

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | May 21st 2021



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

My focus this week has been appointing good teachers to fill the roles that will be needed in our school next Academic Year. In this, I have been ably helped by Mrs Collier (our headteacher in waiting); Mrs Scull; Foundation Governor, Mrs Raiseborough; Father Arul and Ben McArdle from the Diocese. It has been a privilege to observe the candidates teach and there has been some wonderful teaching. Our children have been a credit to us and have engaged fully in the sessions.

I am delighted to tell you that on Monday we appointed Mrs Dana Banat-Rinz as Assistant Head. She is an experienced Key Stage 2 teacher and taught a fabulous Maths lesson to Year 6. She has worked in Catholic schools in this Diocese and is looking forward to doing so again.

On Tuesday, we appointed Miss Pahnke for the new stand-alone Year 2 class – the Doves. She too really impressed us and we know she will fit right in at St. Mary's. As a keen footballer herself, the children will soon have a fantastic football team, I am sure!

Sadly, Miss Righton has decided to leave teaching. She has secured a post in the travel industry and has been released early to take up this post. In Tuesday's interviews we also managed to secure another great, experienced teacher for Year 3/4; Mrs Jessica Winton will take up the appointment in September 2021. After half term and for the remainder of the year Mr Stewart Price will be with the Kingfishers. An experienced teacher with leadership experience, the children met him yesterday and he will be in school again next Thursday. This is not the way I had envisaged our last half term, but I feel blessed that we have a good stable solution in place.

Mrs Price

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS

Robin class have had a very exciting week

at school as one of our eggs finally hatched! As only one egg hatched we have found a companion for our duckling. We would like to introduce you to Bobbie and Pippin. Continuing the animal theme, we also had bunnies visit for the day! The children have thoroughly enjoyed looking after the animals and did a great job feeding, reading and singing to them!



GOLDFINCHES

This week in Goldfinches the children made birthday cards for Pentecost Sunday. We talked and wrote about

how we can use the gifts sent from God. We have been on a scavenger hunt in the school grounds to sort objects into living, not living and never lived. We are learning about the life processes that show we are alive! We are working hard to practise different ways to subtract and are continuing our topic on measures.



▲ The scavenger hunt
◀ Our Tudor Houses

KINGFISHERS

Another busy week in Kingfishers class this week! In Literacy, we have begun a new mini-writing topic based on the story of 'The Dreamgiver.' The children first listened

to the opening music and made predictions about what they could hear, making links to other texts such as 'Harry Potter' and 'The BFG.' The children were then showed an image of The Dreamgiver - what was he doing? What characteristics and attributes do we think he has? What will happen next? The children then learnt that The Dreamgiver visits children in the dead of night, cracking golden eggs upon them to bring their wildest dreams to life! We then finished the week by writing diary entries in the voice of The Dreamgiver and thought about the objects we would like to bring to life in our own dreams. Well done Kingfishers - you have produced some lovely writing!

The Dreamgiver...



SKYLARKS

This half-term, in the Skylarks class, we have taken the time to look into the world of Georgia O'Keeffe. Born in 1887, Georgia O'Keeffe was an American artist who

Painted nature in a way that showed how it made her feel. She is best known for her paintings of large-scale flowers, desert landscapes, and bones and skulls. She played an important part in the development of modern art in America, becoming the first female painter to gain respect in New York's art world in the 1920s. Like O'Keeffe, the children have painted their own flowers. They are blooming lovely!



Number puzzle Answer: Did you solve our brain teaser?

Using only addition and the number 8, how can you add eight 8s to make to 1,000?

Here's how it's done: $888+88+8+8+8=1,000$



JOIN THE BIG ASK!

Calling Children between 4 & 17

Children and young people across our county are being urged to have their say on their hopes for the future, in the biggest ever survey of its kind in England.

The Big Ask survey asks children how happy they are about aspects of their lives, and what they think stops children achieving their aims and goals when they grow up.

The results will inform a review aimed at tackling "generational problems that have held back too many children for decades".

Please encourage children and young people to take part, and adults can give their views too in the section for over 18s.

www.thebigask.uk



STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins – Elliott
Goldfinches - Antoni
Kingfishers - Charlie
Skylarks - Emily

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Emma for strong friendships and a lovely demeanor & Tallulah for politeness and an excellent positive attitude

DIARY DATES

Every Friday
50p Fridays for FOSM



Friday, May 21
Summer A Learning Log
Return date

Wednesday, May 26
Class Photos

Wednesday, May 26
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(First Holy Communion cohort only)

Thursday, May 27
May Celebration All Years
(May Procession Y5/6)

May 31 - June 4
Half Term

Friday, June 18
Skylarks Re-Treat Day

Thursday, July 1
Sports Afternoon

Friday, July 9
Moving Up Day (all classes)

Y7s to Southam College
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Sunday June 20
Father's Day

Sunday July 11 @ 11:30
First Holy Communion

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



[Download the template here](#)

All children aged 4-14 from across the UK can, with permission from an adult, enter the competition. The closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 28th May 2021. [Rules, hints and tips](#)

RISE! Mental Health Practitioners

1:1 Consultations & Parent Information Sessions

Parents and carers of children and young people living in Warwickshire can now either discuss their current difficulties with a professional 1:1 or join FREE online Parent Information Sessions on a range of topics – including anxiety, sensory needs, emotional development and challenging behaviour - via Zoom. A leaflet is included with this newsletter detailing how you can access the confidential 45-minute consultation or register for the online events.



ASK ME ABOUT...

Pentecost

50 Days after Easter we celebrate Pentecost - when, the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles – an event which is the beginning of the early church. Children took part in a fantastic online Pentecost liturgy today where they sang in their class bubbles.

HOUSE POINTS

It's unheard of! We have non-movers and the standings are identical to last week's! Well done St Patrick, two in a row! I wonder whose colours will be on the House Cup come Sports Day...

St Patrick 62

St Andrew 58

St David 56

St George 48



THE NOTICE BOARD...

Moving up Day is Moving to Friday 9th July!
New families joining us in September will receive an invitation via the office

SKYLARKS please pay your Alton Castle Retreat money in Parent Pay

Say Cheese! Don't forget Class Photos are next Wednesday

Please make sure your child has a labelled waterproof coat - and all their belongings! - in school every day!

Please bring Petals on Thursday from your own garden to sprinkle around the statue of St Mary for our May Celebration.