

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | September 30th 2022



From the Head ...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, that was another jam-packed week that has flown by! It has been wonderful to see the children fully immersed in school life and a privilege to be part of their journey. I have loved every minute of teaching across a range of year groups this week.

October is a busy month. Autumn is making its presence known, school is in full swing, and All Saints Day is fast approaching. However, in the Catholic calendar, **October is the month of the Rosary**. More specifically, October 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Year Six shall be going to Mass to celebrate the Adoration of the Eucharist on Friday at 10.45am – please join us if you can.

Our children all look so smart in their **uniforms** and we thank those of you that are following our uniform policy. We are a school that support sustainability and as such we are trying to do our bit to ensure that we recycle – such as uniform. If you are short on uniform please speak to Mrs Worrall as we hold a bank of recycled uniform here. For a small donation we can help you out and this also helps the school to continue buying new reading books for our children.

Please do make sure that children are in school, ready to start their learning. We operate a free flow system in the morning where children can **arrive at 8.45am – ready for registration at 8.55am**. This is an ideal ten minutes for them to catch up with homework, read quietly or complete early morning work.

We are seeing absence increasing again. I know that this is the season for coughs and colds and that we are all still hesitant due to the past two years and Covid. Guidance now recommends that if a child tests positive they should remain at home for three days. We are going to see a higher rate of coughs and colds this year due to the fact that for the last few years we have all been more cautious and have worn face coverings. Please use your discretion and if in doubt contact us. If your child is absent you **MUST** call the school daily before 9.30am – you can leave a voicemail on the absence line and if we need to we will call you back. Our overall attendance this week is 91% - this falls well below the national average of 96%. It is imperative that our children are in school every day as we still have so much missed time for them to make up on, and they deserve the very best quality of education that we can give them.

We'd like to say a very big St Mary's thank you to Miss Ireland, who has been our dedicated school caretaker for the past 18 months. She has welcomed many of you mornings and late evenings with a smile and helped ensure everything inside the school building and premises runs smoothly and looks pristine. Fortunately she will remain part of the school family as she drops her beautiful girls off each morning. We wish her well in her new role, and hope to welcome a new caretaker to our team soon.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend, wrap up warm – put on layers not the heating!

Maureen Collier

HARVEST FESTIVAL We have joined in an online Harvest Assembly hosted by CAFOD and will be sending our harvest donations to the local Foodbank soon. We appreciate times are hard and ask that you only give if you feel able; we are appealing for long-lasting items such as coffee, tea, tinned foods and dried fruit.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DONATING TO AND ACCESSING FOODBANKS: <https://metro.co.uk/2022/08/31/how-to-donate-to-food-banks-and-what-foods-do-they-need-the-most-17276855/>

FOSM UPDATE

Friends of St Mary's

After their new year committee meeting earlier this week, FOSM have lots of fun things lined up; please do come along to the **Welcome Meeting** for a chance to meet others over a glass of wine, have your say and get involved in the school's social and fundraising events. **Everyone welcome!**

Welcome Meeting - Monday 10th October starting at 7:30pm

Disco - Friday 21st October 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Xmas Jumper Sale - Friday 25th November

Christmas lights switch on - Sunday 27th November

Festive Wreathmaking Workshop - Early December (date TBC)

FOSM are also planning the return of our much-loved **'Breakfast with Santa'** – Saturday morning fun for children and adults with bacon sandwiches, hot drinks and of course a visit from the man in red himself. The team will also be organising for your children to make **Homemade Christmas Cards**. The run up to Christmas is always a busy time for FOSM; if you can give time or expertise to help them make this special time even more special for our children, please message your Class Rep.



AUTUMN TERM OPEN MORNINGS

Come & say Hello...

Spread the word about our fantastic school & nursery! If you know of someone with children who will shortly be turning 3, please pass it on.

Come and visit our exciting school and find out about our Nursery places for children aged 3+, Reception and In-Year Transfers. The morning will be an opportunity to meet key staff members, take a look at our facilities, ask questions about the admissions process and learn more about what our caring school can offer you and your child.

Tues. 4th October & Thurs. 3rd November @ 9:30 – 11

Please register for these events by emailing the school

office: admin3505@welearn365.com

We offer flexible hours and wrap around care. All children are entitled to 15 hours free childcare and working families may be eligible for 30 hours.

Stars of the Week

Nursery – Mollie

Reception – Poppy

Year 1 – Charlotte & Mason

Year 2 – Joshua

Year 3 – Shreya

Year 4/5 – Chloe & Layla

Year 5/6 – Thomas & Riley

- Mrs Finch & Mrs Hilditch

Early Years have been working hard in phonics. Nursery have been using their listening ears to identify different sounds they hear. They went on a listening walk around school and played 'sound socks', guessing what was making the sound! Reception have been learning a new letter sound each day and practiced forming the letter correctly. They played an initial sound game, matching the object to the correct letter. Well done, you have all been working hard!



Year One - Ms Priestley

Another week gone already! Year 1 have been up to loads this week - from making Harvest baskets; maps of the classroom and beginning to create our own versions of an L. S. Lowry painting to compare with Vincent Van Gogh from last week. I am super proud of all the hard work they have put in to their learning, keep it up Year 1!

Year Two - Ms Pahnke

We have enjoyed adding the final touches to our version of The Gingerbread Man. The children have worked hard on these and have shown great enthusiasm for story writing. We have continued to further our place value knowledge and how we can use this to compare numbers using the symbols >, < and =. We have spent our time in RE learning the story of David and Goliath and how we can use Psalms to praise God. The children wrote and decorated their own beautiful Psalms. As scientists this week we have been testing if everyday materials can squash, bend, twist or stretch.

Year Three - Ms Keith

This week we've had a busy week in Year 3! We have been working hard practicing our place value skills in Maths and have been writing character descriptions in English, ready to write the fairytale of Little Red Riding Hood next week. In our topic lesson, we learnt about the myth of Romulus and Remus and retold the story. Ask the children all about it! Last week we loved learning all about the different types of rocks and this week we have enjoyed learning all about fossils in our science lesson. The children will have their new spellings on Monday and Homework books should be returned by Wednesday. Thank you for continued support.



Year Four & Five - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

This week Year 4/5 have been busy with preparations and attending Mass on Tuesday. The children were fantastic and behaved beautifully, a special well done to the children who volunteered to read and took part in the service. We have been learning about God's call to Abram, the promise God made and the way Abram was tested. In Geography we have been learning about the countries of the United Kingdom and their respective capital cities. In English we have been learning to improve our descriptive writing and using a range of adventurous vocabulary.



Year Five & Six - Mrs Banat-Rinz

Once again, year 5/6 have had a fabulous week. Year 6 had assessments during the mornings throughout the week - they showed amazing perseverance and resilience so should be very proud of themselves. As I knew they would, they have welcomed our new student teacher, Mr Johnson, with open arms and we are all looking forward to him starting to teach in the class next week. The class were challenged again on Friday with another maths problem which they were sure was impossible! I couldn't have asked for greater determination and teamwork.

DIARY DATES



EVERY FRIDAY

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

October 1 - 31

Black History Month

Tuesday, October 4, @9:15

Class Mass Year 3 (Church)

Tuesday, October 4,

@9:30 - 11:00

Open Morning

Reception & Early Years

Tuesday, October 4, 3-7 PM

Parents Evening

Book look and meeting

Wednesday, October 5

Flu Vaccination: YR - Y6

NEW Wednesday, October 5

15:30 - 16:00

Maths Come and Learn:

Reception Parents

NEW Thursday, October 6

Police Community Support

Officer Visit & Talk

Friday, October 7

Year 3: Science Rocks,

Ladbroke

Friday, October 7 @ 11:00

Year 5/6 Mass @ Church

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

NEW Tuesday, October 11

Athlete Visit & Fitness Special

★ (Sponsor forms sent home) ★

October 24 - 28

Half Term

Thursday, November 3,

@9:30 - 11:00

Open Morning

Reception & Early Years

Friday, November 4

Year 3: Romans Rule Trip

PLEASE NOTE:

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

More dates and details online at:

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

HOUSE POINTS

St George 164

St David 129

St Andrew 122

St Patrick 90



Bikeability



Year 5 & 6 Cycling Opportunity:

Sign up forms have gone home this week to all children in Year 5 & Year 6.

Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme which aims to inspire more children to cycle by equipping them with the skills and confidence to ride more. The course is free, but consent forms MUST be returned ahead of the deadline for us to secure funded places.

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

YN: Orla	Y3: Alice
YR: Arlyn	Y4/5: Amari & Tami
Y1: Kabelle	Y5/6: Hamish & Olivia
Y2: Oliver	

LUNCHTIME AWARD

YN: Freddie	Y3: Felicity
YR: Leo	Y4/5: Oliver & Dougie
Y1: Nero	Y5/6: Amelka & Harriet
Y2: Grace B	