

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | January 14th 2022



From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a whirlwind of a second week of term we have had! We have had lots of exciting learning going on across the school and I cannot tell you often enough what a privilege it is for me to see how the children engage and work hard every day. Of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing team of staff we have here at St. Mary's. We have missed the staff and children that have had to isolate due to the dreaded Covid! But we welcome the vast majority back with (virtual) open arms on Monday. Where possible we strive to keep the days and routines as normal as possible and our Skylarks class were here with us virtually for our Celebration Assembly today.

This week we welcome Miss Priestly to the team from Newman University. Miss Priestly is here on her final teaching placement until Easter and she will be working in Year One, alongside Mrs Hawley and Mrs Costa, with our Doves. Give her your welcoming smiles and say hello – I know how much I valued this (and I still do) when I first started here.

Covid The guidance is continually changing and to the right of here is the most current guidance (subject to change). Please keep LFD testing your household and children over 5 to pick up asymptomatic cases and protect the school. If you are unsure about whether to send your child to school then please do call or email the office and we will try to find the answers for you. Alternatively, you can call the NHS on 119 for guidance. ▶▶

Homework: I will be setting homework challenges each week across the school and I will have a dedicated place in the hall where we will display the children's work.

This week's challenge is about Ordinary Time, our new Liturgical Season. Can you see that my typing below is green? Why have I done this? Ordinary time is the longest Season in our Church, split into 2 parts. During this Season we celebrate Jesus' ministry and we learn about the lives of the followers of Christ, and the Saints whose Feasts happen in this time.

So, your new challenge this week – can you make a poster to show that ordinary time is not ordinary at all but a really special time for us to learn about the life of Christ during his ministry (the time he was teaching and doing miracles). You can share the places Jesus visited, who his Apostles were, what other important characters helped him on his journey, the miracles he performed, the parables he shared... in drawing, writing or any other creative way you can imagine.

This is a big challenge so there will be 2 weeks to do this one and I will reward children who take part on 28th January 2022.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

COVID-19 CHANGES

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms and are a hugely important tool in helping to protect our school community.

From Tuesday 11th January people who receive a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure because while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough / high temperature / a loss of, or change in normal sense of taste or smell) should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to get an NHS tested. This should be an NHS PCR test taken at a test site. When COVID-19 is circulating, it is worth also being aware of the wider symptoms of COVID-19 including: sore throat, headache, muscle ache, fatigue, shortness of breath, blocked/runny nose, diarrhoea and vomiting, and cold-like symptoms.

Household members of the symptomatic individual who are over 18 years and 6 months and not fully vaccinated, must also stay at home whilst awaiting the PCR result - they should not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise. Testing can be arranged by ringing 119 or booking online:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Should the PCR yield a positive result, we would ask that you isolate and follow national "Stay at Home" guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

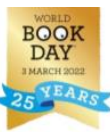
As of Monday 17th January, isolation rules will change and people can end their self-isolation after 5 **FULL DAYS**, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6 **AND** do not have a temperature.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community. If you need support with isolation, please contact Warwickshire County Council on 0800 408 1447. Further information is available at nhs.uk/coronavirus

WORLD BOOK DAY 2022

The theme of World Book Day for 2022 is – You are a Reader!

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 3rd March and we would like to invite the children to either wear their pyjamas for the day (a St. Mary's favourite way to spend a day at school!) or to dress up as your favourite book character. We would like each child to bring in their favourite book from home (if they can) to share with their friends and during the day staff will have lots of Reading activities planned to remind children about the fun and importance of reading. Pop the date in your diary!



PLATINUM PUDDING

The Cooking Competition for anyone aged 8 years and over!

A very famous London shop, Fortnum & Mason, is inviting bakers young and old to invent a Jubilee Pudding in honour of the Queen's 70th Anniversary. Finalists will be invited to London to bake their recipe for the judging panel. Ask a grown up and enter by 4th February: <https://www.fortnumandmason.com/platinum-pudding-entry>

CLUB CALL

We still have spaces on our afterschool clubs, provided by our wonderful external teachers, Miss Jenny and Mr Fagan each running until 4:30 and priced at just £4 a week:

FOOTBALL Thursdays – Years 3 - 6

DANCE: Mondays – Years 3 - 6

Wednesdays – Reception, Years 1 & 2

DAYTIME DANCE CLUB:

Wednesdays – Nursery £3 a week

▶ Ask for a club letter to sign up.

ROBINS

From the classroom...

The Robins café is open! This week, we have had great fun in our new role play area. The children have loved playing the different roles in the café and creating interesting meals for us all. Our 'Winter Wonderland' topic has continued as we have read more of the 'Emperor's egg' and labelled the parts of a penguin. Well done Robins class, another great week!



DOVES

This week Doves have settled well into our new classroom and routines. They are working hard on our new topic Poles Apart. We have been reading and writing poetry about polar bears and drawing sketches of animals who live in cold places. In Maths we have been learning to subtract by crossing out and counting backwards.

GOLDFINCHES

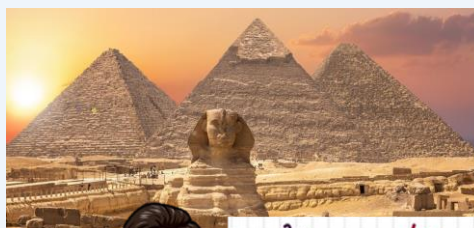
Goldfinches have been superstar learners this week. We have enjoyed reading Paddington at the palace and using role



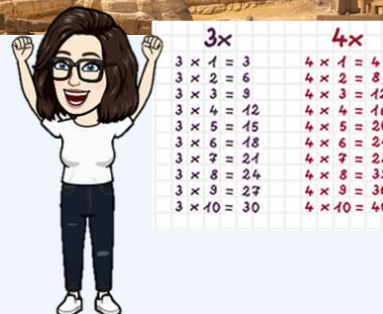
play to help sequence the story of events. We have enjoyed starting our new RE unit: Parables and Miracles. We have lots of knowledge about the miracles of Jesus and now we are extending our learning to further stories and understanding the teachings. Our science topic, Animals including humans, has allowed us to look at the similarities and differences of animals' offspring.

KINGFISHERS

We have had another fantastic week in Kingfishers this week! In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication and division and practicing our times tables. The children have loved learning some of their times tables through listening to the Scratch Garden counting songs. This is something that they can also enjoy at home by typing 'Scratch Garden counting songs' into YouTube. In our English, we have been looking at the Egyptian Tale of 'Horus the Avenger!'.



This week we have used this tale to develop our describing skills and our use of inverted commas. We have also begun to delve into our topic of 'Tomb Raiders!' as this term we are going to be exploring Ancient Egypt. This week, the children were historians and learnt about major moments in Egyptian history and created a timeline. Ask them for a fact they have learnt so far!



SKYLARKS

I am proud of how resilient the Skylarks have been throughout this week. Suddenly having to move to remote learning using Teams has been a steep learning curve for us all but we persevered and succeeded. I can't wait to see you all in person again from Monday.

DIARY DATES

EVERY FRIDAY

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



Saturday, 15 January @ 23:59

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-school-place-reception/apply-school-place-reception/1>

January 17

Covid-19 Isolation Reduces
From Monday, people can end their self-isolation after 5 **FULL DAYS**, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6 **AND** do not have a temperature. www.gov.uk/covid

February 1

Year 2 Scooter Safety Assembly - Warks Road Safety

February 4

Bags2School Collection
recycle your clothes & shoes with us to raise money for the school

February 8

Safer Internet Day

February 21 - 25

Half Term
Back to school Tuesday 1st March
* Monday 28th is a school-specific teacher training day **

March 3

World Book Day

PLEASE NOTE:

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

HOUSE POINTS

St David 127

St Patrick 119

St Andrew 115

St George 100

Stars of the Week

Little Robins – Toby

Big Robins – Mason

Doves – Ella-Rose

Goldfinches – Noah

Kingfishers – Maggie & Thomas

Skylarks – Affiea & Jacob H

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Little Robins	Louie
Big Robins	Frankie
Doves	Oliver
Goldfinches	Alfie
Kingfishers	Harry & Lexie
Skylarks	Sophia D & Zachary

LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Teddy
Big Robins	Harvey
Doves	Grace VB
Goldfinches	Elsa
Kingfishers	Elijah & Tami
Skylarks	Jessica & Jacob M