

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | March 19<sup>th</sup> 2021



## FROM THE HEAD



Super Science

Dear Parents and Carers,

Pope Francis has proclaimed the year from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021 to be the "Year of St. Joseph." This is to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church in the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart").

St. Joseph is the patron saint of workers and this year we are invited to entrust our work to him, follow his example and pray with him.

St Joseph's Feast Day is today, the 19th March and the children have enjoyed a liturgy celebrating his feast. Pope Francis shares a special prayer to Saint Joseph as part of this liturgy. Over the next few months we will focus on St. Joseph and a display linked to this will go up in Reception - so do look out for this after Easter.

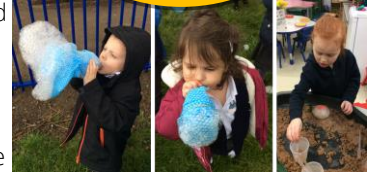
It is with great sadness that I tell you that Ms. McAloon is leaving our school to take up an assistant head post at Crackley Hall School, Kenilworth, at the end of the academic year. She has been with us for three wonderful years. She has helped make many successful changes and has enhanced the school in so many ways. She is an inspirational teacher who works for the good of all children and indeed the whole community. I know you will join me in wishing her the best of luck in her new role. We will miss you!

Mrs Price

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

### LITTLE ROBINS

We looked at how ice was made and how it melts, talking about various ways we could melt the ice and decided on warm water and salt. (It took a lot longer than we expected it to, but it was great fun!) We've looked at how skittles lose their colour when you put them in milk. Wow, there were so many colours like a rainbow! On Friday we had a bottle and made bubble snakes using fairy liquid and water with the Big Robins. We have had so much fun in science this week!



### BIG ROBINS

This week Robins have been doing lots of Science learning: On Tuesday we looked at different materials and their properties. Then we made some feely books describing the materials we had picked. We have also had some frogspawn in our outside area and have been keeping an eye on any changes we can spot. We learnt about how frogspawn grows into frogs. We hope to home our new frogs in the secret garden when they're ready. On Thursday we mixed lemon juice and water to make secret messages then used a lamp to uncover them to our friends.



### GOLDFINCHES

This has been an exciting week in the Goldfinch class with lots of different exploring and inventing. The children decided what kind of scientist they would like to be and how they could make a difference, so we designed our own wildlife proof and interesting bins to encourage people to use them. We enjoyed sharing our ideas and talking about their plans. We also looked at suitable materials in the secret garden for making different sized bird's nests and we have loved observing what happened when we made ice cream with salt, chocolate milk and ice in a bag. Very tasty!



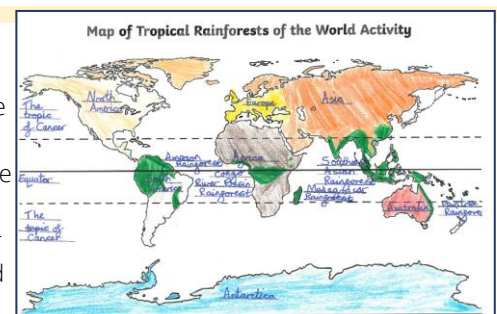
### KINGFISHERS

What a fun afternoon was had by Kingfishers on Wednesday! As an introduction to our science unit 'Forces,' we made tin-foil boats that had to both float and hold as many 2 pence pieces as possible. Some boats held a whopping FIFTY 2 pence pieces without sinking! We evaluated our first attempt and reviewed this to try the experiment a second time to try to improve. And the science behind it? As long as the force of buoyancy is greater than the force of gravity, the boat will continue to float. The force of buoyancy will be greater than the force of gravity when the weight of the foil and pennies is spread across more surface area of the water, creating more buoyance, or force, pushing upward. How scientific!



### SKYLARKS

Linked to our key text - Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson - in Science /Geography this week, the Skylarks have been using atlases to find out where the major rainforests of the world are located. They have also labelled the continents, the rainforests of the world, the Equator and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn on a World Map. They have considered reasons for the geographic positioning of the world's rainforests and shared reasons for this. The children understand that temperate climates are found a bit further south. They know that at the equator there is a tropical climate and travelling south of the equator it gets cooler again before reaching the Antarctic.



# LET'S BE FUNNY FOR MONEY



## COMIC RELIEF UPDATE:

Thank you all for your £1 contributions and jokes for our e-joke book which we'll email out to all who donated as part of our Comic Relief fundraising. To ensure we have a lovely full joke book, we're keeping the online form open until TUESDAY at 6PM. After that we'll close the joke generator and it will be too late for your child's joke to be added to our joke book.

If you would like a copy emailed to you, and haven't already, please bring send £1 in to school next week in an envelope with your child's name on it.

All children (and staff) can send their joke in via our easy 'joke generator' [here](#).

If you don't have internet access, please write down your joke and bring it to school.



## STARS OF THE WEEK



Robins – Paula

Goldfinches – Sam



Kingfishers - Leon



Skylarks - Maya



## HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Lexi for her fantastic writing and great learning in all areas & Scarlett for quality of her first-person letter writing



## Sacraments for Kingfishers and Skylarks

We have looked again at the preparation for the sacraments for those children that have requested to take part. Sadly we have realised that, as we would need the bishop to come and this isn't possible at this time, we won't be able to have the sacrament of Confirmation this year. Luckily, most of our candidates are in year 5 so they will be able to make their confirmation next year at school, as will the year 6 child through their parish.

We have decided that to prepare the **First Holy Communion** candidates properly we need to put the date back to **Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July**. We will prepare the children in school time with Mrs Hopkins', Miss Righton's and my input. As a prelude to this, Father Arul and I still hope it will be possible for these children to take part in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** in school sometime in May. Unfortunately, this will be without parents at this time. For the July service, realistically the candidates, parents and perhaps grandparents will be able to come, however our plans will depend on Covid restrictions and we will keep you informed nearer the time.

### ASK ME ABOUT...

### SCIENCE!

We've been learning from across the science spectrum following on from last week's science week. Ask me what my best bit was – and maybe tell me your favourite science experiment from your school days.

### HOUSE POINTS

House Points 'proper' are back and, in the week that saw many of you wearing green in style (none more so than Mrs Reeves!) topically, the winning house had the luck of the Irish...

St Patrick 192

St David 157

St Andrew 145

St George 123



### EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FUN

Family Information Service (FIS) has coordinated a list of the holiday provision that is available across Warwickshire for the Easter holidays. Information is organised by district and there is also a section for virtual activities. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory/46/easter-holiday-activities>

(Families in receipt of Free School Meals can claim 4 free hours each day at activities marked with the HAF scheme logo – letter to follow)

The Raring2go! Spring edition is full of ideas for Easter, including holiday clubs and classes. You can see the online edition here: <https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/southwarwickshire/spring/> and a full list of holiday clubs: <https://raring2go.co.uk/south-warwickshire/clubs--classes/holiday-clubs>

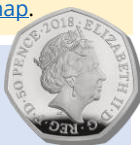
ILEAP Online inclusive fun aimed at families with additional needs 4 years to adult: <https://ileap.co.uk/activites/children-activities>

### WE CAN DO BETTER TO STAY SAFE

This week sadly we have had complaints about parents gathering on site and outside the gates to talk after drop off and collection. Please, please wear a mask, keep your distance and remember we are currently only supposed to meet 1 person from outside our household – even if children are in a class bubble together, they should not be playing outside of school unless in a childcare bubble. Additionally, parking etiquette has deteriorated. Please do not block the yellow lines or use the apron in front of the gates to park. You can find out more about traffic complaints, enforcement and how to report them via [Operation Snap](#).

### 50p FRIDAYS ARE BACK!!!

FOSM are pleased to announce our fundraising '50p Fridays' will restart next week. Each class bubble will have a box of Friday treats (crisps, drinks, sweets etc.) and children can each bring 50p and at the end of the day and swap it for something from the box.



Friday, March 19

Comic Relief  
Share your brilliant [jokes](#) in our St Mary's Joke Book for Comic Relief.

### Online Parents Evenings

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  
All evenings are 3pm – 6pm.  
Please book your 10-minute appointment by **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 8pm** using the details sent in our parent letter earlier this week.

Friday, March 26

50p Fridays for FOSM start (see below)

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/>