

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | September 9th 2022



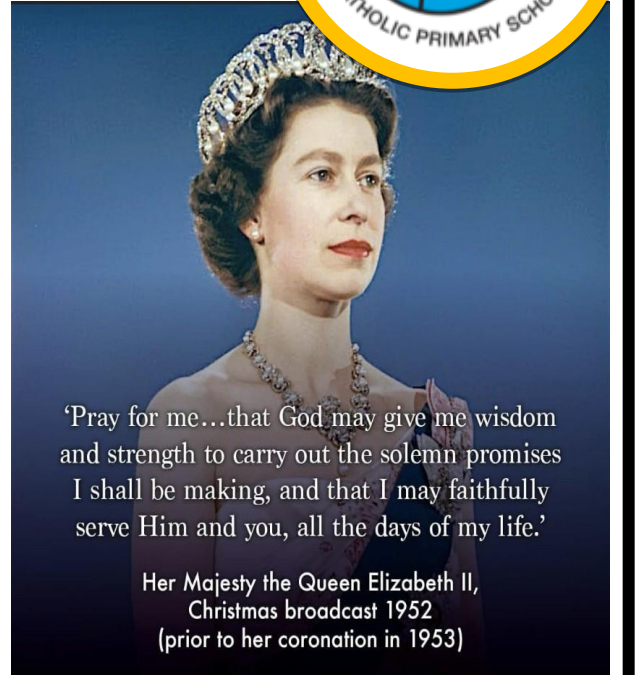
All at St Mary's join our nation in mourning our beloved monarch Queen Elizabeth II.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. She was an incredible inspiration to children everywhere. We have held prayer services in class, thanking God and asking that she rests in peace.



We pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We give thanks for her life of faith and service to God and to us all. We ask Mary, who is both our Mother and Queen of Heaven, to intercede for us as we pray for Her Majesty.

Eternal rest grant unto her,
O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine
upon her.
May she rest in peace.
Amen.



'Pray for me...that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.'

Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II,
Christmas broadcast 1952
(prior to her coronation in 1953)



From the Head ...

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is absolutely wonderful to be back and to have our precious children back with us.

I sincerely hope that we have another fantastic year and one where there are no interruptions (I am not going to mention the dreaded 'C' word!). There are lots of dates so please **check the calendar section** on the newsletter and website regularly. It was lovely to see all the children arriving looking so beautiful. Thank you for following our **school uniform** policy as it sets high expectations for everything at school. Don't forget to label or write on labels inside of uniforms too.

Please can you make a real concerted effort for your child to be **in school every day**. It is vital after the disruption of the lockdowns that your child is in school for every single learning opportunity this year. As a school we are aiming for at least 97% whole school attendance but 100% would be amazing! **We have a free flow system in the morning where children can go in to their classrooms from 8.45am until the bell for the start of the school day goes at 8.55am. During this 10-minute window the children have time to read or will be set a challenge to get their most important muscle, the brain, moving.**

Some very sad news that we have to share is that we have had to bid goodbye to our precious **Mrs Lyons**, as she has decided to retire. We wish her all of the very best of luck in the world and sincerely hope that she puts her feet up and has a well-deserved rest. We will miss her beautiful presence around the school.

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Mucklow** to our ever-growing family of Saint Mary's. Mrs Mucklow is our new Breakfast and After School Club Manager. Any queries relating to this need to be directed to her now by either calling the school or emailing her: mucklow.l@welearn365.com.

Our **Celebration Assemblies** will continue to take place on a Friday morning at 9.05am. These will now be open to all parents and grandparents to attend. If your child has achieved something outside of school, please encourage them to share their successes with us all in assembly, we love seeing the journey our children are on both inside and outside of school. A reminder and a note to our new children and parents about **birthdays**: Children can come into school in non-uniform on their birthday. This is so wonderful as everybody within our school community who sees them will know that it is their special day. If their birthday falls on a weekend, on PE day or within a school holiday the child may come in non-uniform on the Friday before or the Monday afterwards.

Father Arul is coming into school on Tuesday 13th September to celebrate mass with us in the hall at 9.15am – you are all most welcome to join us. If you cannot make it this week, each class will be going to church to celebrate mass on a Tuesday at 9.15am as follows:

- Year Five/ Six – Tuesday 20th September 2022
- Year Four/ Five – Tuesday 27th September 2022
- Year Three – Tuesday 4th October 2022

Have a restful weekend – ready to start again on Monday.
God Bless

Maureen Collier



WhatsApp-ening
Joining your class
WhatsApp Group
is a great way to
stay in the know

Class Reps are members of our school parents' group Friends of St Mary (FOSM) and make a significant contribution to our school through their fundraising and the parent social network they support. They are: YrN & YrR – Iwona | Yr1 – Malley | Yr2 – Amanda | Yr3 – Amy | Y4/5 – Sian | Yr5/6 – Sally. Please ask in the playground or contact the office if you'd like to join them.

You can follow our FOSM crew on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/FOSMSoutham/>

And the school Twitter account is:
<https://twitter.com/StMarysSoutham>

- Mrs Finch & Mrs Hilditch

What a wonderful first week we have had in Early Years 😊. The children have come in with smiles on their faces and a spring in their step. We have so enjoyed getting to know our new faces and we have all had lots of fun playing with the dolls, slime and the parachute. Well done, you are all amazing!



Year One - Ms Priestley

Year 1 have settled in brilliantly this week! It is so lovely to see them all back and ready to learn. This week we have created some stained-glass windows to represent St. Mary and had great fun baking bird seed cookies to follow in the footsteps of our class Saint, St. Francis. We already can't wait for next week!



Year Two - Ms Pahnke

Year 2 have been settling well back into school life and into their new year group. They have had the opportunity to learn about their school life and their new class saint, St. Bernadette. Please ask the children and see what they can tell you, they are very excited about their saint. We went on a scavenger hunt around school to find clues to reveal our new book for English, which is... 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have even designed and made our own gingerbread men already this week. All the children now have a reading book and reading record. I would ask that the children aim to read at least three times during the week. We look forward to the new week ahead.

Year Three - Ms Keith

Welcome back everyone! We have had an amazing first week back at school! It has been lovely getting to know the children and learning all about them. I am so proud of how well they have settled into Year 3 and how mature they have been. Today the children will have their first reading book of the year and I look forward to continuing to develop their love of reading. They have blown me away this week with how amazing they have been and I look forward to many more amazing weeks of learning with the children.

Year Four & Five

What a great first week back it's been for Year 4/5. The children have all settled in well and have come back after the holidays with such a positive and hardworking attitude. We know that we are going to have great year ahead. This week we have been super busy. We have been learning about our new Class Saint, Saint Teresa of Calcutta and looking at her life, the work she did and how and why she was canonized a saint. We have also been learning about our Lady, Saint Mary and have written some lovely pieces about her and made some beautiful and colourful stained-glass window pictures. This half term's value and virtue is "Compassionate and Loving" and we have discussed and learnt about what it means and how we can show this in our everyday lives.

In maths, we have been testing our mathematical brains hard and have been working on our times table. The children really enjoyed challenging themselves playing the 'Hit the Button' maths game and also taking part in an 80 questions times tables quiz! Even Miss Costa had a go! "

Year Five & Six

It has been so wonderful having the children back in school and they have settled in brilliantly. We have been really busy researching and producing fact files on Our Lady, plus our class Saint, Maximilian Kolbe who endured the torment of Auschwitz and gave up his life to save others.

DIARY DATES

PE DAYS AUTUMN TERM:

We would ask that children come in to school in their P.E kits on this day, this means that we can spend more time on P.E.

- **Nursery & Reception:** Monday
- **Year 1:** Friday
- **Year 2:** Tuesday
- **Year 3, Year 4/5, Year 5/6:** Thursday

Monday, September 12

Music Lessons start (Piano & Keyboard)

Tuesday, September 13

Music Lessons Start (Woodwind & Strings)

Tuesday, September 13

School Mass @ 9:15am (Hall)

Wednesday, September 14

Funky Dance Club Starts (YN 14:30 - 15:00 Y1-Y6 After school)

Tues. September 20, @9:15

Class Mass Year 5/6 (Church)

Tues. September 27, @9:15

Class Mass Year 4/5 (Church)

Wednesday, September 28

Individual School Photos

Tuesday, October 4, @9:15

Class Mass Year 3 (Church)

Tuesday, October 4, 3-7 PM

Parents Evening
Book look and meeting

Wednesday, October 5

Flu Vaccination: YR - Y6

LOOK OUT NEXT WEEK FOR

KS2 Letter: Netball Club
Monday Evenings

PLEASE NOTE:

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

In the Community

Children's Liturgy is back! Especially for pre-confirmation children up to age 11 and held in the Church Hall during the 10 o'clock Sunday Mass at Our Lady and St Wulstan. Please join us for fun, games and craft activities themed around the Sunday Mass. Every Sunday starting 11 September, everyone welcome (parents too)!

Princethorpe School: Open Morning Thursday 22 September 10.30am - 12.30pm. This is an opportunity for families to visit the College on a normal school day. Parents are requested to book in advance using the following link: <https://www.princethorpe.co.uk/september-open-morning>. Year 6 taster days allow the children the chance to experience some time with us prior to the entrance examinations. The dates will be Tuesday 13 September, Thursday 15 September and Tuesday 27 September. Again, parents should register in advance at the following link: <https://www.princethorpe.co.uk/y6-taster-day-booking>

Lighthorne Heath & Southam Children's Centre: The new timetable is attached to the newsletter and the team can be reached at: 01926 691 105. All sessions are free of charge, but booking is essential.

Club Corner

Mrs Mucklow and Mrs Crowley have been planning lots of lovely activities with the after-school club children. Here's a small sample:



Stars of the Week

Everyone! – Well done to all our children for settling back in so beautifully and quickly adapting back to our school rules and routines