

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | February 17th 2023



From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, that's another half term gone in the blink of an eye, and what a half term it has been too! I have loved every single minute of it, even the logistical nightmare of organising the **swimming pool**. Listening to children's squeals and laughter echoing across the playground tells us all how much the children have enjoyed this valuable experience. Let's hope that we can continue to give all of our children memorable learning experiences that they will take with them throughout their lives. As always it is a privilege to spend time with each and every one of our children.

Next half term we have another very busy one, which will be jam packed full of exciting curriculum links for our children. **World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March** and we are asking all children (and staff) to dress up as their favourite word. The reasons behind this choice is two-fold: in the current climate we don't want parents going out buying expensive costumes. The message that we want to promote this year is, "You are a reader." And as a reader the children are exposed to a plethora of new vocabulary. Reading here at St. Mary's is one of our whole school priorities and we have re-vamped the entire curriculum to instil a love of reading. Reading opens so many doors and is such a vital skill – the foundation for all learning. After half term we will be continuing to encourage the children to share what they are reading by creating book reviews for the library. Talking about Libraries – I would encourage you to take the children to the local library in Southam. Our Year Two children had a magnificent Paddington Bear picnic with their families last week and shared their wonderful Paddington adventure books that they have created. It was absolutely marvellous to see the excitement and to read their wonderful creations – they should all be so very proud of themselves. Paddington went on an adventure to a water park – and as luck would have it children could draw upon their own experiences in our very own swimming pool!



Stars of the Week

- Nursery – Everleigh
- Reception – Teddy
- Year 1 – Kabelle
- Year 2 – Betsy
- Year 3 – Sienna
- Year 4/5 – Chloe & Dougie
- Year 5/6 – Jimmy & Rishit

Stars of the Half Term

- Nursery – JJ
- Reception – Louie
- Year 1 – Maisie
- Year 2 – Flori
- Year 3 – Alfie
- Year 4 – Jasper
- Year 5 – Lexi
- Year 6 – Sophia D



The season of **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday**, which is on 22nd February, this is during half term but please do take your children along to mass with Father Arul. As we are not at school for the beginning of this liturgical season, we have invested in ensuring every child has access to the teachings that we would normally share with the children.

Use the following links to share each day, from Wednesday to Friday, with the children:

- Wednesday 22nd February 2023 - <https://youtu.be/UKLX4y7w5CI>
- Thursday 23rd February 2023 - <https://youtu.be/i6iM-Jliq20>
- Friday 24th February 2023 - https://youtu.be/da_h2OusfM8

Why don't you encourage the children to research Lent during the holiday? During Lent, we are all asked to pray more, repent, support charities and to give something up or do something extra. Please remember to follow the 'Walk with me' calendar that will be sent home. This has different activities that will help you as a family to journey through Lent. As we did last year, each class will be doing something to raise money for our Lenten Charities – more information will follow soon.

Can all parents and carers ensure that children bring their water bottles in daily and can they please be filled with water only – not juice or squash. I am noticing some trainers and hoodies creeping into school, can you please ensure that children wear their school uniform as we need to keep our standards high and this all begins with wearing (and being proud of) our school uniform.

I do hope that you all have a wonderful half term holiday and I can't wait to see the children again on Tuesday 28th February 2023 (Monday 27th February 2023 is an INSET day).

God Bless

Maureen Collier

SPRING DISCO – DIARY DATE!

We are always so grateful to volunteers who help us at our events, without volunteers these events would not be possible.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the disco, please get in touch with the FOSM team, ask your class rep, or email us at friendsofstmmarysoutham@gmail.com. Any help, no matter how small, is always appreciated. Thank you!



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



Tuesday, February 21

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday (Lent Starts)

JOIN IN AT HOME: See front page for more info about our Lent resources.

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

DRESS UP as your favourite word!

Thursday, March 2

Y1 Parent Meeting
Phonics Screening Check
@ 3.30 - 4PM

Tuesday, March 14

Parents Evening
2pm - 7pm @ School Hall
RSVP: Booking slips have been sent home - return by Friday 3rd March

Friday, March 10

FOSM Spring Disco
5:30PM - 7:30PM @ School Hall
CAN YOU HELP?
See front page for more info

PLEASE NOTE:

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

HOUSE POINTS

St David = 179
St Andrew = 178
St Patrick = 147
St George = 132



What an amazing term we have had. The children have tried their hardest and achieved more than we could have expected. We are so proud of every single child in our class as they surprise us on a daily basis. We hope they have a good rest, and we will look forward to hearing their half term news when they return! We ended the term with a collective worship about love. The children were very reflective, eloquent, and prayerful - it was a pleasure to be a part of it.

YEAR ONE - Ms Priestley

I can't believe we're at the end of another half term already! Year One have worked incredibly hard this half term and this week. They finished their adventure stories at the beginning of the week and wow, they are truly fantastic! We had so much fun reading them to the Reception and Nursery classes. In maths, we have bumped our counting all the way up to 50 and I am beyond impressed with how they have done! We really enjoyed our art afternoon on Wednesday, where we made polar bears out of clay - I've said it before and I've no doubt I'll say it again, but I cannot believe what amazing artists I have in my class! I hope you all have a well-deserved rest over half term and I look forward to seeing you all after the holiday 😊

YEAR TWO - Ms Pahnke

We have made it to yet another half term, this year is flying past us. The children are showing a maturity towards their learning and this week have been, again, showing their excellent writing skills. They created an information text on some of the famous landmarks found in the UK. In RE we have been using poetry to express our understanding of the miracles and parables we have been learning throughout our topic. In Math the children have been working hard on learning division and have surprised themselves with how well they have understood it. In science we looked at the importance of a healthy and balanced diet and the importance of exercise. I hope you all have a well-rested half term filled with joy and happiness.

YEAR THREE - Ms Keith

We have come to the end of another fantastic half term in Year Three, and I am so proud of the children and all of their hard work! This week we have enjoyed more time in the swimming pool and we have also attended Mass. The children were true representatives of our school and our readers read beautifully. In our maths, we have been maths detectives and have been finding links between multiplication facts and in English we have been writing our own stories based off of the text, Ice Palace. The children have worked so hard and I hope you all have a lovely half-term and the children have a well deserved rest. Thank you for all of your support this half term. I look forward to seeing you all again next half term.

YEAR FOUR & FIVE - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa

This week Year 4/5 have been making full use of the Swimming Pool and having regular swimming sessions. Which has been a real treat! In RE we have been learning about the birth of Moses and the treatment of the Israelites by the Egyptians. In English we have been practising our grammar and reading our class story "There is a Pharaoh in our bath"! By Jeremy Strong. In science we have been learning about the pitch and volume of different instruments and how the size of the instrument can affect its pitch. Well done Y4/5, you all deserve a well-earned rest have a wonderful half term break!

YEAR FIVE & SIX - Mrs Banat-Rinz

And breathe We have finally made it to half term after an extremely busy few weeks. This week started off with making information jars about influential people from the Victorian Era which we then shared with the class. In RE, we spent a morning learning new hymns before creating acrostic poems on the "Alleluia" which will then be "buried" during Lent. Everyone also researched a chosen saint in support of those children taking their Confirmation this year and created fact files on them. Friday was filled with problem solving in maths along with creating beautiful paintings in the style of the pre-Raphaelites. I wish you all a restful and fun filled half term.



Supporting families to understand Coventry and Warwickshire RISE mental wellbeing services: Parents & carers are invited to join a free webinar to understand how to access emotional and mental wellbeing support for their child or young person. **Tuesday 28 February 2023, 12pm - 1pm and you can register to attend at: bit.ly/CWRiseWebinar** RISE is the family of NHS services led by mental health specialists to build resilience and empower children, young people, and the adults in their lives, so they know where to go for support and advice when the going gets tough.

EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

YN: Orla	Y3: Sienna
YR: Leo	Y4/5: Bella & Dougie
Y1: Harvey	Y5/6: Amelka & Zack
Y2: Timmy	

LUNCHTIME AWARD

YN: Cali	Y3: Riley
YR: Vincent	Y4/5: Ocean & Stephanie
Y1: Freddie	Y5/6: Miriam & Harriet
Y2: Vincent	