

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | February 3rd 2023



From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weeks really are flying by and it will be half term before we know it!

We've had a busy week in school (when isn't it busy – small school, big impact!), Key Stage Two have completed assessments and Year Two will be completing theirs just after half term. For Year Six and Year Two, it is essential at this mid-way point that we get an accurate picture of how we can support and challenge our children to be the very best that they can be, I know that all of the children always give 100% and I look forward to seeing the results and analysing the data with Teachers. All of this information will be shared with you on Tuesday 14th March during Parents Evening.

Attendance and Safeguarding both have great importance at St Mary's. We want to keep your children safe in school and to do this we look at Safeguarding along with attendance. These are monitored on a regular basis. It is the school's statutory duty to monitor attendance. Not only can regular absence, particularly unexplained absence, be a red flag for safeguarding issues, but only when children are in school they can talk to staff and be given support for any pastoral and safeguarding problems.

Furthermore, as has been widely seen and discussed in recent months, 'Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.' (Extract from p. 5 of School Attendance: Guidance for Schools).

Any absences, including medical appointments should be taken out of school time where possible. If this is not the case, then an absence request form must be completed in advance of the absence (no matter how short) and as soon as you are made aware of the appointment. We must see a copy of the appointment made for the child's absence. Absence forms can be obtained from the school office.

On Tuesday 7th February it is Safer Internet Day, with the theme of, 'Together for a better internet'. This is something we discuss constantly with the children, as this isn't a 'one off' teaching point. St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to share advice and tips for parents about different online platforms or social media sites that some children may be using. In this newsletter, we have attached "What Parents Need to Know about social media and mental health". These are attached to the email separately. We are aware that parents find it difficult to put control mechanisms in place for these sites, but this may help.

A reminder that it is vital that your child brings a healthy lunchbox into school. Please think of the type and the amount of food in children's lunchboxes. Please only send in one snack size treat for them to eat after their sandwich, or even better, just fruit for their snack. The amount of sugar consumed at lunch will have an effect on their ability to concentrate and learn in the afternoons.

Please make sure absolutely no item containing nuts or traces of nuts is brought into school due to possible allergic reactions. Guidance for what makes a healthy lunchbox can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>. We do ask the children to take home any leftovers from their packed lunch, this helps parents be aware of what has been eaten.

Thank you for your support.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

Stars of the Week

Nursery – Cali

Reception – Pixie

Year 1 – Callie

Year 2 – Suruthiy

Year 3 – Elyzaveta

Year 4/5 – William & Casey

Year 5/6 – Miriam & Jessica

SPECIAL ST VALENTINES

50p FRIDAY

Next Friday – February 10th – we will be having an extra 'lovely' 50p Friday...

On **Valentines Friday** we will have special Valentines treats available, with prices starting from just 50p.

Love from FOSM x

FOSM UPDATE

Thank you from The Friends of St Mary's:

- Through everyone's generous donations we have been able to gladly donate £2,000 towards the school's new phonics scheme.
- And can we also say a big thank you for everyone who took part in our raffle - whether that was buying tickets or donating amazing prizes. We raised just over £1,000 which is incredible!

Thank you!

SCHOOL NURSE NEWSLETTER / NCMP

Enclosed with this week's newsletter is the February edition of the school nurse newsletter. As always it includes a range of topics and self-help links. For parents of Reception & Year 6 children there is information about the National Child Measurement Program (NCMP) as per the letter sent to these year groups this week. Our school-specific link to access your child's results is [here](#).

The Nursery and Reception children have loved having their outdoor area back! We worked as a team to re-set it and decide where the resources should go. The children have enjoyed getting messy and exploring again. They have been making vehicles with crates, potions with bubbles, rolling tyres, and creating dinosaur crumble!



YEAR ONE - Ms Priestley

This week, Year One started our new book 'Leaf'. We have been working hard to familiarise ourselves with the book and be able to answer questions about it. In maths we have been concentrating on subtracting and doubles which is something totally new! The artwork Year One have created this week is beautiful! Alongside our Poles Apart topic, we have been using water colours to paint the Aurora Borealis and wow, they are amazing! We are very much looking forward to adding swimming to our timetable next week! Hope you have a lovely weekend.

YEAR TWO - Ms Pahnke

With another week passing us by the children enjoyed polishing up their Paddington adventure story. They cannot wait to share them with their family and friends. Please see the separate letter that has been sent to you regarding the picnic. The children have been reflecting on the parables they have learnt through art and have created some thoughtful pieces. We also learnt about the Sacrament of the oil. In Math we have begun our multiplication and division topic, please can you practice the children's 2s, 5s and 10s with them. In PE the children are showing excellent ball skills and have been challenging themselves to use both feet and kicking the ball through cones to each other. Please continue the fantastic reading with the children, their spellings and homework. Thank you for your continued support.

YEAR THREE - Ms Keith

This week in Year Three we have been doing assessments and I am so proud of the perseverance and determination of every single child, everyone has kept going, even if they came across something tricky. It is amazing what hardworking and mature children I have in this class. In RE we are continuing our learning about Mass and this week have created some music to a responsorial psalm. In our topic lessons, we have been focusing on volcanoes. This week we have been artists and sketched a volcano in our art books and we have also been geographers and scientists to discover how a volcano is formed. The children also really enjoyed our demonstration of what it would be like when a volcano erupts. Myself and Mrs Crowley have also been listening to lots of children read and are so impressed with the children's reading and loving the excitement that has come from our new reading scheme. Thank you for your continued support.



YEAR FOUR & FIVE - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

This week Year 4/5 have been working hard on assessments in English and Maths. We have been learning about the signs and symbols of baptism and their meanings. In Science we have been experimenting with sounds, to learn about the relationship between sound and distance. In Topic, we have been comparing modern day Egypt with Ancient Egypt to look at the similarities and differences. We are learning a Rap song in Music called Stop! (Bullying), which we are all loving. Year 5 have been leading us at Mass and once again being wonderful role models to the whole school.

YEAR FIVE & SIX - Mrs Banat-Rinz

Year 5 & 6 have tried really hard to contain their excitement of the swimming pool being erected outside and are super excited for the next two weeks. Once again, the class have astounded me with their resilience and hard work during assessment week where they have really excelled - showing themselves how hard work really does pay off. I could not be prouder of them - and yes, it brought a tear to my eye! Whilst continuing to learn about the Victoria Era, we began looking at Pre-Raphaelite art, chose our favourite paintings and have begun the challenge of recreating some of these famous master pieces. Once again, thank you for all your support and don't forget swimming kits.

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



Monday, February 6 - Fri 17

Swimming Pool on site

Wednesday, February 8

9:15 - 10:30

Y2 Paddington Picnic

Thursday, February 9

Y2 & Y6 Class Mass @9:15

Monday, February 13

National Child Measuring Program (Reception & Year 6) + Online Health Assessment (Year 6 only)

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

HOUSE POINTS

St George = 233

St David = 147

St Andrew = 146

St Patrick = 97



EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

YN: Mollie	Y3: Lauren
YR: Poppy	Y4/5: Maggie & Ned
Y1: Mason	Y5/6: Esther & Zack
Y2: Flori	

LUNCHTIME AWARD

YN: JJ	Y3: Joshua
YR: Arlyn	Y4/5: Chloe & Tami
Y1: Harvey	Y5/6: Thomas & Sophia D
Y2: Oliver	