

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | July 8th 2022



From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week sees us move even closer to the end of another academic year, and what a year it has been. I am so, so pleased that we have given every child as full a year as humanly possible in school and we are acutely aware of how tired they all are. I am so very proud of each and every one of our children and the resilience and determination that they have shown throughout a turbulent year. It is a real privilege to be on this journey with them and to see how much they have grown physically, mentally and socially. For our Year Two children this has been their first full year in school and what an achievement all of our children have made.

Our Year 6 SATs results have been released today and will be included in pupil reports. Congratulations to all the children; you have proved what hard work and determination – and time in the classroom after all our Covid disruptions - can achieve! We are all very proud of you and I hope you are of yourselves too. Well done too to Mrs Banat-Rinz whose laser focus has achieved a significant uplift across the board and importantly in our Maths scores, helping to ensure your children have the very best springboard in the next stage of their schooling.

On which note, it is vital for children's learning and socialisation that they are in school and on time every day. Parents please be advised that, in response to a disappointing amount of persistent lateness and large volume of unauthorised holiday requests impacting a significant amount of learning time, as of September our school will be referring ALL term time leave AND persistent lateness / unauthorised absences to the local authority, which will likely lead to the issuing of fines under some circumstances. In such cases, a separate Penalty Notice will be issued for each child in the family.

Years Two, Three and Four had the most tremendous time at Twycross Zoo this week and have studied a range of animals in their habitat. We have talked to the children about the animals' natural habitat and the fact that a zoo helps endangered species at a time when they need it most. We have linked this to how we must all take care of our planet and if we all do little things this can make a huge difference. I am incredibly proud of one of our students, Jimmy, who has created a team of eco councillors and they are collecting litter from our playgrounds. Jimmy has looked at our equipment and has written a letter to Southam Town Council to request funding for some new equipment. I absolutely love that our children have the confidence to stand up what they believe in and that they want to make this world a better place. We could all take a leaf out of their book.

The children have all now visited their new classes and have met their new teacher(s). They all had a wonderful morning, albeit that some of them (adults included) were nervous. They have created some lovely pieces of work to show off their talents and this work will be used to create displays for their new classrooms in September.

We hope that you all have a wonderful weekend.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

Parents and carers invited to join SEND webinar on speech and language provision

Warwickshire County Council is hosting another special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) webinar on Tuesday 19 July on the topic of Speech and Language Provision.

There can be many reasons why a young person may have a Speech, Language and Communication Need (SLCN). It may be due to physical difficulties such as a cleft palate or a hearing impairment, or it could be linked to other developmental conditions such as Autism. In some cases, there is no obvious cause. Whatever the reason, it's important that children and young people receive timely support to improve their overall development and educational outcomes. This webinar will provide parents and carers with a better understanding of the different levels of speech and language therapy support and how to access this for their child. It will also be an opportunity to share feedback on the current provision to help inform and improve future support across Warwickshire.

Tuesday 19 July, 1pm - 2pm:

Register at: <https://bit.ly/SpeechLanguageProvision>

Holiday Activities / Clubs + HAF

School holidays can be a particularly difficult time for some families. The Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) provides healthy food and enriching activities to children and young people, with **free places available for those on free school meals**.

Eligible parents should already have received a code by text to book places on this Summer's HAF activities. If you think you may be eligible but haven't received a text please email hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk or call the Family Information Service on 01926 742274.

Find HAF Holiday activities near you online:

<https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/topic/46/holiday-activities>

Other paid clubs and activities:

<https://raring2go.co.uk/2022/07/our-pick-of-holiday-clubs-in-warwickshire/>

And if you're lucky enough to be off with the kids, there's lots to do: <https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/things-to-do/west-midlands/warwickshire>

A note from our caterers:

In the last couple of days there has been a lot of coverage in the press following a report published by LACA - The School Food People, stating that due to rising food prices some school caterers have, or will, switch to cheaper imported meats and change other menu items to reduce costs. I am writing to reassure you that Educaterers will not be going down this route. We are as committed as ever to supporting British farmers by serving British meat and do not plan to make any changes to our menus, ingredient quality, recipes or portion sizes, so things will remain as they always have - delicious, nutritious food for all.



Attendance & Lateness - Important facts

Pupils attend school for 190 days each year.

Over a school career:

1 day per week of absence = 2.5 years missed education

10 days per year of absence = 2 terms missed education

15 minutes of lateness per day = 1 year missed education

Research by the Government conducted in 2015 shows that Key Stage 4 pupils with the lowest 5% of absence rates were more than four times more likely to achieve five good GCSEs, including English and Maths.

ROBINS

This week we are saying goodbye to our beautiful feathery friends; Timmy, Buttons and Strawberry. The children, parents and staff have all enjoyed watching the chicks grow. The children have learnt so much from incubating the eggs, to watching the eggs hatch, to the chicks growing their feathers. Thank you to all the chick sitters who helped care for them at the weekends, it was much appreciated. They will have more space to roam freely and search for bugs which is what they need now. We will miss them a lot but look forward to updates from their forever family!

DOVES

This week Doves have been learning about length; they have been comparing lengths to find which is longer and shorter. During English we have been writing our own facts about Australian animals and designing and making our own information texts. In Geography we have been comparing the Physical and Human Geographical features of the UK and Australia. We have been learning about 'Our Church' and the different people who are in our church.

GOLDFINCHES

Another fun packed week full of memorable experiences! Goldfinches started their week with a new Math's topic and enjoyed getting hands on with practical learning of mass. Then it was time for our school trip to Twycross Zoo, the children were fantastic representatives of St. Mary's and shown their scientific knowledge of animals throughout the day. They have worked hard to use their expert knowledge of the Seaside in the past and present to create a great information text.

KINGFISHERS

We have had another extremely busy week in Kingfishers this week. In our English lessons, we have finished writing our adventure stories and are now looking forward to doing some poetry! We have also enjoyed some practical learning and problem solving based around turns and angles in our maths lessons. We absolutely loved our trip to the zoo and enjoyed our transition morning in our new classes. Thank you for your continued support.

SKYLARKS

All change this week in Skylarks dipping our feet in pastures new. Year 6 had their induction days at Southam College which they loved, as did year 5s being top of the school. We have enjoyed lots of challenging problem solving in maths - focusing on "what's the same, what's different." Everyone really rose to the challenge and showed marvellous perseverance so should be very proud of themselves.



DIARY DATES



EVERY FRIDAY

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

Monday July 11

Y3-6 'Matilda' preview at Southam College

Tuesday July 12

Year 6 Emotional Health & Internet Safety Talk (NHS)
NEW Date

Tuesday July 19

Year 6 Leavers Take Over & Festival

Tuesday July 19

@ 14:30
Year 6 Leavers Assembly (Y6 parents have had a letter)

Tuesday July 19

@ 3:30-4:30
ALL Parent drop in should you wish to discuss your child's report

Wednesday July 20

ALL End of Term
NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

PLEASE NOTE:

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

School Twitter page
[@StMarysSoutham](https://twitter.com/StMarysSoutham)

HOUSE POINTS

As we went to press early this week, we didn't have the latest points for the week available - but last Friday it was still all to play for with the term to date standings at:

St David 1228

St Andrew 1221

St George 1164

St Patrick 1144

Stars of the Week

Little Robins – Ben

Big Robins – Frederick

Doves – Grace Van Bergen

Goldfinches – Alice

Kingfishers – Harry & Jimmy

Skylarks – Everyone in Year 6!

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Little Robins | Orla |
| Big Robins | Leo |
| Doves | Vicky |
| Goldfinches | Riley |
| Kingfishers | Elijah & Tami |
| Skylarks | Chelsea & Maya |

LUNCHTIME AWARD

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Little Robins | Lauren |
| Big Robins | Maisie |
| Doves | Oliver |
| Goldfinches | Sam |
| Kingfishers | William & Claudia |
| Skylarks | Affiea & Zachary |