

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | March 4th 2022



From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fun-filled, action packed week this week and it has been wonderful to see so many happy faces. The children have been very engaged with their learning and thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day yesterday. I love spending time with the children sharing books and seeing how excited they get about that wonderful skill of reading. I cannot thank you all enough for supporting us in raising the profile of reading in our school. There is still much to do and we will continue exposing the children to a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.

This week we were led in prayer by Father Arul and our Year Five and Six class. The children, as always, read beautifully and reverently in Mass. Our two Altar Servers were superb too, so thanks must go to Miriam and Lucy. Lent is a sombre time where we fast, pray and give more. The children have been thinking carefully about the charity that they would like to donate to and we will reveal this next week, once the votes have been counted. During this season of Lent, each class will be doing something to raise money for a charity that we choose as a school. This will take place each Friday and each class will lead this. Again, more information will come out about this separately.

We will be visiting church each Friday at 2.30pm to pray the Stations of the Cross. Each week a different class will lead this and you are more than welcome to join us there. The rota is as follows:

- Friday 4th March** – Years Five and Six: Skylarks
- Friday 11th March** – Years Three and Four: Kingfishers
- Friday 18th March** – Year Two: Goldfinches
- Friday 25th March** – Year One: Doves helped by Year Five children
- Friday 1st April** – Reception: Big Robins helped by Year Six

We are now over half way through the year and hopefully we are beginning to see some normality return to life. I would ask that you remain vigilant and if your child is unwell that you follow the recommendations. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all face to face for Parents Evening on 29th March; you will have received a letter home and an email about this. Please sign up for your time slot and hand this back to your child's teacher to enable them to co-ordinate the meetings.

As you may be aware the government are going to begin vaccinations in April of all children between five and eleven years of age. This will not be carried out in school but by the community services. Once I have more information on this I will share with you.

God Bless

Maureen Collier



New Menu!

Our new school dinner menu starts this Monday.

The menu features some delicious new recipes that have been tested and given the thumbs up by Educaterers' young diners. Menus have been sent home with all children today and are available on our website under the 'School Life' tab:

stmaryssoutham.org.uk/school-meals-2

OPEN MORNING: Wednesday April 6th | 09:30 -11:00

Come & say Hello! We are excited to be able to open our doors and welcome prospective parents and their children into St Mary's to tour our fabulous facilities and see our thriving school and dedicated, friendly staff in action.

Please email the office to book

Mrs Collier's RE Challenge

Thank you to all the children who completed my Lentern RE Challenge over half term. I was so impressed with your work. I hope even more of you will rise to my next challenge, coming soon...



Learning German is a Lark!

'Wunderbar' work from Year 5 & 6

Oxford University's Language Department have once again invited 9-11 year olds to enter the Oxford German Olympiad Competition.

As this year's theme is The Rhine River, our Skylarks have learned all about which countries 'Der Rhein' flows through, how Carnival is celebrated in many cities along it and all about the barges on it. Then, pupils were invited to enter one of 3 competition categories:

1. Drawing & labelling a picture of a barge on the Rhine
2. Designing and labelling a costume to attend a Rhine Carnival in Basel (the Basler Fasnacht) or Cologne (the Kölner Karneval)
3. Drawing a comic strip of the Rhine and the places it flows through



In the past we have had some pupils achieving Runners-Up and Highly Commended accolades in this national competition, so we have high hopes for this year. The results of the competition will be released in June... fingers crossed!

Mrs Hall teaches German across KS2 and, when you come in for parents evening later this month, you'll get to see two new German displays in the hall.

@Skylarks Parents: Please check for an email from Mrs Hall

This year, only one entry per email address is allowed, and so we need your help! Parents of those Skylarks pupils who wanted to enter have been sent an email from Mrs Hall with details of how to complete the online entry form. The deadline is Thursday 10th March at Midday. We would really appreciate your support with submitting these amazing designs.



Sacramental Journey: Catholic Children Year 3 & Year 6

We have agreed the following dates with Father Arul and timings will be confirmed.

As you know I cannot guarantee that these will go ahead, but please God Covid behaves itself and lets us enjoy the celebration of our children's sacramental journey.

| Sacrament | Date |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Act of Reconciliation (Year 3) | To be Advised |
| First Holy Communion (Year 3) | Sunday 19 th June 2022 |
| Confirmation (Year 6) | Sunday 5 th June 2022 |





Our first week back after half term has certainly been a busy one! On Tuesday, we enjoyed pancake races on the playground. The children had amazing balance and we had very few pancakes on the floor. On Wednesday, the children took part in a special Ash Wednesday assembly and Mrs Collier visited us to make the sign on the cross on our heads with ash. Thursday saw some very excited children dressed as their favourite book characters! We enjoyed sharing our books many of them throughout the day. What a busy week Robin class 😊.



DOVES

Doves have had a very exciting week with St. David's day, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and World Book Day. We have started our new story in English called 'Juniper Jupiter', about a superhero who needs a sidekick. In Maths we have been ordering and comparing numbers to 20. We have made Lenten promises to prepare for the start of Lent and learned about the temptation of

Jesus in the desert. We had an exciting day yesterday for World Book Day. The children all looked absolutely fantastic in all their outfits. Thank you, parents and carers for all your hard work with sorting these. We had a whole school costume parade in the hall in the morning which we all thoroughly enjoyed and, in the afternoon, children enjoyed a range of activities including designing a book cover and 'Guess The Story' quiz.

GOLDFINCHES

What a week Goldfinches have had, full of exciting experiences. As we are now in the season of Lent we were able to go to the Ash Wednesday Mass. We were excellent representatives of St. Mary's school and we are proud of them all. World Book Day was a fantastic day where the children had the opportunity to share their joy of reading. We have explored clues to find out our theme for English and Topic this half term... The Great Fire of London. The children had some fabulous ideas from exploring the clues and are excited to learn more. Friday afternoon we had a music experience of playing the African drums. Remember to keep practicing your spellings, timetables and reading often.



KINGFISHERS

We have had a fantastic first week back after half-term in Kingfishers this week! We have really enjoyed kicking off our learning about the liturgical season of Lent with Lenten activities and our Ash Wednesday Mass, where we were blessed with the Palm ashes. We have also had a great day celebrating World Book Day, the costumes were all amazing! Please continue to read with your children and practice spellings at home whenever possible. Starting this week, the children will also be bringing home a times table book to help with their times tables practice. Thank you for your continued support.

SKYLARKS

Skylarks have really embraced the start of Lent. On Tuesday we made Lenten promises and spent the afternoon moving around different prayer stations. On Ash Wednesday we went to church. Children read beautifully and conducted themselves in a reverent manner throughout mass and a cross was marked with ash on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. They learnt that the ash is made from last years' palms that are burned and that Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God.



SEE THE FRONT PAGE FOR MORE OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY...

HOUSE POINTS

- St Andrew 224
- St George 207
- St David 163
- St Patrick 150



Stars of the Week

- Little Robins – Lereya
- Big Robins – Max
- Doves – Joseph
- Goldfinches – Sebastian
- Kingfishers – Chloe & Lacey
- Skylarks – Riley & Elena

DIARY DATES



EVERY FRIDAY

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

Monday, March 7
New Dinner Menu starts

Wednesday, March 9
Scooter Assembly – Year 2
(This is a rescheduled date)

Tuesday, March 15
Secondary School Deadline
Date to accept your child's offer

Thursday, March 17
St Patrick's Day
Regardless of your actual house, wear a green item, a shamrock or the flag with your uniform to celebrate our house Saint.

Friday, March 18
Red Nose Day / Comic Relief
Note this day is normal uniform

Sunday, March 27
Mother's Day &
Clocks go forward

Tuesday, March 29
Parents Evening
Booking Slips have been sent home with each child, please return yours as soon as possible.

Wednesday, April 6
Open Morning 09:30-11:00
Spread the word! An opportunity for prospective parents to tour the school and meet our inspirational teaching staff.

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

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Little Robins | Lauren |
| Big Robins | Kabelle |
| Doves | Timmy |
| Goldfinches | Kahlan |
| Kingfishers | Antoni & Hamish |
| Skylarks | Jessica & Ada |

LUNCHTIME AWARD

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Little Robins | Ben |
| Big Robins | Charlotte |
| Doves | Finn |
| Goldfinches | Sam |
| Kingfishers | Charlie & Thomas |
| Skylarks | David & Sophie B |