

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | January 21st 2022



From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a roller coaster of a week we have had at St Mary's this week! The first thing I would like to do is to thank you all for your support. I know that this has been a tough week as we battle the outbreak of Covid that we are seeing. This support is much needed. I know that the national guidance is, at best, 'woolly' and frustrating. After becoming a Covid Expert this week, I have found that local guidance supersedes any national guidance, this is to enable us to keep our local community safe.

As a result of meeting with lots of external agencies this week, I asked Public Health England to come in to school to conduct a site visit to ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep Covid at the school gate. The inspection has proven that we are doing everything in our power and following all guidance and risk assessments. I have requested additional Hepa Air Filters and hand washing facilities and we await delivery of these.

As you know this is a very fluid time and things change very quickly. My aim is to keep an open line of communication with you at all times and would ask for you to keep the school updated too. I know that, despite national restrictions beginning to be eased, that I am asking you to conduct additional LFD test three times a week and to take children for PCR tests, which you may perceive as going against what the government are asking us as a nation to do. There are reasons that I am asking this of you and I am sure that you understand why. Our children and our community are my priority and we must do all that we can to keep each other safe and for school to remain open to teach our children face to face.

I would like to finish on a positive note: our children are amazing and I thank you so much for letting us share them with you. I must also thank ALL of our staff for creating exciting learning opportunities, for keeping our school clean and for just being superb. I couldn't have asked to join a better family.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

FUTURE FIT

If your New Year's resolution to be healthier as a family needs a kick start to keep going, Fitter Futures supports people across Warwickshire to improve their health. This may include maintaining a healthy weight, becoming more physically active and having a healthier lifestyle.

Check out their website for family weight management, healthy lifestyles for children under five, and breastfeeding, antenatal and postnatal guidance, information and support links. Learn More:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fitter-futures>

In order to be eligible, you just need to be registered with a Warwickshire GP. Some services require you to be referred or meet a specific set of criteria, others like weight management are self-referral.

'APPY FAMILIES

Scan, Swipe, Swap to make healthy eating easy with the new **NHS food scanner app** which now gives you swap suggestions making finding healthier choices easier than ever! Fun graphics and simple traffic lights show kids how much sugar is really in their favourite lunchbox snacks.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/nhs-food-scanner-app>

BUMP TO 5

NEW Health Visiting Website for families of under 5s:

<https://healthforunder5s.co.uk>

CALLING ALL WOULD-BE TWITCHERS!

BE WOWED BY YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE



Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. Simply count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 28 and 30 January 2022. Taking part is as easy as 1,2,3:

1. Watch the birds around you for one hour
2. Count how many of each bird lands on your patch
3. Go online and tell us what you saw

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/how-to-attract-birds-to-your-garden/>

Bag2School

Please spend the next couple of weekends sorting out 'good quality' items for RE-USE from home which we can turn into cash for our school:

Mens', Ladies' & Kids' clothing
Paired shoes | Handbags | Hats
Bags | Scarves & ties | Jewellery
Lingerie | Socks | Belts | Soft toys
Household linen | Household curtains
Towels | bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)



NO: School uniform or corporate clothing

NUMBER DAY 2022

On Friday 4th February, we will be joining schools across the UK for the NSPCC mega maths fundraising day. Everyone will take part in **Dress up for Digits** and have a fun-filled day of maths activities and games, while raising money to support NSPCC services such as Childline.

In order to raise vital funds for the NSPCC, we are asking every child to bring in a donation of £1 and come dressed up in a number or maths themed outfit. Ideas include: a clock, a calculator, digits, numbers drawn on a top, a football or netball shirt or (for KS2) your TTRS avatar.

Get ready to Rock!!!

This day will also see the re-launch of Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) for children in KS2. Highest earning pupils will be inducted to the "Wall of Fame" to celebrate their outstanding success and progress. It will be a fun-filled day of maths activities made even better if you "dress up for digits" in true style. If you have a child in KS2 and have any questions about your child's TTRS account, please contact their class teacher in the first instance.



ROBINS

From the classroom...

In Robin class, we have lots of fun with lots of different materials. Sometimes we can get a bit messy! This week we made this lovely display to show you how all of these different splodges help our learning. So, if you see a lovely big blob of paint on my t-shirt, know that this has been helping with my creativity 😊 Well done Robins, we have had such a lovely week with you all.

DOVES

This week Doves have been working hard on our new story called Leaf, which is about a polar bear who gets lost in the wild wood. We have been learning our story using actions. In Maths we have been practising our subtraction skills and writing number sentences using number facts. In RE we have been learning about the Parables, the stories Jesus told to teach us how we should treat others. During computing we have been using the laptops to create our own pictograms, which show our classes' hair colour and some of our favourite snacks and animals. We have been learning to find the North and South Poles and where the Equator is located on a world map.



GOLDFINCHES

Those members at home and in school this week have been trying their best with their learning. We have begun creating our information text on London landmarks, which children of St. Mary's will be able to read in our library. In Maths we have been learning our 2s, 5s and 10 times tables. We are at the beginning our journey for this so please continue to practice at home. Continuing to look at Jesus' parables and miracles has allowed year 2 to think about their amazing gifts and talents and how we can use those to help others.

KINGFISHERS

We have had another busy but fantastic week in Kingfisher's this week. We have been practicing our division skills in our Maths lessons. Please continue to practice times tables with your children at home. We have been looking at past tense verbs in our English lessons ready to use them in our own tales next week. The children have been fantastic with their reading, please continue to read with them at home. In our topic lessons, we have continued to enjoy learning about the Ancient Egyptians and this week we have been geographers, looking at maps and human and physical features of Egypt. Next week we are going to be designers and artists - so could you please send in some cardboard boxes!

SKYLARKS

I could not be happier to finally have Skylarks back where they belong, in school. They have come back with a mature attitude and a thirst for learning. Everyone has produced amazing descriptive writing about a snow-covered, treacherous mountain - The Dreadful Menace. We are working hard on getting faster at mental maths and timetables too. Please encourage your child to do their daily homework which consists of reading every night, practising their individual spellings and going on TTRS for at least 15 minutes every night. Thank you for your continued support.



DIARY DATES



EVERY FRIDAY

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

Thursday, January 27

Magical World of Stories
Workshop - Reception & Nursery
* £6 donation via ParentPay *

Tuesday, February 1

Year 2 Scooter Safety
Assembly - Warks Road Safety

Friday, February 4

Times Tables Rock Star
Competition & Relaunch
AND

Mega Maths Number Day £1
Dress up as a number, maths-themed outfit or, for KS2, your TTRS avatar!
FUN-raising for NSPCC

Friday, February 4

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

Tuesday, 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 **

Thursday, March 3

World Book Day
wear pyjamas or dress up as your favourite book character and bring your favourite book

PLEASE NOTE:

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

HOUSE POINTS

St George 71

St Andrew 64

St Patrick 59

St David 52

Stars of the Week

Little Robins – Lauren

Big Robins – Harvey

Doves – Zachary

Goldfinches – Lauren

Kingfishers – Jasper & Miriam

Skylarks – Harriet & Florence

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Little Robins	Toby
Big Robins	Maisie
Doves	Suruthiy
Goldfinches	Sam
Kingfishers	Oliver & Hamish
Skylarks	Logan & Orlaith

LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Louie
Big Robins	Leo
Doves	Finnley
Goldfinches	Nevana
Kingfishers	Connor & Jimmy
Skylarks	Chelsea & Sophie