

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | October 15th 2021



From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well here we are at the penultimate week of the first half term and I cannot believe the progress we are seeing within our children. As you know I am always proud of our St. Mary's family but this week Father Arul applauded our children in Years Five and Six at their class mass this week. What a delight! I am so lucky that I have the privilege of teaching across the school and seeing how superb our children are first hand.

We have a very busy half term coming up in the run up to Christmas. Please continue to keep reading the Newsletter to stay up-to-date with all of the exciting things that we have planned. We are still considering Nativity performances and we will look carefully at COVID numbers before we make any further decisions. Whilst we would love to have you all in we have to keep all of our school community safe – that is our priority.

We have had a further two cases within the last week or so and with this in mind I would implore you to continue to keep wearing face masks whilst on our school site, again this is to keep our school community safe. If your child displays any COVID symptoms: a high temperature or a new continuous cough or a change to their sense of taste or smell, please do not send them into school and book them a PCR test. We are still following our strict COVID Risk Assessment, ensuring school is as clean as it can be. We remind children about washing and sanitising their hands and they are being vigilant about that. A big thank you must go out to Chris and Shirley; they both work extremely hard to ensure everywhere is cleaned correctly under the safety guidelines for COVID.

God Bless

Maureen Collier



Black History Month

is something we have introduced based on our passion to ensure that all children feel represented within our curriculum at St Mary's.

The topic of Black History Month and the recent adaptations of our reading spine and curriculum, is so that we can celebrate cultural diversity throughout school. We also want to provide a curriculum that is current and, although history is important, not stuck in the past. Therefore, more recently many of our children have spoken about the Euro Football penalty fall out and the Black Lives Matter movement, and we wanted to use some of our curriculum time to really explore the PHSE element behind this and allow the children to fully understand that everyone deserves to be treated with respect, no matter the colour of their skin.

With Upper Key Stage Two, we will look more closely at Black History and the ways in which key historical figures drew upon courage to stand up for what they believed in and that this path wasn't always easy. We will use examples of Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King to show the impact that one person taking a stand can have a difference on many others. We will look at the words of Martin Luther King Jr. speech 'I have a Dream' and the children write their own version of this for how they want to see the world in this day and age. With our younger children, we will look at Black Inspirational Figures and celebrate their achievements in the world and encourage the children to think of their own aspirations - because anything is possible.

We use this topic to also delve deeper and teach the children about our British Values: Diversity, Tolerance and Respect. So, although it is entitled 'Black History Month', and yes, we do look at those Black Historical Figures who had to fight so hard for equality, it is so much more than that. It is about allowing the children to understand and feel empathy to those who, have at any point in their lives, lived in a world where they have been targeted for the colour of their skin. And then to use this empathy as a learning point to help all children to be a catalyst for change and to take a stand so that we can one day live in a world where this is only history and sadly, still not reality. It also celebrates the successes of many black men and women who are shining examples to our children and deserved to be recognised in their own right, and not just during Black History Month. And this is something, with the changes made to our curriculum, that I hope can permeate through and inspire a future generation of St Mary's.

Come

along and
join the fun!

CHOCOLATE BINGO!

Friday 12th November,
6 - 8pm

St Mary's School Hall
£1 a book for the Bingo

Raffle, refreshments
& snack bar. All proceeds

to go to FOSM to support the school
We will be looking for parents/children to donate chocolate for this event.



EASY

FUNDRAISING  **easyfundraising**
feel good shopping

Please support Friends Of St Mary's Southam on [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) - you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online with over 6,000 retailers. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up! Plus, once you have raised your first £5, easyfundraising will match it! **Sign up now:**
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=22609>

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

The Road Safety team have asked that we share the below short survey with parents and carers to help better understand why children are travelling the way they do to and from school each day:

<https://forms.office.com/r/OWeZtKeT2j>

The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. We will also be talking to the staff and children in class next week so the Road Safety Education Team can use the combined data to help increase walking, cycling, scooting and other sustainable modes of transport as part of our school's Safe and Active Travel plan.

Table Top Sale!

- Could you do with a little extra cash?
- Do you have things you no longer need?
- Are you needing extra space?
- Ready for a clear out before Christmas?

Then book a table at our Table Top Sale!

Saturday 30th October

from 10:00 till 12:00 @ the church hall
Refreshments available and raffle

£5 per table and keep all your profits!

Contact Angela 07847611013 or Wendy 07436113887 to book a table

ROBINS

This week in Robins class we have been thinking about Autumn and all the things that we can see at this time of year. We enjoyed looking at pictures of leaves, pumpkins, squirrels and pine cones. We even started to learn a little Autumn song! We turned our lovely role play area into a school and lots of children have enjoyed writing on the board and taking the register. In RE we have been talking about how and why we make the sign of the cross. Well done Robins, another fabulous week.

DOVES

This week Doves have been learning how to login to the laptops and navigate using their track pads. In English we have been innovating the Three Little Pigs Story changing the characters and making our own versions of the story.

During RE lessons we have been learning about the Celebration of Mass and what some of the signs & symbols mean around the church.

GOLDFINCHES

Goldfinches have been enjoying the practical side of learning this week. We were great scientists investigating which materials are waterproof and would be suitable for an umbrella. We have continued to use the base 10 to complete addition and subtraction 2-digit number sentences. We have been exploring instructions and how command sentences tell us what to do. We enjoyed using a script to act out Jesus' first miracle at the Wedding at Cana and thinking about how Jesus would have felt when the disciples finally believed him.

KINGFISHERS

Another successful and hardworking week in Kingfisher class. We have been planning and writing our own versions of the Tin Forest, creating some suspense and intrigue to encourage our readers to read on. History learning has seen us exploring Boudicca as Queen of the Iceni Tribe and delving into what life could have been like from her perspective and other important people during the Roman era.

SKYLARKS

What a busy week we have had in Skylarks. In our maths lessons, we have become experts at dividing 4-digit numbers. We are really getting into our class book, "Kensukes Kingdom" now that Michael is trying to survive on a desert island. In RE, we have been looking at the miracles that Jesus performed. A reminder too that all children should be accessing TTRS every night for around 10 minutes. Everyone has their login details but some children haven't been logged on for many months so please encourage them.

From the classroom...



DIARY DATES

EVERY FRIDAY

50p Fridays are back! bring your pennies for yummy snacks and fundraise for FOSM



Thursday, October 21st
Individual School Photos

Thursday, October 21st
Doves Prayer Service
(in school, sorry no parents)

October 25th - 29th
Half Term

October 31st
Application Deadline
Secondary School Places

Monday, November 8th
Reception Vision Screening

Wednesday, November 17th
Health Needs Assessment &
Measurement Programme
Y6 Both & YR Measurement only

Tuesday, December 7th
NEW DATE: Flu Vaccination

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Everyone in Skylarks class should be very proud of their behaviour in mass this week

- Father was so pleased that he even gave them a round of applause! ▾



Parents Evening

I hope that you all found this useful, I know the teachers really enjoyed speaking to you all and telling you how wonderful your children are. I would please implore that you read with your child daily and discuss what they are reading with them; practise their handwriting using a cursive style and to practise times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars – each child should have been given their own log in and they should be on the site for 10 minutes each day. If you have any questions please do ask your child's teacher or catch me on the gate. If you haven't spoken to your class teacher please do get in touch with them as we do need to work together to ensure our children achieve to the best of their ability.

HOUSE POINTS

St Patrick 134

St Andrew 96

St David 86

St George 74



Stars of the Week

Little Robins – Orla

Big Robins - Kabelle

Doves - Betsy

Goldfinches – Sophie

Kingfishers – Maggie & Peyton

Skylarks – Zach D & Jacob H

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Robins	Louie & Emma
Doves	Grace
Goldfinches	Alice
Kingfishers	Delilah & Ned
Skylarks	Logan & Theo

LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Vincent
Big Robins	Max
Doves	Zakariah
Goldfinches	Mason
Kingfishers	Mason & Amelka
Skylarks	Max & Sophie B