

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | May 19<sup>th</sup> 2023



## From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

A shorter newsletter this week, but it certainly doesn't represent a shorter week! After two 4-day weeks for Bank Holidays we've had a week bursting at the seams this week; even arguably starting a day early with Sunday's lovely commitment Mass for our Year 6 children and their families. Thank you to all the community and teaching staff who came to support.

All our children are acclimatised to test papers as part of our regular in-house progress assessments, but even so, Year 2 children took their SATs admirably in their stride this week – well done Year 2 and Miss Pahnke!

This week the whole school - staff, children, governors and parents - have had the opportunity to be involved in our Catholic Schools Inspection. Formerly called 'Section 48' or 'The RE Inspection', this has been an intensive two days, however I want to thank all the wonderful St Mary's Staff team for their hard work and our super pupils, who always make me so proud. Thursday's beautiful Whole School Mass set the tone for a super two days; it has been an honour and a privilege to see the teaching going on in the classes and the clever, articulate and thought-provoking answers these inspire from your children.

We had a busier than expected Open Morning on Wednesday – if you know of families who didn't get their first-choice school, we do still have a few Reception 2023 spaces. Our next Open Day is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Our last week before half term will be another busy one: we will have a **Whole School PE Day next Tuesday** to make up for lessons lost to this week's inspection; all children should wear PE kit all day – and then be in full, smart uniform on **Wednesday for Class Photos**.

We will end the week with a **Double Celebration Assembly** before a super **Singsong on Friday** as part of our community outreach with the residents of Galanos House.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

## From the classroom... EYFS - Mrs Finch & Mrs Hilditch

Nursery and Reception have had a very exciting week, our caterpillars have turned into chrysalises!! The children have enjoyed watching them change from tiny caterpillars eating food, to big caterpillars ready for the next stage of the lifecycle. Nursery have been using 'The Hungry Caterpillar' text to sequence and retell the story. They also used the counting and days of the week aspects of the book in maths.



**YEAR ONE - Ms Priestley** | This week has come and gone in a flash! Year One have been absolutely fantastic in maths, finding and identifying halves and quarters. They showed such super confidence! In English, we have been working on developing our adjectives and writing some excellent setting descriptions of the castle in our story 'Small Knight and George'. We had so much fun in Science, putting our noses to the test. We had to become detectives to figure out what was in a range of cups just by using our nose - it was much harder than we thought! I don't think the vinegar went down very well! Throughout RE this week, we have been learning about Jesus' disciples and the New Testament. As a class, we created ID cards for each of the Apostles and recalled the Bible stories we have already learnt this year. Looking forward to another super week next week!

**YEAR TWO - Ms Pahnke** | Year Two are SUPERSTARS! This week they have shown a hardworking, can-do attitude while completing SATs. They have shown a level of maturity and have showcased the knowledge they have. We are all so proud of them and they should be very proud of themselves. During this time, we have also begun a new RE topic 'Special Celebrations'; the children enjoyed sharing their own celebrations through images from home and discussing their thoughts and feelings. They continued to monitor the growth of their seed and have learnt about the process of germination. The children have been showing a passion for planting and is something they would like to explore further. We have explored a new artist and went out onto the field to collect resources to create our own art. Thank you for your continued support.

**YEAR THREE - Ms Keith** | We have had another busy week in Year Three this week. In our English lessons, we have continued to look at our class text of 'Oliver and the Seawigs' and looked closely at Chapter Three this week. In our Maths lessons, we have completed our learning on fractions and have created our own fractions board games to help us practice our fractions knowledge. In our science lessons, we have looked at how water transports in a plant and completed an experiment to develop a deeper understanding of this; ask the children all about it! Also, we have begun our new unit in RE called 'The Eucharist is a Thanksgiving to God'. We have enjoyed learning all about the four parts of Mass, creating posters to show our knowledge. We have also focused particularly on the 'Liturgy of the Eucharist' which is the third part of Mass. The children had a great time acting this out and wrote fantastic instructions to help future Year Three children know what to do as they begin to prepare for their Holy Communion. Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have a lovely weekend!

**YEAR FOUR & FIVE - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa** | This week has been all change in Year 4/5, not only have we all been all together in class but in a new room! The children have adapted really well to this change and have been working really hard together. In maths this week we have been learning about line graphs. We have been learning how to read them, to gather information from them and also to draw them using information provided. In English and topic, we have been learning about Rivers. This week we have focused on the course of a river; where it starts and where it ends. In RE we have been learning about God's community around the world. The children discussed what a family and community is in groups and looked at how people today all over the world follow Jesus Christ.

**YEAR FIVE & SIX - Mrs Banat-Rinz** | This week we have had a great time investigating how to make circuits in our science lessons. We managed to put together a circuit that lit up a bulb and got a fan to spin! In our topic lessons we found out about the different types of pollution and wrote fact files on the types of pollution that affect our land, air and seas. In maths we have drawn and interpreted line graphs which was tricky at times. Just another reminder to please make sure your child is reading daily and that they being in their reading book every day plus accessing TTRS for at least 10 minutes daily.

## 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, May 22**

EYFS Class Trip

**Tuesday, May 23**

**NEW** Whole School PE Day

**Wednesday, May 24**

Class Photos (best uniform!)

**Thursday, May 25**

Y5 & Y1 Class Mass @9:15

**Thursday, May 25**

Y6 Sacramental Retreat Day

**Friday, May 26**

Galanos House Visit  
Singing together @ School

**Monday May 29**

Southam family fun day  
Remember to bring in your filled jam jars to school for FOSM's tombola stall.

**May 29 - June 2**

Half Term

**Saturday June 3 @ 10:30**

Sacrament of Confirmation

**Mon June 5**

Reception Vision Screening

**Thursday, June 8**

Early Years Open Morning  
9:30 - 11:00 (please book via office)

**Friday June 16**

Father's Day Afternoon  
(more details to follow)

**Saturday June 17 @ 10:30**

First Holy Communion

More dates online at:

<https://www.stmaryssoutham.org.uk/events/>

## BACK NEXT WEEK

Stars of the Week, House points, Behaviour and Lunchtime Awards. We will have a double Celebration Assembly too having postponed this week's one due to our Catholic Schools Inspection visit today.



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