ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | June 25th 2021

FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week was profoundly tricky in school for reasons relating to Covid. Over the week, we had two teachers self-isolating due to being in contact with family who had symptoms and so have taken PCR tests and awaited results. Children and groups of children have been in the same situation; this caused a level of creative thinking with staffing and it is hard for all concerned, for children, staff and support staff. Against this background, we have pulled together as a team.

Children have been remarkable and helped in any way they could, but their major contribution has been to engage fully in their learning. We have had a fascinating look at certain countries, such as Malaysia, India and the continent of Asia as well as the capital city, London. Through these Countries, Continents and Cities the children have learnt about the main faiths that the people believe in. The older children have compared these faiths and seen how they differ and are similar. In Skylarks, they have made Power-Points about Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, Folk Religion and other Christian faiths. Kingfishers have largely focussed on Islam, the faith predominant in Malaysia. Goldfinches have enjoyed finding out about India and their main faith Hinduism. The children have shown themselves to be curious and endlessly interested.

In classes, they have focussed on 'The values and virtue trees' they have recently displayed and leaves have been placed upon them with examples of children being faith-filled and hopeful. After morning prayers, they have added how they are growing to be hopeful and faith-filled each day.

So, you can see that children are enjoying being together, both in their learning and their play. So be aware that to continue to do this until the end of the term we need to continue to follow Covid guidelines. I ask that you scrupulously wear masks for drop off and pick up. I also ask that this year your children take part in Sport's Day without parents sadly. I realise this is disappointing but there is too much infection around and the rules are still very strong in Education unlike some other, seemingly less important areas.

Mrs Price

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS

We have had a very busy time in Robins class this week!

The lovely weather meant that we have enjoyed lots of time in the garden. We decided to have a look to see if any of the potatoes had grown that we planted a few months ago. We were excited to find that they had! As they were quite small, we thought we would use them for a spot of potato printing. Our pictures look amazing \bigcirc

GOLDFINCHES

The Goldfinches had a lovely afternoon on the online retreat

which was celebrating their uniqueness and special gifts. We shared our thoughtful prayers, enjoyed singing action songs and made pictures about ourselves to give thanks to God. We have been learning about the Hindu religion for the faith week and made colourful masks to act out the story of Rama and Sita. We enjoyed researching on the laptops about India and wrote information fact files. Then we made some beautiful Rangoli patterns.

KINGFISHERS

It has been an exciting and faith-filled week for Kingfishers. Our new in-class Values and Virtues tree

is up and filling up quickly. The children have been learning more about Islam and the country of Malaysia. We learnt about the similarities between Islam and

Christianity by looking at the 5 pillars of Islam and comparing them to our values. The children learnt about mosques and made their own prayer mats and Islamic patterns which were fantastic as you can see. ►

Year 3 children also completed the Wriggle Project work for the presentation and book this week. ** On Saturday at 10.30am there will be a Zoom meeting to show you the results. Details of how to connect have been sent out and we are looking forward to seeing you there.**

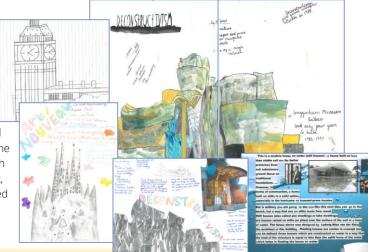




SKYLARKS

Learning's new literacy project which will 'launch' World Book Day 2021 and aims to get students to review existing children's books about architecture and the built environment. Here is a taster of the work completed by the children who attend the weekly Architecture club each Thursday - week in, week out, they are thoroughly immersed and working industriously to meet the project's goals!

Reading Architecture is the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)









VALUES & VIRTUES TREE

FAITH-FILLED & HOPEFUL

The leaves you've added to our values and virtues tree this week:

'Scarlett, for consoling her sister, helping her to understand a situation.'

'Max M, for reminding Mrs Hilditch it was morning prayer time, then saying "Hands together friends" and leading the prayer.'

> ASK ME ABOUT... The One Life Singing Retreat "We are all unique and valuable" was the message – ask me how / am unique and valuable; and the talents and virtues your child sees in you and values as unique!

d hopeful

today ?

STARS OF THE WEEK
Robins – Joseph
Goldfinches - Chloe
Kingfishers - Lexi
Skylarks – Maisie
HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD
Charlotte D for kindness and being
consistently hardworking in all areas &
Rebecca for her enthusiasm,
thoroughly engaging with our retreat

St Andrew & St Patrick 25 St George 19

St David 12

DIARY DATES

Every Friday 50p Fridays for FOSM

Wednesday, June 30 @4PM NEW 2021 Robins' Information Session (Online)

Thursday, July 1 Sports Afternoon (no parents)

Friday, July 2 Reports out

Friday, July 9 Moving Up Day (all classes)

Friday, July 9 Learning Logs Due In (Feedback Wk beginning 12th)

Sunday, July 11 @ 11:30 First Holy Communion

Friday, July 16 Leavers' Day

Monday, July 19 No After School Club

Wednesday, July 21 Last day of Term

July 22 – September 3 Summer Holidays (Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd are Teacher Training Days)

PLEASE NOTE:

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE More dates and details online at: https://www.stmaryssoutham.org.

COVID UPDATE

STAY ALERT! WHILE VACCINATION NUMBERS ARE ENCOURAGING, CASES ARE VERY MUCH ON THE RISE LOCALLY. Please note, that while COVID-19 usually presents with a new or worsening cough, high temperature and loss or change in taste or smell, COVID-19 can present as cold symptoms such as sore throat, severe fatigue/ feeling unwell for no obvious reason, poorly tummy, severe headache, and muscle aches. If members household become unwell, although it may be a seasonal cold, please consider this could be COVID-19 and test accordingly.

- Ensure that you wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children, maintaining distancing on the way in and way out of school. We have had recent student isolations due to lapses in social distancing and use of face coverings; we need to maintain social distancing and wear our face coverings over our nose and mouth.
- If your child is unwell with lesser symptoms as mentioned above, please keep your child off school while they are unwell (this was guidance before COVID-19). Where there are symptoms we would also rather your child PCR test to ensure that it is not COVID-19 as these are more accurate when there are some signs of illness (You can book online or with 119 by stating you do not have top three symptoms but "Public Health has requested you book a test", you are permitted to have a test without symptoms, the household legally do not need to isolate). Your household do not need to isolate whilst this is undertaken.
- ALL positive at-home LFD tests require a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test is negative, all household members and close contacts will be able to return to usual activity immediately.
- Those who have been self-isolating should home-LFD test or test at a Community LFT Centre on the day after isolation (day 11). This will ensure that children are not carrying the virus without symptoms on the day they are to return to school. We recommend you book your tests in advance.
- Families are invited to get on board with the national programme for testing of families with primary school and secondary school children to help tackle community transmission without symptoms. Please take this opportunity to order home Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) which are plastic cartridge home test kits, they can be used twice a week (3-5 days apart) and reordered weekly. These can be collected locally (main collection sites are PCR walk in centres from 1-8pm daily), you can find your nearest collection site here: https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk, and further collection slots will be brought in. If the walk-in centres are not close to you, you can have these delivered to your home by royal mail, usually within 24hrs. These can be found from this website.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff

We all want hugs back, but no one wants COVID levels back up: official government guidance

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