

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | March 26th 2021



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a good week in school, children have enjoyed lots of sport, playing outside as well as outdoor learning. They have really enjoyed conversation with their peers and have had lots of fun. In school they have worked hard catching up after the lockdown. Every class has had catch up interventions taking place, gaps are being filled. All the staff are working incredibly hard to help all children progress rapidly. I would greatly appreciate it if you continue to read with your children on a daily basis and facilitate their reading if older, plus support their homework.

In school, staff are following all the routines regarding hand-washing and other Covid measures. They are doing lateral flow tests twice a week and that includes all the adults we have in school. I am concerned that our weak spot is at pick up time. Please see the article overleaf.

I would like to share some good news. Next Wednesday your children will meet their new headteacher, Mrs Collier. She will spend the day in St.Mary's meeting the staff and children. You may catch sight of her as we do the caretaking duties. On that note, I would also like to tell you that we have appointed a new caretaker, Ms Jenna Ireland, who will join us after Easter. I extend a warm welcome to her and will greatly appreciate giving over the duties into her capable hands. **Mrs Price**

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS



This week Big Robins have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. Then they made their own 3D fish shape. I think you'll agree they've done a super job! Together Big & Little Robins have been thinking about what makes them unique. They made a handprint using their chosen colour and then decorated it to show that we are all different. We also learnt about our prayer hands and what each finger symbolises when we are talking to God.



GOLDFINCHES

This week the Goldfinches have been learning about the journey of bread from the seed to the factory. The children made some bread rolls and wrote super instruction sentences about this. They have been singing lovely songs and narrating the Easter story. In our maths work we are finding halves and quarters of shapes and amounts. In R.E. we have been writing about St. Joseph and learning about Palm Sunday.

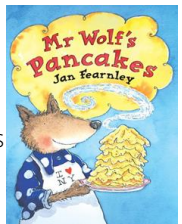


KINGFISHERS

The Kingfishers have produced some fantastic writing this week based on our class text 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' by Jan Fearnley. In the story, 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 for their help. When he is turned down by each of them, he decides to try it on his own. Soon he succeeds in making a huge pile of delicious pancakes. Having smelled the pancakes cooking, his neighbours decide to call on Mr. Wolf and share his meal. But Mr. Wolf gets his just "desserts..."

In Leon's diary entry, Leon (writing as Mr Wolf) tells us 'I only ate them, and the pancakes, because they were so annoying! I guess it ended up being a double meal!'

Sofia R wrote a fantastic character description of Mr Wolf, using a similie to describe him as 'mean as a bear and hairy as a tiger.' Sofia also writes that Mr Wolf has 'raging, sharp claws and evil red eyes.' What fantastic imagery! A super effort all round Kingfishers, well done!



SKYLARKS

This week, in KS2 we are desperate to share a taster of the children's writing. Below are some extracts from letters which the children have written.

They are writing in the 1st person as Maia, the protagonist. Having left the Mayfair Academy for Young Ladies, she is now travelling to Manaus, Brazil to meet the Carters - they have agreed to adopt Maia. She is writing to her friends and teachers back at the school to tell them how her journey is going thus far. As we'd hoped, they vary in content.

Theo Y5 | Dear Dora, I have so much to tell you. London and everyone at school seem so far away right now. Our journey through the Amazon Rainforest was incredible. There were so many breathtaking shades of green. Vivid green vines swayed from side-to-side as the wind was pushing them. The boat stopped at a marketplace and we eagerly disembarked. I saw woven baskets piled with fruits - pineapples, juicy passion fruit, bright yellow bananas, fresh figs with a lovely sweet flavour and watermelons bigger than babies.

Scarlett Y6 | As you might remember, when I left school, I was greeted by a tall, rather gaunt lady dressed all in black with thick dark-rimmed spectacles and thin bony hands. As I stepped into the cab, I felt rather frightened! But, I am getting to know her better and we are actually quite similar - we both love Shakespeare and reading!

Jack Y6 | Dearest friends, You know we that we thought Miss Minton appeared fierce. In fact, I think she's actually quite kind, but also lonely. She said that the only thing that would miss her would be her sister's budgerigar - can you imagine?

Elena Y5 | After the ship left Lisbon, the Cardinal ran into a wild storm. Great green waves loomed up like mountains; the ship rolled, pitched and shuddered. Miss Minton and I shared a cabin with two Portuguese ladies, who spent most of their time in their bunks groaning, being sick, praying to the Virgin Mary and begging to die.

Charlotte Y6 | He was travelling with the Pilgrim Players. He said, "It's a spot because I'm growing up." His name is Clovis King, well his real name is Jimmy Bates. Mr and Mrs Goodley changed it when they adopted him, however I'm not sure if it is legal or not. Clovis is an actor; the Goodleys own the acting company.

Florrie Y5 | The multi-coloured parakeets with their strong wings rose and were gone in seconds, flying into the deep sea-green rain forest. Higher up, I could see multiple monkeys flying from branch to branch, competing for first pick of the fresh, delicious passion fruit.



Quote of the week: IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE - Nelson Mandela

THE COMIC RELIEF E-JOKE BOOK IS OUT NOW!

There were giggles and guffaws aplenty as we read through your fantastic jokes. All families who took part received their copy by email earlier today.

The most commonly asked joke? Mason T-G, Darcy, Hollie and Amelka all asked:

- Q. Where do cows go for entertainment?
- A. To the moooo-vies



Wriggle Project

ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the wonders of Zoom, Year 3 will be taking part in an intergenerational project lead by dance teacher Kath Kimber McTiffin next term.

Working with veterans and older people in homes in Coventry, the children will interview them via Zoom and create writing and drawings based on their stories and interviews. There will also be an online creative dance workshop linked to this work.

The project will culminate in the children's work and experiences being turned into a production style film and a book of stories and poems, timed to premiere on 26th June - Armed Forces Day. A consent form will be sent to parents next week.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins - Finnley M
 Goldfinches - Elsa
 Kingfishers - Sophia K
 Skylarks - Charlotte

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Cillian for extra effort in all areas and answering on the mat & Grace B for super effort when reading

Values & Virtues: Congratulations to our *Attentive* and *Discerning* children who have earned petals on our Values tree display; Miriam, raising money for CAFOD's Lent Appeal by walking as many steps as possible in solidarity with those who have to walk for water. Fionn has been taking charge of turning off lights in class to save electricity and Skylark's Jack and Sophie have been taking litter picking very seriously being attentive to our environment.

Something Eggs-tra Special

Bring in a Decorated Hard-Boiled Egg by Thursday

There will be a competition in each class and a chocolate will be won. This will take the place of the Easter gardens and Easter bonnets this year due to the Covid restrictions. I also hear the Easter bunny will be paying a visit on Thursday, but we may have to hunt for those eggs...



DIARY DATES

Friday, March 26
50p Fridays for FOSM start

Online Parents Evenings
 Big Robins: Mon 29
 Goldfinches: Wed 31
 Kingfishers: Tues 30
 Skylarks (Y6): Tues 30
All evenings are 3pm - 6pm.

If you missed your appointment, or are yet to book; your child's teacher will try to contact you by phone.

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 whatever your House

Tuesday, May 4
The Wriggle Project Starts Intergenerational Project (see left for details)

Wednesday, May 26
Class Photos

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

ASK ME ABOUT...

Bad Habits

During Lent we're looking at how we can get rid of bad habits to make room for the important things. In Collective Worship we talked about being what God meant each of us to be.

COVID COURTESY - from Mrs Price

PARENT MEASURES: Some parents still aren't wearing face masks, I would ask that they do - or let the office know if they have a medical exemption. Could all parents make sure that their children, once released either go immediately off site, or keep their children next to them. I would also ask that the few parents that chat by the grit bin please cease. We have had a child pushed against the grit bin and hurt this week precisely because there were parents blocking the path. I ask for this consideration because I don't want cases of Covid 19. We have a good track record, but I don't want the children to lose more education or the staff to get Covid 19. The threat of Covid has not gone away, sadly in Europe they are suffering a third wave.

March 29th Rules Change: From Monday outdoor gatherings (including in gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside. Please keep our school community safe by following the new guidelines and continuing to adhere to the basic hands, face, space rules.

Class Bubbles are not Childcare Bubbles! Even if children are in a class bubble together at school, they should not be sharing cars or in each other's houses outside of school unless in a formal childcare bubble.

Holidays: The Government taskforce reviewing global travel will report on 12 April. If and when the ban on foreign travel is lifted, parents are reminded to take any likely quarantine period into account when making their bookings as children are legally required to be in school during term time. Headteachers are no longer able to authorise leave for holidays and can only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances.

50p FRIDAYS

Thanks to our FOSM group, the children today were able to choose from an array of sweet treats, snacks and drinks as '50p Fridays' returned. Thanks to the organisers for supplying 'bubble snack kits' for each class and helping kickstart school fundraising after a COVID drought in an affordable, safe way. (Please dispose of all litter responsibly)



HOUSE POINTS

Congratulations to everyone who added to our house point tally this week - the Reds came out on top:

St George 96

St Patrick 87

St Andrew 69

St David 64

