

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | February 18th 2022



From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, that's another half term gone in the blink of an eye, and what a half term it has been too! I have loved every single minute of it, bar the dreaded C (covid) word. It is admirable, and testament to you as parents and carers, how well our children have adapted and shown resilience, and as always it is a privilege to spend time with each and every one of our children.

Next half term we have another very busy one, which will be jam packed full of exciting curriculum links for our children. **World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March** and we are asking all children (and staff) to dress up as a character from their favourite book. The message that we want to promote this year is, "You are a reader." Reading here at St. Mary's is one of our whole school priorities and we have revamped the entire curriculum to instil a love of reading. Reading opens so many doors and is such a vital skill – the foundation for all learning. After half term we will be encouraging the children to share what they are reading by creating book reviews for the library. Talking about Libraries – I would encourage you to take the children to the local library in Southam; there is a fantastic display about how our school was built. We need to fly with reading now and we need your help to do this. It has been wonderful to have parents volunteer to come in to the school to read with our children – if you can help then please get in touch with Mrs Banat-Rinz.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is on 2nd March and we will be starting this season with mass at our school with Father Arul. Why don't you encourage the children to research Lent during the holiday? During Lent, we are all asked to pray more, repent, support charities and to give something up or do something extra. Please remember to follow the 'Walk with me' calendar that will be sent home. This has different activities that will help you as a family to journey through Lent.

Can all parents and carers ensure that children bring their water bottles in daily and can they please be filled with water only – not juice or squash. I am noticing some trainers and hoodies creeping in to school, can you please ensure that children wear their school uniform as we need to keep our standards high and this all begins with wearing (and being proud of) our school uniform.

I do hope that you all have a wonderful half term holiday and I can't wait to see the children in their character costumes on Thursday.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

In case you missed it...

ACADEMY CONSULTATION

If you were unable to attend Wednesday's Meeting, you can find out more about the Academy Consultation, see the presentation given and read all the questions raised and answers given on our new and growing Academy page on our website:

<https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/academy/>



RADIO 4 FAME

Well done to the children who spoke to Radio 4's PM program last Friday. It'll come as no surprise the children thought they should get more playtime! If you'd like to listen to the story, it's 19 minutes in to the show:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qskw>



Mrs Collier's RE Challenge - LENT

Lent is a very special time for us and last for 40 days and 40 nights; from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. It is a time where we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made, as well as his example in resisting temptation. Lent is also a time of new beginnings and new growth, the perfect time to get fit and healthy for life.

Fasting is an important part of Lent. Christians usually give up something for Lent which they really enjoy, so that is a real sacrifice for them to be without it for 40 days. Mrs Collier is giving up M&A sweets – that is going to be tough! What are you going to sacrifice? You could sacrifice anything for Lent, from playing on games consoles to trying to recycle more.

I would like you to be creative and find out more about this special time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The WOW wall in the hall will be changing to Lent – what can you create to be shown?



LABELLING IS THE NAME OF THE GAME...

At this stage in the school year, chances are your children are growing and you'll be looking out the next size up of at least one item of clothing. **Please remember to label new school uniform - and all water bottles and bookbags – and check well worn items still have visible labels.** It's amazing how many items are mislaid on a daily basis and how few are named to be easily returned to owners. Parents of our youngest children may find mittens preferable to gloves and they're far easier to keep track of if they're threaded through sleeves on elastic.

▶ If you're unsure what is permitted uniform, please visit our website: <https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/uniform>

MAKING A MEAL OF IT

New Menu: Our new school dinner menu will launch on Monday 7th March. You can see the 3 weekly rotating menu online:

<https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/school-meals-2/>

(If you have an allergy or dietary need, please make sure you have returned your Educaterers allergy form – sent home with all children last week)

FREE Breakfast Club Monday February 21 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Cereal, Toast, Tea, Coffee and Juice at the Graham Adams Centre
Supported by Southam Foodbank (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

ROBINS

The Robins have been very busy this week! The big Robins had an amazing maths lesson where they were using lots of different objects to represent numbers. Little Robins have been following their interests and looking at different types of occupations. On Wednesday, they drew fabulous pictures of what they would like to be when they grew up. Thank you for a great half term Robin class. Have a lovely week off 😊



DOVES

This week Doves have been working hard on writing descriptions of different places, from our story 'Poles Apart'. They have been writing prayers about how we are extraordinary and what we have learned from Jesus' teachings. In Maths we have been comparing numbers and finding one more and one less on numbers up to 20. Doves have been making 3D models of penguins using recycled materials. Doves have worked really hard this half term and we hope they have a very well-earned rest and enjoy a safe half term break.



GOLDFINCHES

What a week and what a half term Goldfinches have had. They never fail to amaze me and hopefully themselves. This week we created our own adventure for Paddington; we sent him to the zoo. Everyone was focused and created amazing stories! We shared these stories with each other and both Mrs Collier and Mrs Banat-Rinz. Some of us also found a new love of marmalade sandwiches just like Paddington. We have continued learning about shapes and have learnt about lines of symmetry. In RE we used art and colour to help us reflect on the parable, The Prodigal Son and how God is ready to forgive us. Science was an important topic week, learning about how to eat a healthy balanced diet and how important exercise can be. I hope everyone has a well-deserved rest.



KINGFISHERS

This last week before half term has been another busy but fantastic week. We have been writing newspaper articles this week in English about the discovery of King Tutankhamun's Tomb. Ask your children about it, they've remembered lots of great facts! We have also had lots of fun being artists this week and have just completed another big art project that we can't wait for you to see.



Storytime and a marmalade sandwich picnic



Looking for things to do?
The 50 things app is full of fun activities for Warwickshire families this half term (not just the under 5s)
<https://warwickshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os&!/welcome>



You have such talented children and it's amazing to see them thrive in their creativeness! I also just wanted to say a massive well done to all of the children, I am so proud of the resilience and persistence that they have shown this half term. As always, thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a lovely half-term!

SKYLARKS

What an amazing week we have had. We have immersed ourselves in Greek myths and written terrifying descriptions of the settings of some of these mythical creatures such as Medusa and the labyrinth the Minotaur lived in. Later in the week, for our whole school art project, we concentrated on making dragons out of cardboard in the style of Darrell Wakelam - these are spectacular! Myself and Mrs Hall wish you all a restful half term and a reminder to find some time to read a book and brush up on TTRS.

DIARY DATES



EVERY FRIDAY

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

February 21 - 25

Half Term
* Monday 28th is a school-specific teacher training day **

Tuesday March 1

- Back to school
- St David's Day
Regardless of your actual house, celebrate our House Saint by wearing yellow or a daffodil item
- Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day

Wednesday, March 3

Ash Wednesday / Lent Starts

Thursday, March 3

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

Monday, March 7

New Dinner Menu starts

Friday, March 18

Red Nose Day / Comic Relief

NEW 2023/24 Term Dates

Recently released by Warwickshire County Council, view online here:
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/school-term-dates-induction-days-training-days-holidays/3>

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

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Little Robins	Pixie-Belle
Big Robins	Max
Doves	Zakariah
Goldfinches	Sebastian
Kingfishers	Maggie & Ned
Skylarks	Chelsea & Sophia D

LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Vincent
Big Robins	Maisie
Doves	Flori
Goldfinches	Alfie
Kingfishers	Oliver & Peyton
Skylarks	Sophie B & Ada

HOUSE POINTS

- St Patrick 170
- St David 153
- St Andrew 150
- St George 118



Stars of the Week

Little Robins – Poppy

Big Robins – Frankie

Doves – Finley

Goldfinches – Alice

Kingfishers – Harry & Tami

Skylarks – Cian & Florence

