

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | February 10<sup>th</sup> 2023



## From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week has flown by and by the end of today every single child in our school will have had the opportunity to swim. The feedback from the children has been fantastic and it makes the incredibly hard work of the staff pay off. I am so very proud of each and every member of the St Mary's family of staff here but special thanks must go to Mrs Crowley and Mrs Toon. They have worked tirelessly to get children changed and in the pool on time for their allocated slots. If you see them please extend your thanks to them too. They do a marvellous job and we are very lucky to have them.

Our Year Two and Year Six children led mass beautifully as always on Thursday and we love the feedback from the parishioners about how wonderful our children are. Well done to all of the children and staff. We put Christ at the centre of all we do and the children are most definitely letting the light of Jesus shine.

### The Presentation

Mission

Pray to the Holy Spirit, ask Him to shine the Light of Jesus into your heart, where it feels most dark, most afraid, and trust that He will come and be with you there.

A simple prayer you can say is  
**"Jesus, shine your light in my heart!  
 Jesus, chase away the dark!"**

## Stars of the Week

**Nursery** – Freddie

**Reception** – Leo

**Year 1** – Frederick

**Year 2** – Shyler

**Year 3** – Elsa

**Year 4/5** – Elijah & Layla

**Year 5/6** – Peyton & Max

### Attendance Matters



As a school we are increasingly worried about the attendance of some children in school. Children with 90% attendance are missing approximately 20 days of school per year and have an increased risk of falling behind in their learning. Children with less than 85% attendance are missing approximately 6 weeks of the school year whilst 80% or less equates to at least a day a week making it impossible to keep up with their work and achieve their best. We are currently monitoring all attendance and letters will be sent to families where absence is a cause for concern and a meeting organised with myself to assess the situation. We hope we can work together with families so that attendance is not a barrier to children achieving their best.

### Good attendance means...

Being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



### BREAKFAST, AFTERSCHOOL & POSSIBLE HOLIDAY CLUB

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We've kept our survey open an extra week - you can still have your say about our termtime wraparound club, your potential usage, and if an on-site holiday club might be of interest by **filling in our short online form** by Sunday night please: <https://forms.gle/UD94Xp31jznEU8dz9>

### REAL LIFE & VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

#### Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day both took place this week

The theme for Children's Mental Health week was *Let's Connect* - making meaningful connections for all, while we connect with and how online was very much the feature of Safer Internet Day. If your family wants to carry on these conversations at home, this quiz is a good conversation starter: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/quiz-for-7-11s>

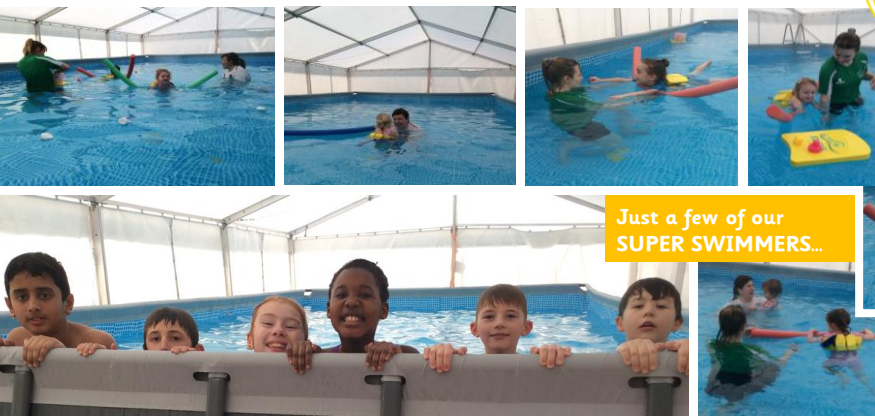
6-12 FEBRUARY 2023

Further Family Resources:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

God Bless  
 Maureen Collier



### HALF TERM HELP

Do check out the list of venues where Kids Eat Free this half term attached to the newsletter ►

Ps. Don't forget your kit next week too!



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



Friday, February 10

Valentines 50p Friday ♥

Monday, February 6 - Fri 17

Swimming Pool on site

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

**UPDATE** World Book Day  
Dress up as your favourite word!

**NEW** Thursday, March 2

Y1 Parent Meeting - 3.30 - 4  
Phonics Screening Check

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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

**HOUSE POINTS**

St Andrew = 231

St George = 210

St Patrick = 195

St David = 140



This week we have been reading the text 'The Emperor's Egg'. The children have loved learning all about emperor penguins. The children related the hatching of a penguin chick to our own chicks. We thought we would see if a penguin huddle really does keep you warm.... we can confirm, it does!! The children had great fun getting into huddles to work out where the warmest spot is. We also measured our height in comparison to an emperor penguin. It turns out, we have got a bit more growing to do!



**YEAR ONE** - Ms Priestley

Year One have had a jam-packed week this week! We have had so much fun in the swimming pool and are already looking forward to going back in next week. We have begun to write our own adventure stories this week and wow! They have amazed me with their super star writing. In maths, we have had a crack at missing number problems and been working really hard to count backwards from 20 - perhaps something you can try at home together to consolidate their learning! We conducted our very own climate change experiment this week and looked at how the melting ice caps in the Poles affects the animals and environment - the class were very excited to see it happen in real time. We have also enjoyed making some junk model penguins so an all-round busy week! Hope you have a lovely weekend 😊

**YEAR TWO** - Ms Pahnke

What an exciting week! The children have enjoyed having the opportunity to either develop or improve an important skill, swimming. They already cannot wait to swim again next week. Paddington's Picnic was a lovely opportunity for the children to showcase their learning with their family and friends. Thank you to all those who could make it. In Math we have been learning what an array is and how we can use this to help our learning of multiplication. We have been gathering information on some landmarks of the UK ready for our information text writing. In PE this week we have been including more team games in our ball skills to learn what it takes to be a team player and consider how our parables we have learnt in RE can help us to do this.



**YEAR THREE** - Ms Keith

It has been a very excitable week, especially having the swimming pool here! The children have loved their time in the pool this week and are looking forward to going in again next week! In Maths, we have been looking at related facts and learning how we can use our knowledge of other times tables to help us solve problems. The children have made great links whilst doing this. In English, we have created our own character and setting descriptions ready to create our own Ice Palace adventure stories next week; the children's imaginations never fail to amaze me, their new characters are fantastic! In our topic lessons, we have written a very persuasive letter to Mrs Collier. After hearing all about our learning, she decided she wanted to move our school next to Mount Etna but don't worry! We have written to her convincing her not to do this. The children can be very persuasive when they are passionate about something! Thank you for all our continued support!

**YEAR FOUR & FIVE** - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

Another busy week done. The children have really enjoyed having the swimming pool in school this week and having some extra lessons outside the classroom. In the classroom we have been working hard as always. In Maths we have moved on to division and have been practising dividing a 2-digit number by a 1. We have also been looking at the bus stop method to help us with working out our answers. We have been learning about standard and non-standard English, looking at when and where we use each. We have been practising rewriting sentences from non-standard form. In RE we have come to the end of our unit *Jesus the Light of the World*. We have been looking back at some of the important events of Jesus' life that we have covered (Being presented at the Temple, Jesus' Baptism and the Transfiguration of Jesus) and created some lovely posters to show these. On Tuesday it was *Safer Internet Day*. As a class we looked at and discussed the different ways in which we can stay safe when using our own personal electronic devices on the internet and what to do should we feel unsafe.

**YEAR FIVE & SIX** - Mrs Banat-Rinz

This week has overwhelmingly been filled with all things swimming! It's been wonderful to see and hear the excitement all week and I know they cannot wait for more sessions next week. In topic we have been researching and then writing biographies of some famous people from the Victorian Era - such as: Florence Nightingale and Louis Pasteur. We have been amazed at how many people from that era have influenced our lives today. A reminder too that if you haven't already brought in your glass jar, the deadline for this is Monday when we will be making information jars.

**EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR**

YN: Roman	Y3: Sienna
YR: Pixie	Y4/5: Zachary & Ollie
Y1: Frankie	Y5/6: Matteo & Mya
Y2: Zakariah	

**LUNCHTIME AWARD**

YN: Ivy P	Y3: Alfie
YR: Ben	Y4/5: Inana & Dougie
Y1: Loui	Y5/6: Aryana & Tadei
Y2: Florence	