

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | January 6th 2023



From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

First and foremost, I would like to wish all of you a very happy New Year. The family here at St Mary's hope that you all had a wonderful festive break with your loved ones. All of the staff would like to express their appreciation for your very generous Christmas gifts, we were all very spoilt. Thank you to all of you for these lovely gifts and for sharing with us the greatest gifts; the children.

Well, despite it being a short week for us all, what a splendid week it has been! It is always so wonderful to be in school with our beautiful children, they are kind, compassionate and just brilliant children. They make an already privileged position feel even more special with how they conduct themselves. We are so blessed to have you as families with us.

As you know we celebrate and practise, in our thoughts and in our words, new values and virtues each half term. This half term we are looking at being eloquent and truthful. All of us at St Mary's are growing to be **eloquent** and **truthful** in what we say of ourselves, the relations between people, and the world. We will help our children grow by developing an eloquent language, which children can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

We have changed our **Phonics Scheme** to Rocket Phonics and children will begin lessons on Monday. It is going to be very exciting and will help all of our children to decode in order for them to become fluent readers. This will also help them to encode, to ensure that they are spelling fluently too. We have also changed the way that the children read across the school and they will now bring home books that are relevant to their skills. We will be creating a training video for all parents and carers to see this in action and to help you understand the way that we teach this lifelong skill. I must send out a huge thank you to you all for your kind donations; without your money we wouldn't have been able to invest in the huge number of new books that we have bought. Our vision is to make every child a lifelong lover of reading. Please do help us with this by listening to your child reading as often as possible.

Some important information has been sent out today regarding work that is due to start on Monday in our Early Years area – please ensure you have read where you need to drop off and collect children please.

I had a wonderful visitor this week who was able to tell me all about his very exciting Christmas holidays. He had created a wonderful fact file and was able to tell me facts that I didn't know about the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero. I am so lucky to have such wonderful children that are always learning and imparting that knowledge onto others. Well done Noah and Thank you!

God Bless

Maureen Collier



Happy New Year 2023

SPRING TERM CLUBS – Back next week

Netball	Mondays	Y3-6	FREE	Full
Dance	Wednesdays	YR-Y6	£4.50 p/w	Paper Form
Football	Thursdays	Y3-Y6	£4.50 p/w	Online Form

Netball: Please contact the office if you don't already attend and would like to start and we can add you to the waiting list.

SPRING TERM MUSIC LESSONS:

We are busy finalising timetables with our new teachers and student pairs/groups for newly enrolled students. We will add Spring Term to ParentPay as soon as these are finalised. A reminder that our new music days and teachers will be:

- **GUITAR:** Monday - Mr Cruz
- **WOODWIND:** Tuesday – Ms Harcroft
- **PIANO/KEYBOARD & VIOLIN:** Friday – Ms Peterson

Spring term is Year 3's turn (after Years 5 & 6 had trumpet this term) for whole class UpBeat lessons learning the fife.

If your child is in Year 2 or above and would like to begin Music Lessons after half term, please contact the office for forms.

WINTER WELLNESS Common Health Conditions

Please read the guidance attached with the newsletter relating to Winter Illnesses in children and how you as parents can help keep our school community safe.

LETTERS, & PERMISSION SLIPS Via your teacher please

These should be handed in and returned via your child's class teacher where these are centrally collated; there is no need for you to make a separate trip to the office.

Back next week...

LUNCHTIME AWARD

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

HOUSE POINTS



Stars of the Week



NURSERY & RECEPTION - Mrs Finch & Mrs Hilditch

Happy New Year! Reception and Nursery have returned after Christmas raring and ready to go! They have enjoyed catching up with their friends and getting back into the classroom routine. Our topic this term is 'Winter Wonderland' so we are looking forward to exploring and learning about the world of ice and snow!

Year One - Ms Priestley

It has been so lovely to have the children back and what a great start they have had to the New Year! Hope you all had an exciting but restful holiday. We have got a great half term ahead - we are beginning our new Topic, Poles Apart, which will span across the Curriculum. We will be looking at 'Poles Apart' and 'Leaf' in English and learning about the Polar regions and animals in Science. We will also be exploring the different continents and climates in Geography and beginning our ball games unit in PE. Looking forward to another super week next week!

Year Two - Ms Pahnke

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week after half term. The children enjoyed investigating the clues to predict what our new book is for English, 'Paddington at the Palace'. They even got to try a marmalade sandwich, just like Paddington enjoys. In Math this term we will be covering shape, money and multiplication and division. In Topic, linking to our English text, we will be exploring the United Kingdom and the different landmarks in each country. After half term we will then explore the Great Fire of London. Our science topic is 'Animals including humans', where will learn the basic needs for survival, the food chain and the importance of exercise, healthy eating and hygiene for humans. It will be an exciting term for the children with lots of opportunities to showcase their learning.

Year Three - Ms Keith

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year! It has been lovely having the children back and they have been working very hard! This week we have begun to look at our new text 'The Ice Palace' in English, the children are really looking forward to reading it! In Maths, we have been looking at arrays to help us develop our multiplication skills which we will continue to do. The children also discovered that our new topic is called 'Awesome Earth' and are very excited to begin our topic learning next week!

Thank you for your continued support!

Year Four & Five - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back. Hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and a well-deserved rest. It has been lovely to have the children back and refreshed with a fantastic attitude to their learning. Although it's only been a few days, the children have really got stuck in to their learning and have been working really hard. This week in Maths we have been practising our 11 and 12 times tables and looking at ways that can help with remembering. In English we have working on some Grammar and Punctuation. We been learning about the homophones *there*, *their* and *they're*, recapping the different meanings and how to use them correctly in our sentences. We have also been working on inverted commas (speech marks) and have been practising how to use them to show direct speech. This week in RE sees the end to our Christmas unit. We have been learning about the important roles of the Angels in the Christmas story and discussing the significances of the messages they delivered to Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds at the time of Jesus' birth.

Year Five & Six - Mrs Banat-Rinz

Everyone has come back this term refreshed and ready to learn which is fabulous. They have shown maturity, perseverance and resilience and are setting a great example to the rest of the school. In RE, we have explored the gifts given to Jesus when he was born. We then explored what gifts we could give to Jesus - such as our love, faith and our hearts. Following on from the sad news of the death of Pope Benedict - we researched and wrote fact files about him. Thank you to all the year 6 parents who brought their children early into school for the SATS booster tuition - a reminder that this is open to all in year 6 on Thursdays at 8am at no cost to yourselves.

DIARY DATES

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



Week Commencing

9th January

Clubs start (see front page)

Monday 23 January

- Thursday 26 January

Year 5 and Year 6 Bikeability

Thursday, February 2

Whole School Mass @9:15 Church

Thursday, February 9

Y2 & Y6 Class Mass @9:15 Church

Thursday, February 16

Y3 & all Y4 Class Mass @9:15 Church

Tuesday, February 21

Pancake Day

Wednesday, February 21

Ash Wednesday (Lent Starts)

20 - 24 February

Half Term

Monday, February 27

Teacher Training Day

Tuesday, February 28

Back to School

Wednesday, March 1

St David's Day
ALL Regardless of your actual house, celebrate our House Saint on St Day's Day by wearing yellow or a daffodil item.

Thursday, March 1

World Book Day
More information on this year's event to follow

PLEASE NOTE:

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



Warwickshire services are working together to help people find the information they need to manage increased household costs. This is a difficult time for many people and finding direct support can be hard. National and local links to services are listed on the below page as well as information on related topics - food, energy, housing, finance, stress & wellbeing. There is specialist support available for families, older people, businesses and students. You can also access community-based support, or find support if you are in work or looking for work. www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk
Email: costofliving@warwickshire.gov.uk Cost of Living support line: **0800 408 1449**