

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | May 20th 2022



From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a truly horrible week working from home, feeling sorry for myself and where missing the children has made me feel worse than Covid has, I'm itching to get back to you all 'in real life' next week. Fortunately, through the wonders of modern technology I have been in constant contact with school and continued with almost all my normal daily tasks. Albeit with the distinct lack of human company and the joy the sound of children talking, laughing and being excited about their learning - and popping themselves into my office every time they pass to say 'hello' - have made the days feel very long and very quiet!

It gives me great delight to confirm that we have had two successful candidates from last week's interviews. Our Kingfishers teacher, Miss Keith will extend her contract with us, and Miss Priestley - who we have thoroughly enjoyed working with last term as she finalised her teaching qualifications - is a passionate and gifted educator who will join us too. We have been so fortunate and were inundated with applicants and I have to say that all candidates were very strong, but the people we have chosen really shone. I know that you will welcome them to our St Mary's family. I will confirm next year's classes in due course, but it is exciting to be opening up another classroom to accommodate our ever-growing school. We still have places in our EYFS class, so spread the word!

We will be having significant work carried out across the school during the summer, which will mean that our wonderful team won't be able to get into the building to work their magic on the classrooms. However, the wait will be worth it as we have all new electrics, lighting and alarm systems installed. We must thank FOSM as they are donating funds to the school for classes to have new interactive white boards, this will bring visual learning to life for those of us that need to be 'active and do' to learn. It's a very exciting time to be part of our fantastic school and the children will, quite rightly, reap the benefits.

I can't wait to see you all at the Jubilee Party next Friday. **The children can come in dressed in their splendour as a royal, their party clothes or something red, white or blue next Friday.** KS2 are off to Galanos House at long last to bring some joy to the wonderful residents there - we are truly blessed to have such dedicated people in our school community. Special thanks must go to Mrs Forgan and Mrs Walster for weaving their magic with the choir (and for saving the children having to listen to my voice).

Have a wonderful weekend.

Maureen Collier

JUBILEE PARTY



The children, staff and FOSM are all hard at work preparing for next week's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. A crown making competition, handmade flags and bunting in school will get children in the mood as we build up to Friday's big celebration party, to which parents and family are invited.

All our classes have adopted countries and decades from the Queen's reign so, along with some patriotic staples, there will be wonderful sounds of the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s at Friday's festivities.

Super Singers: Thanks to Mrs Walster and Mrs Forgan for helping our KS2 children's choir prepare for performances, first at Galanos House, where we are pleased to be renewing our community links post Covid, and for parents and friends at our Jubilee Party on Friday afternoon.

Commonwealth Day:



Each year group is discovering amazing geography, history, food and art facts for their chosen country:

Robins - Jamaica | **Doves** - The Bahamas | **Goldfinches** - Australia
Kingfishers - Canada | **Skylarks** - New Zealand

TUESDAY:

SKYLARKS: dress in Red, White & Blue for New Zealand

WEDNESDAY:

KINGFISHERS: COME IN UNIFORM + bring Red & White to change in to after class photos ☺

THURSDAY:

KS2: walk to Galanos House to entertain the residents with their songs they have been learning in choir at 10.30am.

FRIDAY:

From 1.30pm - 3pm we'll be having a whole school tea party along with parents and carers. Please bring cash as our wonderful friends group will be selling teas and coffees, scones, cakes, ice lollies etc. Children will have the opportunity to perform their songs and we will all sing the National Anthem.

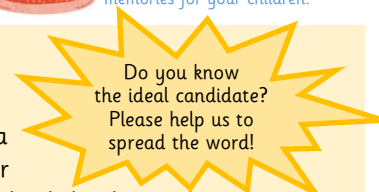


It promises to be a wonderful week and I thank all our staff and volunteers in advance for the hard work they're putting in to help create treasured memories for your children.

JOB VACANCY B&A Club Manager

We are still looking for a Breakfast Club and After School Club Manager to lead the day-to-day running of our school's wraparound provision which provides a safe and enjoyable start and end to the children's school day. This is a permanent term time role that will begin in September 2022. Closing date May 26th

For more information and to apply, please visit:
<https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/jobs>



WWII

They 'Blitzed' It

Skylarks had a wonderful day last Friday, a great payoff after all the hard work on SATs.



Their interactive WWII day saw them dress up - complete with evacuee name tags - and make their own paper gas masks, as well as act out an air raid sheltering themselves under their desks.

Don't they all look fantastic? Well done Skylarks!

From the classroom... ROBINS

Robin class have had a very memorable week watching their eggs hatch in the incubator! We would like to introduce our three chicks - Timmy, Strawberry and Buttons. The children have loved showing them off to their parents and visitors within school. We looked at the similarities and differences between the chicks and have been learning how we care for them. Now it is time to enjoy watching them grow!



DOVES

This week Doves have been practising hard for the Year 1 Phonics check, for after half term. We have been learning to double numbers and make equal groups as we start to learn to multiply and divide. In English we have been retelling the Traditional Tale of Rapunzel in our own words, using adjectives to add interest to our writing. In RE we have been learning about the lives of the disciples with Jesus and the different ways we remember them.

GOLDFINCHES

Goldfinches have worked hard this week and have shown excellent resilience. They have taken the week in their stride and have enjoyed different activities throughout. We created Eastertide artwork using paints. We wrote an Easter prayer to be thankful for the risen Jesus. We then used these as part of our collective worship. We also had the opportunity to enjoy the laptops to complete quizzes linked to our previous learning in topics such as English and Science. Another massive well done from myself and Mrs Reeves to all of Goldfinches.

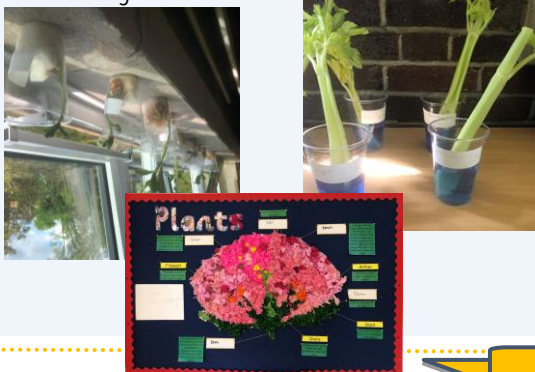


KINGFISHERS

It has been another great week in Kingfishers this week. In our English lessons, we have been creating a newspaper report about the disappearance of Oliver's parents from *Oliver and the Seawigs*. In our topic lessons, we have been looking at different rivers across the world on maps and discovering information about them. I have challenged the children to find out facts about a river of their choice. This can be a poster, information booklet or however they would like to set out the information. In our science lessons, we are learning all about plants and are enjoying the different investigations are learning has brought to us. Please remind your child to bring their reading book, spellings book and times tables book every day. Please also encourage your children to practice their times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to celebrating the Jubilee with you next week!

SKYLARKS

The Skylarks have turned into budding botanists this half-term, exploring our new Science topic of Plants! So far we have planted broad beans on cotton wool to measure root growth, carried out an experiment to see how long it takes coloured water to travel up a celery stalk and created and labelled a cross-section of a flower. Look out for some of our green-fingered creations making their way home with the children next week...



DIARY DATES



EVERY FRIDAY

50p Friday Snacks & drinks on sale after school. Bring your pennies to fundraise for FOSM

Monday 23 - Friday 27 June

JUBILEE WEEK

see front page for details

Tuesday May 24

Road Safety Assembly Y3-Y6

Wednesday May 25

Class Photos

Friday May 27 @ 1:30 - 3pm

Jubilee Party: Parents & Friends

May 30 - June 3

June Half Term

Monday June 6 - 8

Year 5/6 Alton Castle

Thursday, June 9 @ 2pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr Arul

(First Holy Communion & Confirmation candidates)

Friday, June 10

Doves Class Trip

Warwick Castle

Tuesday, June 14

Robins Class Trip

Hatton County World

Sunday, June 12

Confirmation 2022 (Year 6)

Sunday, June 19

First Holy Communion 2022 (Year 3)

Thursday, June 30

Sports Day

Thursday, July 7

Transition Day

(Moving up day; try out your new class ahead of September!)

PLEASE NOTE:

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

More dates and details online at:

<https://www.stmaryssoutham.org.uk/events/>

Two weeks' worth of super stars...

Stars of the Fortnight

Well done to all our Superstars and house points winners for the last fortnight

HOUSE POINTS

St Andrew 475

St Patrick 398

St David 323

St George 268

Little Robins - Orla & Louie

Big Robins - Kabelle & Frankie

Doves - Maisie & Oliver

Goldfinches - Shreya & James

Kingfishers - Tallulah, Amari

Murphy & Lexi

Skylarks - Cian, Lucy,

Florrie & Gwen

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Little Robins	Ivor & Pixie
Big Robins	Isla & Freddie
Doves	Oliver & Ella-Rose
Goldfinches	Noah & Alice
Kingfishers	Delilah, Layla, Harry & Ned
Skylarks	Sophia D, Mya, Lydia & Orlaith

LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Orla & Archie
Big Robins	Mason & Max
Doves	Zakariah & Florence
Goldfinches	Kahlan & Eliza
Kingfishers	Connor, Ned, William & Dougie
Skylarks	Harriet, Ada, Mya & Ada again

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