

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | October 7th 2022



From the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

It doesn't seem possible that we are now in the fifth week of the Autumn term with half term rapidly approaching!

It is always lovely to welcome the children back in, but this year, even more so with all the changes in school: The summer holiday was an amazingly busy time in school with **£350,000 worth of work** being undertaken on the fabric of the building involving new electrics throughout, upgraded alarm systems, and - especially welcome - new toilet facilities for the younger children and staff! It's hoped that the remainder of the toilets will be upgraded in the not-too-distant future! Huge thanks must go to our cleaning staff, Shirley Burdett and Chris Hearnden, as well as the rest of the staff for the Herculean task of getting the school clean and ready for the children, as over 30 years of dust and dirt had been disturbed as all the ceilings had to come down to install new cabling.

There have also been quite a few additional staff to welcome as well, and they have been helped to settle in by our "old" hands and the children. So we welcome Miss Priestley to Y1, a bit of an "old" hand herself, having done her student placements here. Mrs Watson has been a great addition to the teaching staff, working in Year 5 class - again someone well known to the school with 2 children in the Juniors. We also welcome Ms King as our new teaching assistant who can be seen across the school supporting classes.

And finally, the Before and After school club now has a manager, Mrs Mucklow, who is planning daily activities and a variety of snacks to enhance our offer to the children. I wish them all a warm welcome and feel sure that they will settle quickly into school life and will help our children to thrive.

It was with sadness that Mrs Lyons shared with me her decision to retire at the beginning of the summer holidays. Whilst at the school she has devoted her time in such a quiet and unassuming way, always willing to help wherever she was needed. Her faith shone through and will be greatly missed particularly by the GIFT group. I wish her a happy retirement with lots of time spent with grandchildren.

We also said goodbye to Ms Ireland as she moves on to other roles. Over the last 18 months she has been at the core of the school, ensuring gates are opened, school is cleaned and children are welcomed. On behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her well for the future. Interviews are taking place this week to find a replacement Caretaker.

School is always such a busy place, and never more than this term with parents' meetings, Christmas preparation and all that it brings, and the challenge of the dark nights and mornings, cold weather and seasonal illnesses.

Your governing body has reformed at the beginning of this term, as we continue with a full group of 12 governors, which now consists of 2 main committees. These focus on different areas of school - Performance and Standards, and Resources, each meeting termly. These both then feed into the Full Governing Body meeting at the end of each term. A skills audit was undertaken to ensure best fit for Governors on each committee.

It was lovely to walk into school at 6 last night for a Governor meeting, to see face-to-face parents' meetings taking place. I know some schools are still undertaking virtual meetings, so thank you to all staff for all that you have done to prepare for these at the end of a busy day of teaching!

It only remains for me, on behalf of the Governors, to wish staff and children a happy and successful year. Mrs Collier, along with her team will always ensure a happy, safe and hard-working environment for all.

Angela Scull

PARENT SURVEY

As we constantly strive to provide a high-quality education, your views are invaluable in order for us to achieve our vision: <https://forms.office.com/r/WUKx6XBmyN>

Please take the time to answer the questions on this online survey and write your comments, before it closes at midday on October 17th, letting us know what you feel is working well and what we need to improve upon. **Thank You**

POLICE CAMERA ACTION!

The children had a super morning on Thursday meeting PC Donna who ran 3 separate age-differentiated sessions about how to contact the police, what they do and how to stay safe online - and included fun fingerprints, trying on uniform and listening to the police car's siren.



AUTUMN TERM OPEN MORNINGS

In case you missed it...

We really enjoyed meeting prospective new Reception, Nursery and in-year transfer families at Tuesday's first Open Morning of the year. If you missed it, the next is:

Thurs. 3rd November @ 9:30 - 11:00am

Please register 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. Wraparound care also available.

Stars of the Week

Nursery - Freddie

Reception - Arlyn

Year 1 - Leo

Year 2 - Vincent

Year 3 - Nevana

Year 4/5 - Tallulah & Ollie

Year 5/6 - Esther & Chelsea

▶ ▶ In case you missed it...

ATHLETE VISIT

This coming Tuesday Olympic Athlete Amy Smith will be joining us for fitness circuits- How's your sponsorship going?

HARVEST

DONATIONS

If you feel able to donate, please do send your long-life grocery items in to school next week.

FOSM WELCOME

MEETING 7:30 Mon

Come and meet our fantastic Friends whose FUNdraising all benefits your children



EVERY FRIDAY

Celebration Assembly

@9:15 School Hall (open to all)

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

Monday, October 10 @ 19:30

FOSM Welcome Meeting
School Hall - All welcome!

Tuesday, October 11

Athlete Visit & Fitness Special
★ (Sponsor forms sent home) ★

Tuesday, October 11

Year 4/5 Class Mass

Tuesday, October 18

Year 3 Class Mass

Friday, October 21

FOSM Disco 5:30 – 7:30

October 24 – 28

Half Term

Tuesday, November 1

Whole School Mass

Thursday, November 3,

@9:30 – 11:00

Open Morning
Reception & Early Years

Friday, November 4

Year 3: Romans Rule Trip

Tuesday, November 8

Year 5/6 Mass

November 14 - 18

Anti-Bullying Week

Friday, November 25

Xmas Jumper Sale

Sunday, November 27

Christmas lights switch on

PLEASE NOTE:

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

HOUSE POINTS



will be back next week

In EYFS this week, we have been looking at the changing seasons. We went for a lovely Autumn walk on Tuesday. We looked at all the trees and noticed that some of them have started to change to a lovely yellow colour. We then spotted some acorns! The next morning, we saw lots of squirrels running up and down the oak tree. Well done nursery and reception, you've been so kind and caring this week whilst I have nursed a croaky voice. 😊



Year One – Ms Priestley

This week Year One have been working really hard with counting one more and one less and have had great fun getting to know our new story 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. On Tuesday, we attended Mass celebrating the feast of our class Saint, St Francis. It was really interesting to see the different parts of Mass as that has been our focus in RE this week. I am also amazed at how brilliant Year One have been in learning the Hail Mary prayer in sign language - definitely one to ask about as I'm sure they'd love to show you! It was so lovely to see you all at parents evening and celebrate your fantastic children 😊

Year Two – Ms Pahnke

Each week Year Two are showcasing themselves more and more. They have shown great enthusiasm in Maths this week finishing our place value topic and starting addition and subtraction. They are trying hard to impress with their mathematical vocabulary. We have been exploring the features of an instruction text and they have planned our own 'How to make a gingerbread man'. In RE, the children have had the opportunity to reflect on the gifts they have been given by God and how they can use them in our community. The children have been fantastic scientists, exploring which materials are waterproof and which are absorbent.

Year Three – Ms Keith

It has been another busy week in Year 3. In English, we have been writing the fairytale of Little Red Riding Hood and have used some great adjectives in our writing! In Maths, we have been looking at placing numbers to 1,000 on a number line and in RE we have been looking at what happens during Mass. Last week in Science, we loved making our own fossils and this week have had a fantastic time during a time at Ladbroke Church on our rock hunt! Throughout the year we will be looking at different prayers as a class and we are currently focusing on 'The Angelus' prayer. I have set the children the challenge of creating a poster for our prayer and would like for these to be displayed at school. The weekly homework has been sent home today and should be returned by Wednesday. The children will also receive their new spellings on Monday. It was lovely to see you all at parents' evening and discuss the wonderful things the children have been doing and I would like to thank you for your continued support!

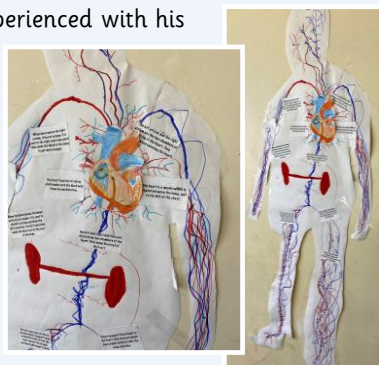


Year Four & Five – Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

Another busy week in Year 4/5. In D&T, we have really enjoyed continuing our learning about the Cornish Pasty. We have done some research over the last few lessons about its origin and learnt some interesting facts about how it was made, why it was made and how to spot a genuine Cornish Pasty. We have even learnt where the well-known chant 'Oggie, oggie, oggie' came from and the reason behind it. Year 4/5 will be able to share this interesting fact with you. In Maths, we have been working hard with numbers up to 10,000 and have also been developing our knowledge and understanding of Roman Numerals. In English, we have continued with our descriptive writing and the children have produced some lovely pieces of writing. In RE this week, we have started looking at the story of Joseph and his brothers and have discussed the reasons why people feel jealousy and hatred to others, just as Joseph experienced with his own brothers in the story.

Year Five & Six – Mrs Banat-Rinz

What a fabulous week. The class discovered more about our circulatory system in science and made life size representations - which was at times challenging but with great results. On Thursday, a police officer came in to talk to us about social media - reminding children that should not have any account such as Snapchat, Instagram or TikTok until the age of 13. They loved trying on the uniform and looking at the police car whilst the siren was going off. A gentle reminder that all homework is due back on a Wednesday with spelling tests every Friday.



EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

YN: Everleigh	Y3: Mason
YR: Pixie	Y4/5: William & Ned
Y1: Isla	Y5/6: Miriam & Olivia
Y2: Flori	

LUNCHTIME AWARD

YN: Cara	Y3: Eliza
YR: Archie	Y4/5: Noah & Claudia
Y1: Freddie	Y5/6: Hamish & Sophia K
Y2: Deep	