

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | January 20th 2023



From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a roller coaster of a week we have had at St Mary's this week! The first thing I would like to do is to thank you all for your support. I know that this has been a tough week as we battle the elements and then the heating decides it has had enough! Let's pray that this helps us with our bid for funding to replace the entire heating system from the diocese. It is always as a last resort that I close the school – the children's education is always the priority, but I do need to keep them warm too. On top of all of that we had no internet or phones for most of the day too – thankfully we are all repaired and back cooking on gas! It has highlighted some areas that we need to think about on our contingency planning – every opportunity is a learning opportunity.

Next week will see our Year Five and Six children taking part in Bikeability. They will learn some invaluable lessons about road safety. Cycling on the road is incredibly challenging and it's often not the cyclist that is at fault but other road users! Our children will demonstrate that they are responsible and sensible on the roads, learning how to use effective signalling and manoeuvring to navigate the roads. This is another memorable learning opportunity for the children.

Our Early Years area is taking shape and, after a few teething problems, we are ploughing ahead. This area, and the work we are doing on the Secret Garden will give the children wonderful learning opportunities in the great outdoors. I know that the children in Early Years are very excited, as are we. The work should, fingers crossed, be finished by the end of next week. Thank you for your patience with collection and drop offs.

I would like to finish on a positive note: our children are amazing and I thank you so much for letting us share them with you. I must also thank ALL of our staff for creating exciting learning opportunities, for keeping our school clean and for just being superb. I couldn't have asked to join a better family.

I had a lovely visit on Wednesday from one of our beautiful children in Year One. I am so blessed to have children that love to share things with us. The very fact that they want to come and talk to me shows that we have a school where all of our children feel valued and safe. I do have to add that Emma was most definitely showing this term's values of being eloquent and truthful, she spoke beautifully and could tell me all about the rosary beads, where they came from and why they were special to her. Well done Emma!

God Bless

Maureen Collier



Bags & Accessories

With cold weather comes large coats and we will soon have bulky bike and swimming kits in school too, so it's really important that items are labelled and we don't have unnecessarily large bags in school. There is certainly no need for handbags and purses (nor jewellery and hair adornments either). [Please see our updated uniform policy](#)



A WARM WELCOME AT WARWICKSHIRE LIBRARIES

Safe and warm places to spend some time + FREE Internet and Tablet hire

We are open throughout the week, with coffee mornings, "crafternoon" tea and

other events taking place, or sit and spend time reading or using a computer. Did you know you can get free internet access on your own device, use the library's PCs and adults can even loan a tablet free for 6 weeks? <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/youcanonline>

- Lego Club at Southam Library Tues & Thurs 3.30pm: [Book](#)
- Find your local library for opening times: [LINK](#)
- Southam Library Events: [LINK](#)



SEND Service offer / SEND Home to School Transport Consultations

Still time to have your say on 2 Warwickshire Consultations

Parents, carers, children, young people and professionals are being asked to share their views on proposed changes to two areas relating to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Consultation 1: Warwickshire County Council SEND & Inclusion Service Offer

Consultation 2: Warwickshire County Council Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Home to School Transport Service

READ MORE AND HAVE YOUR SAY HERE:

ASK.WARWICKSHIRE.GOV.UK

All feedback is welcomed as part of the consultation which closes on **26 February 2023**.

You can choose to [respond](#) on just one or both consultations (To request a paper copy of the survey or an alternative format, call freephone 0800 408 1558 (9 - 5pm, Monday to Friday) or email sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk.)

Stars of the Week

Nursery – Toby

Reception – Ben

Year 1 – Max

Year 2 – Charlie

Year 3 – Joshua

Year 4/5 – Jasper & Murphy

Year 5/6 – Esther & Sofia R

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/>

Reception and Nursery have been learning about Chinese New Year ready for the celebration this weekend. The children watched videos of Chinese children preparing for the celebrations. We made lanterns, concertina dragons, and wrote Chinese numbers. The children were very excited to try traditional Chinese cuisine in our pop-up restaurant! They ate spring rolls, prawn crackers and sweet and sour noodles. What a busy and fun week we have had!



Year One - Ms Priestley

What an eventful week! The children have been doing some fantastic learning as always. They have blown me away with their writing efforts this week, creating their own setting descriptions for hot and cold settings. We have been continuing our learning of numbers within 20, this week thinking about comparing them and how to place them on a number line. The children wrote some beautiful and thoughtful prayers in RE this week, in line with our prayer topic. They continue to amaze me with their reverence and care during our discussions surrounding prayer and faith - they embody our half term's values of eloquent and truthful. What wonderful little people they are. Have a lovely weekend!

Year Two - Ms Pahnke

This week has seen the children enjoy exploring Paddington at the palace further and learning lots of new vocabulary. This passion and desire to learn more has continued through to our Topic and the children have looked at the weather patterns of the United Kingdom and created a bar model to show their findings. They have started their money topic in Math, so if you have some coins in your pocket or are out on a shopping trip, please ask the children for their help. Using our teachings from Jesus' parables the children have been considering more ways they can be thoughtful and caring to others. In RSHE they created some must have rules on how to be a good friend. Some children have been reading a story from home at the end of the day and sharing their passion with the rest of the class. It would be fantastic for everyone to have had a turn. Thank you for your continued support.

Year Three - Ms Keith

It has been another busy week in Year 3 this week. In English, we have been focusing on improving our writing by using powerful verbs. We have used thesauruses to find more exciting verbs and then included these in our writing. In Maths, we have focused on our 3 times table and I am so impressed with their knowledge of the 3 times table! In topic, we have continued to look at natural disasters and have focussed on how we can help others who have experienced a disaster. Thank you for all of your support, especially with reading. It has been lovely to see how much the children are loving our new reading scheme!

Year Four & Five - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

This week Year 4/5 have been investigating sounds by going on a sound hunt around school, to determine what materials allow sounds to pass through easily. During RE we have been reflecting on what 'Jesus the light of the world' means to us and writing prayers to express our thoughts and feelings. In Maths Year 4 we have been finding factor pairs to improve our times table knowledge. In English we have been writing character descriptions for the Egyptian God, Seth known as the God of Chaos.



Year Five & Six - Mrs Banat-Rinz

Once again we have been super busy in year 5/6. The highlight for me was most certainly when the class got into groups to role play a baptism. We have been learning a lot more about evolution and did some fabulous drawings of animals that have adapted to live in certain environments. Everyone has new library books and it has been great to hear them reading to me in school. Can I please ask that you encourage your child to read every night to you at home too. Thankyou once again for all your support.

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

YN: Ivy P	Y3: Aidan
YR: Archie	Y4/5: Connor & Ned
Y1: Callie	Y5/6: Matteo & David
Y2: Finn	

LUNCHTIME AWARD

YN: Cara	Y3: Sebastian
YR: Pixie	Y4/5: Bella & Claudia
Y1: Emma	Y5/6: Amelka & Harriet
Y2: Grace VB	

HOUSE POINTS

BACK NEXT WEEK

Our House Captain's usual counting day was scuppered by our unexpected closure on Thursday - we'll let you know two weeks' worth next week.