

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | May 28th 2021



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well suddenly we have the start of good weather. We have all enjoyed it hugely. It began on the Wednesday when our First Holy Communion candidates made their First confession with Father Arul in school. The way those twelve children made their confession was sincere and thoughtful.

On Thursday, we honoured Mary in our annual May procession. This year it was a little different with year 5/6 leading the way, paired with a child from the First Holy Communion group. Father led the procession, with children following; holding Mary's crown of flowers, Emily's portrait of Mary, posies of flowers and baskets of petals. We processed to the prayer garden which looked truly beautiful on this Late Spring day. Petals were scattered, with a blessing from Father Arul, both ways inside and outside we said the Holy Rosary. In the hall, we sang to Mary and adorned the prayer table with more flowers. After the last fourteen months, it felt like a wonderful privilege to create an event together, both beautiful and spiritual.

Today we say goodbye and good luck to Miss Righton. At the end of the day, the parents and children will say goodbye to her in the prayer garden. We know that it is just a new chapter opening for Miss Righton and the children. Mr Price who was with us again yesterday, will be their teacher after half term. Life is full of openings and closings as we journey along.

Mrs Price

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS

What a lovely busy time we have had in Robins class this week!

We have said goodbye to our ducks, but said hello to Chocolate

and Fudge (the guinea pigs) who came to visit us for the day. On Thursday, we visited the prayer garden and scattered petals as part of our Mary procession. Have a lovely half term Robins class 😊

GOLDFINCHES

We had a super time sharing the Learning Logs

this week. The children have worked very hard making maps, drawings and taking photos of their favourite places around Southam as well as writing the changes they'd like to make. Well done Goldfinches, they were all very interesting and we enjoyed sharing them.

The children wrote about how Mary made them feel and explored her virtues to help them understand how we can bring the love of God into the world. They took part in the procession around her statue in the prayer garden and laid paper flowers at her feet.



KINGFISHERS

What a fantastic array of Learning Logs we received from Kingfishers

class - I have learnt so much from all of you predator experts! Thank you so much for all your efforts - I loved listening to you present your PowerPoint presentations and share your artwork, posters and fact files! Max even presented his information from memory, having us all hooked with his fantastic facts about megalodons! Another fact we learnt this week - did you know that a cheetah cannot roar? It simply purrs instead! Thank you to Layla for this fascinating fact!



SKYLARKS

The theme for this half-term's learning log for the Skylarks was...

*'Hand in hand with fairy grace.
Will we sing, and bless this place.'*

Each child's log showcases their chosen learning style and talents which flourish in this creative cog of the curriculum. The photos included are just a taster of the children's amazing efforts, which included a collage, a love potion just like the one Oberon sprinkled on Titania's eyelids, a costume for Bottom, and a rather delicious lemon mousse! Zach designed a fairy garden, which he has been watering each morning in school - it is just beautiful!!



TRACK AND TRACE

SCHOOL'S OUT BUT TESTING IS IN

Where pupils or staff test positive having developed symptoms within 2 days of being in school, we will be contact tracing. Should this happen to your child, you are asked to contact the office via email (we cannot access voicemails in the holidays) so we can identify close contacts and advise them of the need to self-isolate, as your child may have been infectious whilst in school.

WARWICKSHIRE FAMILIES MAGAZINE

If you're looking for things to do out and about now restrictions are easing, do check out the latest issue:

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/families_warwickshire_may-june_2021?fr=sZjNjMTM2MzY3NTg



LET'S DANCE!

PUMPS AT THE READY!

EYFS and KS1

Throughout this last Summer term our youngest children will be dancing in bubble groups of 15 with a specialist external dance teacher thanks to our Sports Premium.

Monday afternoons

= Big and Little Robins

Wednesday afternoons

= Goldfinches

ASK ME ABOUT...

Which ones of these

I want to do this half term...

50 Things to do before you're 11½

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do>

Happy Holidays!

HOUSE POINTS

St Patrick 66

St George 59

St Andrew 46

St David 35



STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins – Vincent

Goldfinches – Elsa

Kingfishers – Jessica

Skylarks – Ada

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Hamish for tackling challenges

and persevering & Kaitlen

for working hard always

DIARY DATES

Every Friday

50p Fridays for FOSM

May 31 – June 4

Half Term

Friday, June 18

Skylarks Re-Treat Day

Sunday, June 20

Father's Day

Tuesday, June 22

Whole School Singing Retreat

Thursday, July 1

Sports Afternoon

Friday, July 9

Moving Up Day (all classes)

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/>

FOOD & LOCAL WELFARE SUPPORT HELPING RESIDENTS - EVERY DAY AND AT TIMES OF CRISIS

If your family needs support and isn't eligible for Free School Meals, the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme can help: 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182 <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme> They provide financial help and advice for people in crisis who need support to access food and utilities and also signpost to further support available from other public, community and voluntary services.

The government's COVID grant support for vulnerable families will continue until 20 June 2021, providing financial support for food, household essentials and utilities to residents at risk of experiencing poverty during the pandemic. Families can make an application for benefits related Free School Meals (FSM) at any time:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

All current FSM children will receive a food voucher by SMS for use this half term.

NOTE: Even if your child is currently in years R-2 and receiving lunch free under the Universal Infant Free school meal entitlement, it is worth applying. Beneficiaries can access holiday food vouchers and discounted childcare in the holidays – and the school receives extra funding which we can use to provide additional services and staff to support your children – so, if you haven't yet applied for FSM, please do claim this entitlement if you can.

SCHOOL LIFE...

SCHOOL DINNERS

We're keen to return to the variety of a full hot, plated menu as opposed to our current COVID-kitchen hot, cold, and jacket deli range. However, we can't do this until bubble rules allow us to combine classes in the hall for two dinner sittings.

Although all eyes are on the 21st of June, even once a Government announcement in made, our caterers need notice to get all the food orders in and the kitchens prepared. This may mean we can't make the transition until September. As ever, we will follow the government guidance and share this information with you as and when we receive it.

MUSIC LESSONS

We currently offer students in years 2-6 payable woodwind, string, piano and keyboard lessons at school via our Warwickshire County Music teachers; Ms Butler for Guitar and woodwind, Mr Bissell for piano and keyboard. Instrument hire is free for the first year.

As we have to book and pay for teaching timetable in advance, we need to know a half term ahead if you wish to add - or indeed leave - music lessons.

So, with September in mind, please complete the expression of interest form to let us know who to factor in to our new year timetabling.

CHURCH LIFE...

MASS TIMES

You may not be aware that Our Lady and St. Wulstan church is properly open once again after Lockdown. Mass times are 5.30 pm on Saturday, and 8.30am and 10.00am on Sunday. (Children's Liturgy will be back soon)

ATTENDANCE & APPOINTMENTS

While we understand that dental appointments are hard to come by, please try to avoid the mid-point of the day. If your child must take a dental appointment in the school day, I would ask that they please still come in for the other half of the day. Children should not be off for the whole day for a routine appointment.

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