up for any lost time we will add 5 minutes teaching time to three of the year groups' days. I have attached a changed Keeping Everyone Safe Back to School Poster so that you can check these times.

The green gate will be open at 8.45am as it has been, to avoid any child being left on the path, however the earliest start time is 8.55 am for any class to enter school. We will make sure that the KS2 playground will be monitored by staff for early children.

Thank you to all the parents that have needed and booked before and after school sessions. You have been flexible and used the club when needed as we only have capacity for 8 children in the morning and 15 children in the afternoon.

Mrs Price

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

As well as catching up with all our friends, there's been plenty of learning going on too.

This first week back has flown by and the **Goldfinch** children are all eager to learn about our Food and Farming topic. We made some butter after learning about where our milk comes from and the journey from farm to shop. They also found out about how the tradition of Mother's Day first began and made very creative cards! Our World Book Day was fantastic fun and their costumes were amazing! Please look on our class page on Google Classroom to see our video. We enjoyed hearing lots of favourite stories, making bookmarks, completing a book scavenger hunt and writing about our characters.

The **Kingfishers** and **Skylarks** demonstrated some fantastic homemade props alongside their costumes and had lots of literary fun on World Book Day.

**Robins** meanwhile have enjoyed their new nursery and reception separate mornings and especially enjoyed playing in our outside area using the new equipment, which they have absolutely loved. It has been great seeing them, and all the children, so excited for their learning!



## FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:

After two full days' of interviews I am pleased to let you know that, after ratification with the full Governing Body, we have offered the post of Headteacher of our school from September to Mrs Maureen Collier – and that she has accepted the post with great enthusiasm. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the appointments panel for all their support and help in making this very important decision to ensure the continued success of our school. Mrs Collier will join us from St Gregory's Catholic Primary School in Coventry where she is currently the Vice Principal. I will be inviting her to work alongside Mrs Price and myself over the coming months to meet the children and ensure a smooth transition.

Mrs Scull

## YOU'RE JOKING ME!

### THE ST MARY'S JOKE BOOK:

To mark Comic Relief this year we're asking children to pay £1 to add a joke to our school e-joke book. All children can send their joke in via our 'joke generator' [web form](#).

Please bring the £1 to school next week in an envelope with your child's name on it and we'll email a copy of the book.

Ps. This year's red noses are made from plant-based materials and 100% plastic free! You 'nose' it makes sense ☺



### HOUSE POINTS VIRTUES & VALUES

House Points 'proper' will be back next week.

Well done to all who earned virtual stars and shout outs on Google Classrooms during our Lockdown lessons.

This week's **Head Teacher Awards** go to our quartet of quizzers - Cerys Mae, Gracie, Hamish and Lexie - who posed some really great questions putting our would-be new Headteachers through their paces as part of their interviews and feeding back to our Chair of Governors for the interview panel.

Our *Attentive & Discerning* values tree is blooming with beautiful leaves celebrating our children's endeavours. We're looking forward to adding even more leaves in the coming weeks. Next week for 'attentive' we'll be concentrating on the Examination of Conscience Prayer.

## WORLD BOOK DAY:

### FANTASTIC FANCY DRESS COSTUMES - FROM ALICE TO ZOG

The children wowed us all in such varied costumes and fantastic homemade props, with a real mix of traditional tales and classics (Red Riding Hood, The Wizard of Oz and Cinderella), Dahl and Williams favourites (The BFG, The Twits and the Boy in the Dress) and new stories (The Wizards of Once and Frank Lampard's football books) with magazines, games and real-life heroines (Greta Thunberg) thrown in for good measure.

The staff took inspiration from Traditional Tales, Fantastic Mr Fox and Alice in Wonderland for their day of unusual work attire.



### AND THE WINNERS WERE...

Everyone looked amazing, and choosing was tough. Bonus points were awarded for originality, accuracy and child involvement in costume making. Julia Donaldson, and Roald Dahl tied with two winners apiece and, a new name to the mix, Derek Landy for his skeleton detective Skulduggery Pleasant.



## DIARY DATES

**Sunday, March 14**

Mother's Day

**Wednesday, March 17**

St Patrick's Day

Wear green, a shamrock or the flag

**Friday, March 19**

Comic Relief

Share your brilliant jokes in our St Mary's Joke Book for Comic Relief.

**SAVE THE DATE/S**

**Online Parents Evenings**

**3 - 6PM**

Little Robins: Mon 22

Big Robins: Mon 22 & Mon 29

Goldfinches: Wed 24 & Wed 31

Kingfishers: Tues 23 & 30

Skylarks (Y5): Tues 23

Skylarks (Y6): Tues 30

*More info to follow next week*

**Sunday, March 28**

Clocks 'Spring' Forward

**Thursday, April 1**

Last day of term

**Friday 2 – Sunday 18 April**

Easter Holidays

**Tuesday, April 20**

Vision Screening

Reception Only

**Friday, April 23**

St George's Day

Wear red or the George Cross flag

**Wednesday, May 26**

Class Photos

### PLEASE NOTE:

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

More dates and details online at:

<https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/events/>

## STOP & PAUSE

### WELLBEING, HEALTH & SUPPORT

This week's newsletter includes the March newsletter from the school nursing team.

There's a special focus on resources for making healthy lifestyle choices and support with emotions surrounding the return to school, as well as general support available for mental health.

✉ **TEXT BACK ChatHealth Parent Line:** Parents and Carers can text a school nurse from their mobile. ChatHealth is confidential and available Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Message for advice about general health, child development, behaviour, toileting and emotional health & wellbeing: **07520 619376**

☺ **HENRY:** activity ideas, simple and healthy recipes, tips on looking after yourself and supporting your children: <https://www.henry.org.uk/coronavirus-support>

### PARENT CONSULTATIONS

#### VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Over 6 nights between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> your children's teachers will be available for scheduled online meetings. In Y1/2 Goldfinches and Y5 Skylarks where teaching is shared, both teachers will be available on the same call. More details to follow.