

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | April 23rd 2021



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to be back from our Easter holidays. Our children look refreshed and ready to learn. We have welcomed new children to our school and it has been a pleasure to watch how kind our existing children have been in welcoming them in to their classes.

We have also welcomed Ms Jenna Ireland on to our team as our new caretaker. This has been an amazing help for me and she has slotted perfectly into our team. Already the children have benefitted from her putting together a play house which was kindly donated by Mrs Fairholm.

There are many things to look forward to this term including the return of clubs (please keep reading to find out more).

Our First Holy Communion class are involved in preparation for this sacrament in July. Mrs Hopkins is helping with this and Miss Righton. When Mrs Hopkins contract finishes on the 14th of May, I will become involved with further preparation. Also, Mrs Finch will return from her maternity leave on the 17th of May, but Ms Maclean has agreed to stay on after this, coming in all day Thursdays to work in EYFS and KS2.

Our children are happy to be back with their peers and their teachers. I appreciate that the whole community is doing all that it can to stay safe during this pandemic.

Mrs Price

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS

Last half term Big Robins were learning about Traditional Tales and wrote some fantastic sentences about Goldilocks!

This term they are looking at stories about animals and have read 'Hello Hello' this week. They then created their own animals and gave them a name. This term Little Robins are learning about the outdoors and have listened to the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar' this week. They have been planting some seeds and can't wait to watch them grow. We have also had some duck eggs arrive this week and have put them in the incubator. We have learnt about the life cycle of a duck and cannot wait for them to hatch in 28 days' time!



GOLDFINCHES

This display shows some of our work on Fantastic Mr Fox from last term. We are learning about the different types of

homes and buildings in Southam. Later this term, after a walk into town, the children will make a simple map showing the route from school. We will design and build a model home using the text, What We'll Build written by Oliver Jeffer's as inspiration. We will be reading The Enchanted Forest by Enid Blyton and Jack and the Beanstalk to extend our imaginary reading and writing skills. We will link our texts to our maths topic on measures. We will be researching and locating places in and around Southam using street maps on the laptops. The changes that have been taking place around our local area will be discussed and we will talk about how this has affected our feelings. In Science we will look at different materials used in old and new buildings. The children will be learning about some woodland animal life cycles, food chains and how animals have also been affected locally by changes in their habitats. There are some very interesting stories about Southam which are displayed on the wooden sculpture in town and the children will illustrate these too. In RE, we are learning about the events of Easter and the Resurrection, along with the Disciples receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



KINGFISHERS

Last term, Kingfisher class wrote some fabulous letters as the character Mr Wolf. The letters told of Mr Wolf's agony

when trying to cook some pancakes - not even his neighbours would help! Mr Wolf soon got his own back however... by gobbling them all up!

Our topic this term is all about 'Predators.' We kicked off the week by researching using the internet on a chosen predator and are looking forward to completing some work around our new focus text 'The Secret Life of a Tiger,' written by Przemyslaw Wechterowicz.



SKYLARKS

Last term as part of the topic, *Surprised*, the Skylarks studied the life and work of Henri Rousseau. I am sure you will agree he certainly ignited the children's imaginations - bravo Skylarks!

Rousseau is celebrated for his visionary jungle paintings, which captivate the viewer with the lushness of their plant and animal life painted with incredible detail and precision. Extraordinarily, the artist never saw the tropical scenes he brought so much to life, as he never left France. His exotic jungle paintings are the fantasies of a city dweller, constructed from visits to the zoo and botanical gardens, from postcards, books and from Rousseau's vivid imagination. These jungles have intrigued people for decades, offering a dream of escape from humdrum reality to a savage and yet enchanting realm.

As shared in previous newsletters, the key text for the topic, *Surprised*, was *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson. This text became the stimulus for some very thoughtful and considered writing, showcased in this display.

We are very excited for our new topic, *Hand in hand with fairy grace. Will we sing, and bless this place.* As the drama of the topic unfolds, watch this space to share in the Skylarks' learning...



Sun Smart = Sun Safe

When at school children play outside during the hours when the sun is at its strongest and young skin is especially susceptible to sun damage.

As the temperature rises and Summer arrives, please help us be sun smart:

- ☀ Children should bring sun hats to school to wear at playtimes. In Little Robins we will provide legionnaires style hats for children to wear during school hours if they do not bring in a suitable hat themselves.
- ☀ In addition, please note that Children's PE T-shirts must cover their shoulders.
- ☀ Sun screen use is encouraged and parents are asked to apply long lasting sun screen to children before school.
- ☀ Children are permitted to bring their own named sun screen to school to be kept in their bag for their own individual use. However, parents are asked to teach their children how to sensibly use and apply this sun screen. Staff will not apply sun screen to any children and children must only use their own sun screen.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins – Flori F

Goldfinches - Rebecca

Kingfishers - Murphy

Skylarks – Cerys-Mae

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Miguel for settling in superbly and demonstrating resilience and positivity

& Sofia R for working very hard & showing great enthusiasm with her learning

Values & Virtues: Compassionate and Loving

This half term our Values tree will show blossom when we grow in our **compassion** for others – both near and far – especially the less fortunate and show our **love** through just actions and forgiving words. We can show this virtue in how we treat our classmates especially when they are in trouble; and by opening our eyes to poverty and injustice.

DIARY DATES

Every Friday
50p Fridays for FOSM



Friday, April 23
St George's Day

Monday, April 26
Summer 1 Learning Logs will be set next week (due back in the week of 24th May)

Monday, May 3
Bank Holiday

w/c Tuesday, May 4
Clubs, Forest School & The Wriggle Project Start this week (details from class teachers)

FOREST SCHOOL NOTE:
Children involved in Forest School are aware & have been issued a kit list; the last session is 8th June

Wednesday, May 26
Class Photos

Friday, June 18
Skylarks Re-Treat Day

Thursday, July 1
Sports Afternoon (sadly no parents)

Thursday, July 7
Moving Up Day (all classes)

Sunday July 11
First Holy Communion

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

Let's Get Physical! DANCING, WALKING AND FOOTBALL

There's lots to do to get active now Spring is here. Now organised sporting activities are opening up after lockdown there's lots to see and do. May is [National Walking Month](#) and fresh air is free! For all those football fans among you, ahead of the delayed **UEFA Euro 2020 competition**, the children in KS1 and KS2 are taking part in their own Panini Sticker competition to win a football shirt of their choice, £50 voucher AND £3000 for the school. **Entries must be back to school by May 7th in order for us to send them all off.** As well as the Wriggle Dance Project, there is a dance school flyer attached to this issues. **If you know an older person with stories and/or memories of life during WW2, please let Mrs Worrall know so she can send details for potentially joining the Wriggle Project online 'Across the generations, remembering and moving'.**

ASK ME ABOUT...

Earth Day

In a special Eyes of the World Live Assembly from CAFOD we learned about how we can come together to look after and care for the world which need our help to tackle the climate crisis.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Forest School and outdoor PE

Next week, we look forward to starting Forest School for Year 3 with Lil and Mrs Nelson in the secret garden. Outside, we are able to use the field as it is dry and has been nicely cut by Halls. Classes are now encouraged to have two sessions of PE weekly in addition to the daily mile.

Bubble Clubs (from Tuesday 4th May)

On week three we will start clubs. Thank you to the wonderful staff for giving their time and creativity to provide these clubs to your children either free of charge or for a very modest fee. There will be:

- ★ **Gardening Club** Robins (Big and Little) – Wed lunch | £2
- ★ **Outdoor Story Sessions** Goldfinches – Wed lunch | free
- ★ **Games/Athletics** for KS2 – Wed after school | £2
- ★ **Architecture Project Group** Skylarks – Thurs after school | free

Year 3 will also be starting **The Wriggle Project**, an inter-generational dance project. **Kingfisher Year 3 Parents, if you have not yet returned your consent form, please do so as soon as possible.**

HS2 News

Competition to name the Tunnel Boring Machine

A 2,000 tonne Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) will, later this year, create a one-mile tunnel under Long Itchington Wood. Children, with the permission of a legal guardian, can submit their name ideas here: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/long-itchington-tunnel/>

Returning to School Safely

COVID Safety

A video about returning to school safely from WCC is available to view on the homepage of our [website](#).



HOUSE POINTS

There's lots of wonderful red clothing, tights, ribbons & hats around school today to celebrate St George's day:

St Andrew 115

St David 99

St George 98

St Patrick 98



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY, DAVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM, CV47 1PS