

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | July 16<sup>th</sup> 2021



## FROM THE HEAD for the final time...

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a year! I reach the end of this year with relief that we have been able to stay open since the last lockdown for our children. The children have shown their appreciation of this through their willingness to enjoy time with their friends and to make the most of all that a school setting can offer.

Initially, it was hard for some children to settle down to good learning behaviours. More change occurred for Kingfisher class with the departure of Ms. Righton. In Goldfinch class, Ms Costa arrived which was much appreciated by many of the Year 1 children. Change is a part of life, but I am glad to say we have prepared St. Mary's for the next chapter in its life. Teachers are in place; Mrs Banat-Rinz, Mrs Winton, Miss Pahnke and of course at the helm, Mrs Collier.

My wish today is to say thank you for all the tremendous support you have given me over the years. Parents and children have always been a pleasure here in Southam. FOSM, over the years, have done so much for the school community in so many ways. They have left a wonderful lasting legacy of the St. Mary's prayer garden which I have enjoyed immensely, as have the children. The children, themselves have been great to work with and the school is now a joyful place where children can feel inspired to learn. I believe our children try and treat each other in a Christian way, they know how to say sorry when things go wrong and are ready to make a fresh start each new day.

Governors have also been a blessing to me as well as a great support. They have challenged in a kind, considered way. They have also given freely of their time whilst having busy lives themselves. Special thanks to Mrs Scull who has been a great support through her time as Chair of Governors.

Staff have changed at the school, we have had three slow revolutions over my 9 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed this last revolution and say thank you to all I have worked with, both teachers and support staff. I know I am leaving a strong team, with Mrs Worrall and Mrs Whiting who can ably support Mrs Collier in the next part of the St. Mary's Journey. I am grateful to the whole of the teaching and support staff for their commitment to the children, keeping them safe and supporting their learning. Many of these staff feel fortunate to have been able to fully support our children throughout the whole of the pandemic including the two lockdowns. I would personally like to thank Ms McAloon for her steadfast support throughout such a difficult covid time. I wish Mrs Whiteford a well-deserved retirement. I have loved working with her, initially as a job share, and having her within the team.

Volunteers have always been a hugely welcome addition to our community too. Another centrally important role has been done daily by our caretakers and cleaning staff throughout this time I applaud them for keeping us all safe.

Next Wednesday morning, we have the Leaver's mass and I look forwards to wishing our Year 6 well on their journey to secondary school. I am very proud of these children, they are great ambassadors for our school and will be good citizens of, I hope, a better world. Now all that remains is to say goodbye in advance for the end of term. I wish you and your families well and hope you have many joyful times together.

God's Blessings,

Mrs Price

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

### ROBINS

Tuesday was a very exciting day as we were able to have lots of fun in forest school!

The children had a go at making fairy houses, making bugs from clay and climbing trees. Our Forest School leader Lil also showed the children how you could make fire with flint and steel! Well done Robins class, you had a great time 😊



### GOLDFINCHES

A good time was had by all on our Beach Day and the sun came out! The Goldfinches were making tunnels in the sand, painting under the sea, popping enormous bubbles, fishing in the paddling pools, drawing and decorating ice-creams.

Here we are eating them before making a shell treasure model. It was all brilliant fun and we have continued this week with finding out about ocean animals.



### KINGFISHERS

Well done to all the children in Kingfishers for all their hard work this term. The children really have been working hard

this week writing letters about saving the rainforest & designing posters to support this too. The children in Year 3 have also been given their booklets and DVDs of the work they did with the Wriggle Project. The booklets look brilliant and the children's artwork really stands out. We also enjoyed watching the DVD, listening to the stories of the war and seeing the dances and drama the children created - we hope you enjoy watching them too.

As the term comes to an end, this will be my last few days working with Kingfishers. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the children and seeing them develop and improve over the last few weeks. They have been a pleasure to teach. I would like to wish the pupils, parents and teachers a happy summer break. Mr Stewart Price

### SKYLARKS

Today, the Skylarks have been getting creative in the glorious sunshine! Firstly, during workshops led by our forest school

specialist, Lil' Ellis, the children have fashioned beautiful dream catchers in the Secret

Garden. They have also been busily sewing and sticking their hooting owls and snuffling pugs.

There was an air of excitement throughout the day as our Year 6 children eagerly anticipated their Leavers' Party, which is taking place outside after school today - we are delighted that the sun has its hat on!





**Monday, July 19**  
No After School Club


**Wednesday, July 21**  
Last day of Term

**Friday September 3**  
9:30 am - 11:30 am  
Transition Morning for 2021 Reception & Nursery Class  
**Note:** *the school is closed to all other year groups on this day*

**Monday, September 6**  
Back to school

 **DINNERS:** Because September 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> are inset days, we start back on Menu Week 2.



 **TIP:** Term dates for 2021-22 & 2022-23 are available in full on the website: <https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/academic-calendar/>

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

## STARS OF THE WEEK

 Robins - Delilah L  
 Goldfinches - Brody  
 Kingfishers - Chelsea  
 Skylarks - All Year 6

## HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

 Kabelle for showing kindness,  
 Maggie for a positive attitude to learning,  
Leon for attentive listening and great writing & Gwen for her problem solving and joy for life.

### 'FREEDOM DAY'

#### Easing of Covid restrictions from 19<sup>th</sup> July

Thank you to all of our staff, parents and grandparents for adjusting and adhering to the new rules over the past year. We will maintain our bubbles in class until the end of term and ask that parents continue to social distance at drop off and pickup times and to wear a mask unless exempt. As always, our decisions are made with the protection of our children, staff, parents and the wider community in mind.

### HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS

#### Little Robins - 30 Hour Funding

Act now to ensure your claim or renewal for funded childcare is in place before 31<sup>st</sup> August - the deadline for Autumn Term. Visit the Warwickshire website to check if you are eligible and apply: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/help-childcare-costs/3>

**Before & After School Club:** Help with childcare costs for working parents is available through several Government schemes. Please visit the Childcare Choices website to find out more: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

### ASK ME ABOUT...

#### My best bits this year

What have I enjoyed, what have I learned, what am I most proud of and what would I like to work on to be better at next year?

### HOUSE POINTS

Thank you to all the Year 6 House Captains who have diligently collected and counted the house points weekly. This week's count was a mammoth one, taking the tally for the full year...

**St George 1815**  
**St Andrew 1751**  
**St Patrick 1736**  
**St David 1665**

### SCHOOL LIFE... \* IMPORTANT UPDATE \*

We're looking forward to school life - and the School Day - returning to normal in September. Full school dinners will start on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> on Menu Week 2 and we will only slightly stagger our openings:

- **08:45** KS2 Playground opens years 2-6
- **08:50** Robins and Y1 entry via side gate to the right of reception
- **08:55** Children to be in classes for registration
- **09:00** Lessons start
- **03:20** Classes dismissed - parents to socially distance while waiting for children to be brought out to them.

#### PE: Early Years and KS1 days TBC, KS2 will be Thursday.

One thing we liked which will continue next year was children coming in their PE kit on PE days, however please note, normal PE uniform rules will now apply and younger children should always have a spare change of clothes in school. Year 3/4 swimming will resume in the Autumn.

#### STATIONERY: Own items Years 2-6.

Please bring in 1 small pencil case containing 2 pencils | 2 handwriting pens (if you are using pens yet) | Sharpener | 30cm ruler | Glue Stick | Colouring pencils | pocket tissues | hand sanitiser

### CHURCH LIFE...

#### First Holy Communion

Last weekend, we were lucky enough to be able to celebrate the First Holy Communion of 13 of our children. The mass was a prayerful event and the children received the sacrament in a joyful, but respectful way. For the first time in years the children, led by Father Arul, processed around to the school and enjoyed a simple sharing time. Huge thanks to Father Arul for his kindness to the children and his gentle good humour, not just on Sunday, but throughout his time as our parish priest.

My thanks also extend to Ms McAloon, Mrs Reeves, Mrs Lyons, Ms Ireland, Mrs Crowley and Mrs Worrall for helping me with the preparations. The spiritual bags and display were beautifully completed by Mrs Turner; I also thank Father Arul and Mrs Scull for helping too, as well as Ian and Pat Wulstan from the church.

Our First Holy Communion Mass took place last Sunday

