

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | November 26<sup>th</sup> 2021



## From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, this is such a special time of year when we are waiting and preparing to open our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The children (and staff) have had the most wonderful day today preparing our school for this very important liturgical season. It is such a joy and a privilege to work with our children and to hear the laughter around the school.

It has been a challenging week for our children in Years Two to Six as we have had assessment week. This is a very valuable time for us to see what the children have learnt so far and enables us to compare data both locally and nationally. This is also an important skill for children to learn - and it will definitely get easier for them with practice. We have an ethos here where we tell the children that this is their opportunity to shine. I am incredibly proud that the children have shown such grit and determination and powered through. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to you all for last week's Children in Need as we raised £110.00 for Pudsey!

Our Celebration Assembly was, as always, a joy and the children never cease to amaze us with their 'can do' attitude. Our Stars of the Week are very proud of themselves as were those of our children who shared their achievements outside of school.

Next week is another busy week for us with a whole school mass to mark the beginning of Advent. We look forward to taking all the children to our church, something we have been unable to do as a whole school for such a very long time. Unfortunately, due to the current rise in numbers of COVID in Southam we cannot invite parents, grandparents or carers to join us. We must do everything we can to keep our school community safe, especially now in this run up to Christmas as we have all missed out on spending precious time with our friends and families.

This weekend the Southam Christmas Light Switch On will be such a magical time. The children's singing has been superb to listen to and they will definitely give you that Christmas feel on Sunday. Have a wonderful, restful weekend making new memories.

God Bless

Maureen Collier



## SCHOOL CHOIR @ CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Please meet at 4.05pm ready for the choir to sing at 4.15pm. Children will need to be in their school uniforms please (with appropriate layers on underneath to keep them warm).

Parents and Carers will need to remain with your children and be responsible for them.

## GLORIOUS GARDEN

Thank you to Poppy's Plants for another generous selection of donated items. We have pepper plants in some of the classrooms and the raised beds have been replanted - I'm sure you'll agree they're looking great! Thank you Layla in Kingfishers for her very green fingered efforts.



## JOB VACANCY - We're hiring!

If you want to make a positive difference to young people's lives and are patient, empathetic, resilient and supportive, we have an exciting opportunity for a **Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to join the KS2 Team** at our growing school. Find out more or apply: [www.stmaryssoutham/jobs](http://www.stmaryssoutham/jobs)  
CLOSING DATE: 03/12/2021



## CHOCOLATE BINGO

**Wow! What a fabulous evening, and a brilliant turn out, we had at FOSM's chocolate bingo last Friday!**

Thanks to all who came along, for all the donations, to Peter for being our caller, Mrs Reeves for all her hard work organising and everyone who helped on the night. We had a lot of fun and raised a fantastic £532!!



Check out our next FOSM fundraiser...

**We're taking part in The Christmas Jumper Swap!**  
Bring your (washed!) Christmas jumpers into school by Thursday, then on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> after school come and choose a new one from our stall out front of school for just £1! You don't have to bring one to buy one! 🎄👕

## MISSED THE FLU NASAL SPRAY VACCINATION?

Any parents or guardians who did not submit their child's consent before the NHS portal closed, or whose child missed the vaccination on the day due to refusal, absence or being unwell can attend a local clinic venue for the flu vaccination.

Appointments can be booked via the Swiftqueue link: <https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/userlogin.php>



## ROBINS

On Tuesday, Alice came in to talk to Robins about road safety. The children wore special props to help them to remember how to cross the road safely. We must always Think, Stop, Look, Listen and Hold Hands with our adult. Robins class made us very proud as they sat so quietly and listened so carefully to Alice. Well done guys!



## DOVES

This week in RE, Doves have been looking at prayers and writing their own to say thank you to God for all the wonderful things he has made and given us. We are now starting to prepare for Advent and have been talking about Jesus' birth. The children are excited for this and are starting to prepare a wonderful Advent calendar in the classroom as a countdown to Jesus's arrival.

In History, we have been looking at Toys and are starting to compare toys from today to toys from the past. The children are really looking forward to seeing some Toys and games from the past and maybe having a little play with them too!

## GOLDFINCHES

Goldfinches have shown true resilience this week by working very hard and should be very proud of themselves. On Wednesday we had a creative afternoon taking part in a music lesson; focusing on rhythm and then our weekly dance session with Miss Jenny. On Friday we celebrated the start of Advent, participating in lots of crafts activities and taking part out of our busy day to reflect and connect to God. We discussed how we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Finally, we are having so much fun practicing our Christmas performance, you might have heard us singing our songs. They are very catchy.

## KINGFISHERS

Kingfisher class have been star learners this week. They have been showing lots of independence with their thinking and demonstrating clear links in their learning. We are looking forward to embracing some creativity with Advent-focused art creations at the end of the week.

## SKYLARKS

Children in Skylarks have shown fabulous resilience during this week of assessments where they have all been really challenged. I am immensely proud of all their perseverance and hard work. The end of the week was off timetable and we began to prepare for Advent. Everyone made a 3D Advent Wreath and an amazing 3D snowflake which will help transform our classroom into a Christmas winter wonderland.



## DIARY DATES

### EVERY FRIDAY

50p Friday - bring your pennies and fundraise for FOSM

### Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>

Advent Day at school

### Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

School Choir at the Southam Christmas Lights Switch On (see front page)

### Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

#### St Andrew's Day

Regardless of your actual house, celebrate our House Saint on his feast day by wearing a blue or tartan item with your uniform.

### Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Early Years Open Morning

For Nursery & Reception 2022

**PLEASE EMAIL THE OFFICE TO BOOK**

### Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Xmas Jumper Swap Shop!

Bring your outgrown Christmas jumpers to school by Thursday to be included in the sale after school Friday

### Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Wreath Making Workshop

Get in the Christmas spirit with this FOSM fundraiser event at school!

**Please return the reply slip or sign up [here](#) & send payment to school.**

### Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

Schools Santa Run + Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day

### Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Last Day of Term  
Back to school January 5<sup>th</sup>

#### PLEASE NOTE:

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

### EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Little Robins	Leraya
Big Robins	Isla
Doves	Grace VB
Goldfinches	Eliza
Kingfishers	Casey & Miriam
Skylarks	Logan & Sophie B

### LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Poppy
Big Robins	Kabelle
Doves	Ella-Rose
Goldfinches	Rebecca
Kingfishers	Charlie & Hamish
Skylarks	Olivia & Zachary C

## HOUSE POINTS

St Andrew 109

St Patrick 103

St George 92

St David 82

## Stars of the Week

**Little Robins** – Ben

**Big Robins** – Mason

**Doves** – Rogan

**Goldfinches** – Elsa

**Kingfishers** – Jasper & Darcy

**Skylarks** – Cian & Kaitlin