

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | July 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



From the Chair of Governors

## A Year End Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers.

As we come to the end of the academic year, it's good to take a few minutes to reflect and look back at yet another interesting year at St Mary's.

The year began with welcoming our new head teacher Mrs Collier who has made a real impact on the school from the start. Her passion, drive and enthusiasm have been evident across the school and I know that parents have really appreciated her open and welcoming attitude. I would like to thank her for tackling her first year of headship, in still difficult COVID times, with determination and positivity, supporting her team throughout.

The year has seen many new staff to the team, including Mrs Banat-Rinz as assistant head and Y5/6 teacher who has formed a dynamic duo with Mrs Collier as our leadership team. It has been very rewarding seeing how well the two very quickly gelled the school team together, supporting, monitoring teaching and delivering training for all staff.

Congratulations must go to our Y6 class for their SATs results - at a time when the government reports that standards have dropped post COVID, we are proud to share that 71 % of St Marys achieved the national standard in the combined subjects of reading, writing and maths in comparison to 59% nationally - well done to pupils, parents and staff - your hard work has paid off!

It has been a busy year for our Governing body:

- interviewed and appointed Miss Keith, Miss Pankhe and Miss Priestly as teaching staff
- met both virtually and face to face 8 times through the year
- visited the school individually to monitor safeguarding, Catholic life, health and safety, and standards
- supported bids and implementation of significant fencing to ensure children are safe
- worked with Mrs Collier and the diocese to achieve £350,000 of building updates
- begun to reintroduce single year classes as the school continues to grow
- continue to work towards joining the Magnificat Academy
- welcomed 2 new foundation governors Richard Watson and Joe Cannon, and parent governor Sam Archer
- said goodbye to Kate Sullivan after a long association with the governing body

It was sad earlier this term to receive the news that Mrs Reeves had made the decision to retire at the end of this term. I know that Mrs Collier will greatly miss "her rock" as she has called her, but so will so many others. There will be a huge hole left behind when Kathy goes. She has worked at the school for over thirty years and hates to be singled out, but she has worked incredibly hard in far too many ways to mention, and always ensuring our children (and staff) are put first and foremost. How wonderful that the local authority has recognised her long service with an award! You will be greatly missed but please don't be a stranger!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Hall who is returning to her beloved Yorkshire. She is one of those people who always has a smile on her face, gives over and above, and has done so much for school as a TA - but I'm sure there is a teacher hiding in there. Good luck and all the best for the future - do keep in touch.

Once again, I'd like to thank our governing body for all that they have done throughout the year, voluntarily to support the school. It can be a challenging but very rewarding job when we see how our school is growing! I look forward to next year and seeing even more growth!

To our teaching, admin, finance, cleaning staff and site team - a huge vote of thanks for all that you do to keep our children safe, educated and happy - where would our school be without ALL of you.

Thank you also to FOSM who work tirelessly to organise social events and to provide the extras that the school budget cannot afford.

To our parents and carers - thank you for choosing our school for your child/children - and for working with school to ensure they become the best they can be!

And last but not least - thank you to our children who are at the heart of everything that we do at school. Their welcoming smiles, curiosity and thirst for learning ensure that our school is a happy and successful place.

Have a wonderful summer.

Looking forward to September.

Yours

Angela Scull

Congratulations Mrs Reeves!



## From the classroom... ROBINS

What a hot week it has been! Robin class have been learning about staying hydrated and how we can keep safe in the heat. The children have been drinking lots, staying in the shade and trying to keep cool! We have had lots of water play which has helped. The children thoroughly enjoyed making bubbles in different ways, and cleaning the classroom windows with sponges and squeegees. Enjoy the sunshine this weekend but remember to keep safe!



## DOVES

We have nearly reached the end of the academic year and what another busy week we have had in Doves. We have been practising our measuring skills in maths this week, comparing length, and putting objects in order from shortest to longest. We have also been using rulers and cubes to measure different items around the classroom. In English, we have been reading the story 'The Koala Who Could' about a Koala named Kevin who likes to keep things exactly the same but when change comes along uninvited, he discovers life can be new and wonderful. The children have been doing some writing describing how Kevin the koala feels at different points in the story and have produced some lovely pieces of work. In RE, we have been thinking about Mary and writing some prayers of thanks.



## GOLDFINCHES

Wow! It has come to that time of the year where we are beginning to think about our time in Year 2. We have finished with some final pieces of writing to really showcase our talents. We have created fantastic and engaging information texts about the Seaside, past and present. We have also had the opportunity to explore and perform a poem. We have completed exploring and learning the different parts of Mass and we are looking forward to recognising these during our Whole school leavers Mass next week. It has been a fantastic year, and everyone should be proud of their achievements. Thank you for your continued support throughout and have a lovely summer.

## KINGFISHERS

As we lead up to the final days of the year, Kingfishers have had another busy week! This week we have become poets and have learnt different poetry skills to create our own river poems, which are fantastic. We are really looking forward to our Whole School Mass on Tuesday and have enjoyed learning the songs for this. Can I please ask that **all reading books are returned** before the end of the term so we can prepare them for next. Also, can the children please **bring in a plastic bag on Tuesday** to put all of their schoolbooks in to bring home. Lastly, I would just like to say how extremely proud I am of the children from Kingfishers! They have shown such determination and perseverance throughout the year and I am so lucky that I got to call myself their teacher this year! I have loved every minute spent with these children and look forward to watching them grow as they move through the school. As always, thank you for your continued support and I hope you all have a lovely, well-deserved summer!

## SKYLARKS

What a busy week we have had in Skylarks. On Monday, we were lucky enough to go to Southam College where we watched their fabulous performance of Matilda. It inspired so many children and it was wonderful to see how much they enjoyed it. Later in the week, everyone researched and produced PowerPoints on our latest RE topic- Marriage and Holy Orders. Lots of challenging problem solving has taken place in maths, focusing on what's the same and what's different. Everyone has also challenged themselves trying to solve verbal and non-verbal reasoning which they showed great resilience and perseverance over. Could all **library books please be returned by Monday** to prepare for September.



## DIARY DATES



### EVERY FRIDAY

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

### Monday July 18

Cake Sale @ Morning Break  
50p a cake  
(proceeds to the Y6 leavers' party)

### Tuesday July 19

Year 6 Leavers Take Over & Festival

### Tuesday July 19 @ 09:15

ALL Whole School Mass at Our Lady & St Wulstan everybody welcome!

### Tuesday July 19 From 14:30

Year 6 Leavers Assembly & After School Party (Y6 parents have had a letter)

### Wednesday July 20

ALL End of Term  
NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

### Tuesday September 6

See you all back here!  
Happy Holidays

### 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

St David 289

St George 187

St Patrick 163

St Andrew 53

Well done to St David for winning the House Trophy this Year!



## Stars of the Week

Little Robins – Louie H

Big Robins – Emma

Doves – Elliott

Goldfinches – Sam

Kingfishers – William & Thomas

Skylarks – Affiea & Elena

## EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

Little Robins	Toby
Big Robins	Charlotte
Doves	Finnley
Goldfinches	Ben
Kingfishers	Amari & Casey
Skylarks	Lucy & Theo

## LUNCHTIME AWARD

Little Robins	Arlyn
Big Robins	Harvey
Doves	Grace B
Goldfinches	Sophie
Kingfishers	Delilah & Layla
Skylarks	Tadei & Gwen