

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | January 27<sup>th</sup> 2023



## From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another action-packed week has zoomed by in the blink of an eye, and what a fantastic week it has been. I would like, first and foremost, to give thanks to the parents who attended our First Holy Communion meeting on Tuesday. It is such a delight to welcome you all into the school – I know for many of you, you haven't actually seen the inner workings of our school. It was such a lovely opportunity to share this most blessed occasion. If you have a child that has not made their First Holy Communion, and they have been baptised, please let me know so that we can include them and prepare them to receive the Sacrament.

We are noticing a slip in standards of children wearing school uniform. Children should come to school in a grey skirt or trousers, white polo shirt or shirt and a dark blue jumper, with black shoes (not trainers or boots). Ideally the jumper should have the St Mary's Logo on it. We have some jumpers and cardigans in school that we are recycling (as we are a sustainable school), so please do ask us for these. The PE uniform is also not being followed by a minority; the uniform is dark blue shorts or jogging bottoms, dark blue plain jumper or hoodie and a white t-shirt. Trainers should be worn as they provide much more support for children's ankles. I have agreed that, for this year only, children can wear black joggers or shorts. Please can you help us to ensure our children are following the uniform policy – this is on the [website](#).

Our new reading scheme has been very well received by the children and they are excited to read! I had the privilege of observing phonics lessons last week in Key Stage One and Early Years – the children were all so engaged and could talk in depth about the graphemes and phonemes that they have been learning. They are also loving sharing their books with adults across the school and it is so wonderful to see them reading for pleasure. This has all come from you, because as parents, without your support financially we wouldn't have been able to make this huge investment. Thank you for all that you do, we appreciate it more than we could ever express.

There have been some questions from parents about swimming and I shall try to answer those here: All children will be with two life guards and another member of staff will be supervising at all times. The children will get changed in their small groups – boys in one changing room and girls in another. They will all be kept in their own year groups too. This is going to be such a fantastic opportunity for the children. If you have any questions, ask me on the gate or get in touch with your child's teacher.

Have a wonderful weekend, the days are getting longer, giving us more opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

God Bless

Maureen Collier



## Stars of the Week

**Nursery** – Lily

**Reception** – Archie

**Year 1** – Matthew

**Year 2** – Elliot

**Year 3** – Eliza

**Year 4/5** – Zachary & Dougie

**Year 5/6** – Lexie & Sophia D

## ON YOUR BIKE!

Some of our Year 5 & Year 6 children have taken part in Bikeability this week. Starting on the playground in Level 1 and progressing to Level 2 out and about on the Southam streets, the children thoroughly enjoyed their course. They have been developing some very important skills and learning how to cycle safely on the roads around Southam. They were awarded their completion certificates in Assembly this morning:



## NURSERY & RECEPTION - Mrs Finch & Mrs Hilditch

In reception and nursery this week, we have been conducting a science experiment! We filled 8 bowls with water and a dinosaur and placed them in various places around the classroom area. We had a group discussion about whether we thought the water would freeze or not and created a chart. We then checked on our experiment the next day and recorded our findings. Well done guys, budding scientists in the making 😊



## From the classroom... Year One – Ms Priestley

I can't believe another week has been and gone already! Year One have absolutely knocked my socks off this week with all their hard work. In English we have been writing a recount about our story Poles Apart and the class have been finding some brilliant time connectives while having a go at ordering events chronologically. In maths, we have been looking at using number bonds to help us add within 20 and they are doing brilliantly with it! We have had so much fun in RE this week. I'm sure your children will have shown you their amazing creations. On Wednesday, we used quotes from the Bible to create prayer buttons to help us remember how important it is to ask for God's help. We also had a craft afternoon on Thursday to help us learn and explore the Lord's Prayer. The children were finding alternative names for God (hallowed be thy name); making food out of PlayDoh (our daily bread); creating a forgiveness washing line (as we forgive those who trespass against us) and made crowns for God (Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory). They have been absolute super stars this week, I can't wait to see how they get on next week 😊

## Year Two – Ms Pahnke

This week the children have started planning their own adventure to take Paddington on. They have shown great enthusiasm to be fantastic authors and they can't wait to get started! They have put their knowledge of money into practice by role playing shops. This week the children chose their favourite parable Jesus told to his disciples, wrote the special message, and placed it inside an envelope. They then thought carefully about the decoration of the envelope to present the special message. Everyone has shown great ball skills during PE this week and have been taking on challenges.

## Year Three – Ms Keith

This week in Year 3 we have had another fantastic week of learning. In our English lessons we have focused on using coordinating conjunctions and our reading skills, particularly our prediction and inference skills. The children were great detectives, spotting different clues to help them make some fantastic predictions. In Maths, we have been focusing on our four and eight times tables. The children have enjoyed developing their knowledge on these times tables. In RE, we are still continuing to look at Mass. This week we have been focusing on the learning about the Liturgy of the Word and the responsorial psalms and have discussed what they mean to us. In Science, the children were great scientists and they explored the school with magnets to discover which objects in our school are magnetic and which are not. In Topic this week, we have been super geographers! We used Atlases and maps to locate different famous mountains around the world. This learning led to children bringing in things from home, which the children were very pleased about! The children were amazed to see photos of Mount Etna and see and touch some volcanic rock. Thank you to the parents for sending those in and if anybody has anything else they would like to bring in for our topic, please do, the children love seeing and hearing about these wonderful experiences. Thank you for your continued support!

## Year Four & Five – Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

It's been yet another busy week in Year 4/5 this week. In Maths, we have been learning how to divide by 10 and 100 and have started learning about related number facts. In English, we have started rewriting the story of the Seth the Evil in our words and making our own little books with some fabulous pictures. In RE, we have been learning about Jesus' baptism and why this was such a special event. We have also been looking at family and why it is important to be part of God's family. The children have created some lovely family trees which show all the attributes and characteristics we all have as members of God's special family.

## Year Five & Six – Mrs Banat-Rinz

This week has been full of learning new skills and showing our creativity. We have also worked hard in collaboration with each to create posters expressing what our values and virtues mean to us. I was wowed by their team work and imaginative ideas. We have continued learning about Queen Victoria, along with improving our map skills locating countries that formed The British Empire. In RSHE we have been looking at how our bodies change when becoming teenagers. I would like to thank you once again for your continued support with reading with your child at home daily and encouraging them to complete their homework.



## DIARY DATES

### EVERY FRIDAY

### Celebration Assembly

@9:05 School Hall (open to all)

### 50p Friday

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



### Thursday, February 2

Whole School Mass @9:15

### Monday February 6 – Fri 17

Swimming Pool on site

### Thursday, February 9

Y2 & Y6 Class Mass @9:15

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup>

### First Holy Communion (Y3)

Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

## HOUSE POINTS

St David = 401

St George = 398

St Patrick = 361

St Andrew = 239



### EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

YN: JJ	Y3: Cillian
YR: Louie	Y4/5: Elijah & Stephanie
Y1: Cillian	Y5/6: Peyton & Harriet
Y2: Delilah P	

### LUNCHTIME AWARD

YN: Mollie	Y3: Elsa
YR: Chester	Y4/5: Harry & Layla
Y1: Albie	Y5/6: Aryana & Lucy
Y2: Betsy	

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