

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | January 7<sup>th</sup> 2022



## From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

First and foremost, I would like to wish all of you a very happy New Year. The family here at St Mary's hope that you all had a wonderful festive break with your loved ones. All of the staff would like to express their appreciation for your very generous Christmas gifts, we were all very spoilt. Thank you to all of you for these lovely gifts and for sharing with us the greatest gifts; the children.

At the start of this new year we look forward to all of the exciting opportunities that will be waiting for us in 2022. We hope to continue to build on our successes and thrive to achieve all of our goals, both academically and socially. We aim to deepen our faith and journey through the year with Christ guiding us through each step. Our team here strives to inspire children to love learning in the light of Christ and this is at the centre of everything we do.

Our values and virtues for this half term are being Curious and Active and the parable of the Good Samaritan shows us ways in which we can all achieve this. I challenge all of the children and staff to show these values in our everyday lives

**Curious** - Exploring God's creation and asking questions to find out more. Everything around us was created by God. Being curious about these things – from tiny insects to enormous planets, from the languages of the Earth to the patterns made by numbers – brings us closer to God.

**Active** - Working to make things better where we can. Making the right choices to how to act. As we use our curiosity to explore, we find things that could be better: a friend is unhappy; a neighbour is lonely; there is litter in the playground; the whiteboard needs wiping. Some of these problems we can fix. By being active we take responsibility for these tasks and look after God's creation.

The children enjoyed our mass yesterday to celebrate the Feast of The Epiphany. The readings were beautifully read and, as always, I was very proud of them. They learnt about The Magi (The Three Kings), who visited Jesus and the special gifts that they offered. The children have had the opportunity to think about their own special gifts and talents and how they are going to use them. I wonder how they will show this? I definitely think we can take a leaf out of our children's book and think about this ourselves.



With all of the Covid guidance constantly changing, I will aim to keep you updated as much as possible but would ask you to keep your eye on the constant changes. I would implore you to be extra vigilant. Whilst it has been widely reported that the Omicron variant appears to be milder than other variants, this still does pose a significant risk to our school community. We need to ensure that we all work together to keep our school community safe and that schools remain open for face-to-face teaching. This may pose some difficulties but we relish a challenge here, this may mean that things change quickly and that we may have to merge classes; the latter will only be done as a last resort. I am hopeful that if we all follow the 'Plan B' guidance that this will hopefully be the last of the restrictions that we have to endure and that we can try to find this illusive new 'normal'.

Maureen Collier

## Spring (Term) Clean

♥ We've been showing our school lots of TLC and moving rooms around over Christmas, to make our classrooms work even better for our children and their learning; we think the new spaces look great!

Doves are enjoying their new room; the Little and Big Robins have their own kingdom behind the wobbly wall and the Kingfishers are benefiting from standardised desks in pods of 4 which gives much more scope for collaborative work and freer movement between desks. Mrs Hall's German corridor - now adorned with colours, numbers and days of the week - is looking Sehr Gut! And a big thank you goes to FOSM for funding our smart new lockers which are making keeping bags, club kit and outdoor coats much tidier.



▲ Robins

◀ Doves

▼ Key Stage 2 Lockers ▶



## CHARITY THANK YOUS – Wow!!!

Thank you all for your amazing generosity and superb fundraising supporting such worthwhile charities both nationwide and closer to home. A special mention must go to our star fundraiser Noah P for his phenomenal; sponsor money drive and to Ms Ireland and Mrs Beynon for organising and attracting such wonderful prizes that our raffle tickets were must buy items. Together we raised:

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY** – Save the Children  
£ 95.00

**SCHOOL'S SANTA RUN** – Katharine House Hospice  
£ 437.00

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** – School Funds  
£ 327.50



[www.khh.org.uk/schoolssanta](http://www.khh.org.uk/schoolssanta)



## ROBINS

From the classroom...

Robin class have settled back into school life well and have enjoyed being reunited with their friends. We introduced our new topic 'Winter Wonderland' and started reading the text 'Emperor's Egg'. The children created a winter collage using a variety of materials.

The amazing collage creations will be displayed in our classroom. It's lovely to have you back Robins!



## DOVES

Doves have settled back into school and work really well and have had a busy few days already. The children all came in looking super excited to see their new classroom and from their smiles, they were really pleased with it. Our new topic this term is 'Poles Apart', so this week in our English lessons we have been learning about Polar Bears. We have learnt some really interesting facts about them. Did you know that Polar Bears' fur is not actually white but in fact transparent? We were all surprised by this too. In Science we did a fun experiment with ice and water to see how Polars keep warm in such icy conditions. Yesterday was the Epiphany, so children have been learning about The Three Kings who came to visit Baby Jesus when he was born in Bethlehem.

## GOLDFINCHES

It has been a delight to see the children happy and rested after the Christmas break. They have come back fresh and focused on their learning. We have celebrated a special feast day and created an invitation for the Wise Men to attend the birth of baby Jesus. We explored lots of clues for our new book 'Paddington at the Palace' and predicted what we think might happen after we read the first page. We have begun exploring equal and unequal groups which will soon support our learning of multiplication and division. Please can I ask you practice 2s, 5s and 10s at home and are continuing reading their books; please ensure you sign the reading record if your child has read.

## KINGFISHERS

This week the children in Kingfisher class have enjoyed getting to know their new teacher, Miss Keith. We have been completing lots of different activities to learn all about each other and have been taking part in some team building activities, like stacking cups! We have also looked at the book 'Midnight Gang' to get our creative brains flowing and have created our own fantastic nurse characters for the story. After we created our new character, we then wrote some super sentences to describe our characters. We've had a great week and are looking forward to more exciting learning next week.



## SKYLARKS

Skylarks have had a fabulous start to 2022. Everyone has come back after Christmas focused, with a mature attitude and ready to learn. We have had a busy few days perfecting our times tables knowledge, brushing up on our grammar and have started to learn about Ancient Greece for our new topic. On Thursday we went to church where we led mass - once again, Skylarks were a credit to the school. 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 a while, so please encourage them.

## DIARY DATES



### EVERY FRIDAY

50p Friday - Now outdoors  
Snacks on sale in the carpark after school. Bring your pennies to fundraise for FOSM

### Monday, 10 January

KS2 After School Dance Club starts with Miss Jenny

### Tuesday, 11 January

Music Lessons resume

### Wednesday, 12 January

Reception & KS1 After school Dance Club starts with Miss Jenny

### Wednesday, 12 January

Optional daytime dance class for Nursery starts

### Thursday, 13 January

KS2 Football Years 3-6 until 4:30pm

▲ There are currently spaces for all the above paid clubs which will run until Easter. See club letters to sign up.

### Saturday, 16 January

Deadline for on time Reception Applications

If you apply by this date, you will receive your child's school offer on National Offer Day (19 April 2022).

#### Apply Online:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/apply-ing-school-place-reception/apply-school-place-reception/1>

### February 21 - 25

Half Term

Back to school Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

\* Monday 28<sup>th</sup> is a school-specific teacher training day \*\*

#### PLEASE NOTE:

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

More dates and details online at: <https://www.stmaryssoutham.org.uk/events/>

## HALF TERM SUPERSTARS

Those children that have consistently shown exemplary behaviour throughout last half term have been treated to Afternoon Tea with Mrs Collier today. Well done to all of these wonderful children!

#### Our superstars are:

Chester Little Robins; Isla Robins; Amelia Doves; Cillian Goldfinches; Harry & Hamish, Kingfishers; Lucy & Florence Skylarks.



## Stars of the Week

Little Robins - Harper

Big Robins - Ava

Doves - Grace B

Goldfinches - Felicity

Kingfishers - Noah & Casey

Skylarks - Zach & Maya

## EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Little Robins	Toby
Big Robins	Emma
Doves	Florence
Goldfinches	Ben
Kingfishers	Tallulah & Amelka
Skylarks	Riley & Theo

## LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Pixie-Belle
Big Robins	Mason
Doves	Flori
Goldfinches	Sophie
Kingfishers	Hollie & Ned
Skylarks	Sophia & Lydia