

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | January 13th 2023



From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a whirlwind of a second week of term we have had! We have had lots of exciting learning going on across the school and I cannot tell you often enough what a privilege it is for me to see how the children engage and work hard every day. Of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing team of staff we have here at St. Mary's.

Today there will be a very important letter sent home with regards to Swimming. **It is imperative that the information is given back to us by Tuesday 17th January** in order for us to create a timetable of swimmers. This is going to be such a wonderful time for the children, as every single child will have the opportunity to swim in small groups. Please ensure that the information is handed to your child's class teacher, or myself at the gate. If you have any questions or concerns, please either catch me on the gate or contact the office.

The work in our Early Years setting is well under way and the children have loved watching the excavating and building of fences. They are learning valuable skills by watching and they are all so excited at the prospect of having a brand-new playground. Thank you all so much for your patience – it is very much appreciated. School is definitely starting to take shape and our building is being given the care and attention it so desperately needs. We still have work to do though and we value your input at every stage.

This week all of the children have been shown our new phonics and reading scheme and the feedback from them is very positive. They all seem excited and it has been a joy to hear the children recommending other books to their friends. It is like music to my ears!

God Bless

Maureen Collier



First Holy Communion

We will be holding a meeting on **Tuesday 24th January 2023** at 3.30pm in the hall for parents of children who will be making their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th June 2023. Please do let us know that you will be attending.

This won't be a long meeting and of course the children are very welcome to attend.



MONEY ADVICE MARKET

Get help with the cost of living crisis



Money Advice Market

There will be a Money Advice Market on Wednesday 1st February at Southam Congregational Church, Wood St, Southam CV47 1PP.

Go along between 12pm - 2pm to gain information on finances, debt, school holiday support, energy, fuel, childcare costs, local jobs and more!

Children's Centre Update

January's timetable is attached to this newsletter. Families can contact the centre directly to book courses and also access partner services from the Centres (these include Midwifery, Health Visitors, Community Nursery Nurses, Counselling, Citizen's Advice, Refuge, WCC Children & Family support, WCC Adult & Community Learning).

Lighthorne Heath & Southam:- 01926 691 105

Reception places September 2023

A reminder that this coming Sunday at 5pm is the deadline to apply for your child's Reception place. (There is an extension to February 1st of you are moving house) <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/421/applying-for-a-primary-school-place>

Headlice and Nits

Parents and Carers are being advised to keep an eye out for head lice and nits, as we do have cases in school. Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact.

Though head lice and nits may be a nuisance, they don't cause serious illness or carry any diseases and can be treated at home with a fine-tooth comb or over-the-counter medication. See NHS website for more details

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Stars of the Fortnight

Today was our first Celebration Assembly of 2023, so it's double superstars this week:

Nursery – River & Ivy

Reception – Lauren & Poppy

Year 1 – Ava & Nero

Year 2 – Jamal & Enea

Year 3 – James & Rebecca

Year 4/5 – Oliver, Ocean, Tami & Layla

Year 5/6 – Max W, Hamish, Riley & Affiea

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 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 & Y4 Class Mass @9:15

Church

Tuesday, February 21

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

Wednesday, February 22

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's Day by wearing yellow or a daffodil item.

Thursday, March 2

World Book Day

More information on this year's event to follow

SACRAMENTS

Sacramental preparation will begin soon. Please note the ceremony days:

Confirmation (Y6)

Saturday, June 3rd

First Holy Communion (Y3)

Saturday, June 17th

PLEASE NOTE:

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

More dates and details online at:

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

We had a very exciting week watching the builders start work on the outdoor area! The children could not believe their eyes when the digger arrived! They have been making notes and drawing pictures to frequently update me on the progress outside. We cannot wait to see the transformation and are looking forward to playing out there again!



Year One - Ms Priestley

It has been another busy week in Year One, jam packed with loads of fun and learning! We have been developing our knowledge of numbers 1 - 20 and understanding one more and one less. To consolidate their learning, it would be great if they could practice their counting forwards and backwards to 20 at home too. We began our new book Poles Apart this week and have been focussing on setting descriptions. The children have come up with some fantastic adjectives for hot and cold! The highlight of our week has definitely been learning about the 7 continents and 5 seas. We have had so much fun singing songs to remind us of them all which I have no doubt you will have already heard at home - I know the sound has been filling the classroom all week! I am super impressed with their love of learning this! Have a lovely, restful weekend 😊

Year Two - Ms Pahnke

The first full week back at school and the children have taken it in their stride. They have shown a passion and interest in learning map and atlas skills to learn more about the UK. They have written a fantastic character description of Paddington and they are excited to learn more about him. Our shape topic has almost finished and will be starting money next. When listening to the parable of The Talents in RE the children had the opportunity to think about their own talents and how they can use them to help others. All children now have a reading book, spellings and homework. Thank you for your continued support.

Year Three - Ms Keith

It has been another busy week in Year Three this week and it has been lovely to have the children back for a whole week! This week in Maths we have been practicing our multiplication and division skills using arrays and the grouping and sharing methods and in our English Lesson we have become inverted comma experts, using inverted commas to write what characters from our text would say. This week we also launched our topic 'Awesome Earth'. The children were very interested to learn about the different natural disasters and are already hooked on our new topic, which is lovely to see! New reading books will be coming home today, please remind your child to bring in their reading diary and reading book every day. Thank you for your continued support!

Year Four & Five - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

It has been another busy week in Year 4/5. In Maths, we have all been working hard on perfecting our multiplication skills, multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000. The children have also started learning about factors of numbers. In English, we read a new story 'Seth the Evil One' as part of new topic this term Tomb Raiders. The children sequenced the story well and then wrote a setting description about the casket scene. In this scene Seth tricked his brother Pharaoh Osiris into getting into the casket to get rid of him so he could then be Pharaoh. The children are really excited to learn more about the Egyptians. In science we were experimenting with vibrations of sound using drums and rice. The children really enjoy seeing how the soundwaves made the rice move. In RE we started our new unit Jesus Light of the World. We have been learning about when Jesus was presented at the temple by Mary and Joseph and listened to and read the Nunc Dimittis, the prayer Simeon said when he finally met Jesus at the temple. In Art the children created some lovely pencil drawings of the Egyptian Nemes headdresses.



Year Five & Six - Mrs Banat-Rinz

This week we have started lots of new topics for the spring term. In science, we looked at similarities and differences between characteristics inherited such as eye and hair colour. In RE, we have looked at images of Jesus being baptised. Why don't you quiz your child and ask them what the dove and water symbolise? Our first learning challenge in our topic lessons was to find out about Queen Victoria - do you know how many children she had? Everyone now has a new book from our school library, please encourage them to read every night and please sign their reading diaries. Homework has started again this week and that will be due in on Wednesday 18th January. Once again, thank you for your support.

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

YN: Ivor & Kai	Y3: Noah
YR: Vincent & Arlyn	Y4/5: Harry & Tami
Y1: Everyone!	Y5/6: Miriam, Jimmy, Sophia D & Sophia K
Y2: Everyone!	

LUNCHTIME AWARD

YN: Lily & Ivy L	Y3: Eliza
YR: Leo & Teddy	Y4/5: Maggie, Claudia
Y1: Everyone!	Y5/6: Thomas, Lexi, Jessica & Chelsea
Y2: Everyone!	

HOUSE POINTS

St George 243
 St Andrew 239
 St Patrick 228
 St David 191

