

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | July 14<sup>th</sup> 2023



## From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, this year has passed us by in the blink of an eye! And what a year it has been. The first thing that I would like to continue reiterating is:

Thank you for your wonderful children.

Thank you for your constant support.

Thank you for always working with us in partnership. The children are always our priority.



As we approach the end of the year, we reflect on all the achievements made and the wonderful memories created during 2022 – 2023. This has been another incredibly unique year where we have all seen lots of change over the course of the year, but behind every decision has been the wellbeing of our children.

We thank all of you who have supported the school and ask for God's blessings as the academic year draws to a close. There were tears of joy and sadness and lots of laughter during our Leavers' Performance - well done Year Six. It was such a wonderful performance and to see the joy on your families' faces made the being covered in greasy spaghetti from failing my challenge all worthwhile!

This will be my last newsletter to you all and I am so happy to have moved to this wonderful school and I thank God for sending me on this path everyday. Teaching is such a privilege and a vocation that I am so thankful for every day (even on the really hard days). The children bring such joy to our lives. It is with great sadness that I move schools (and home) and St Mary's will ALWAYS hold a very special place in my heart. I thank all of you for allowing me to be a very small part in your children's lives and I will treasure all of the memories I take away with me.

I have had such a fantastic team surrounding me and I would like to give special thanks to the support team. They do such an amazing job and always go above and beyond for every child. We don't celebrate them enough. The amazing team we have consists of: Mrs Crowley, Mrs Hilditch, Mrs Toon and Miss King – and Mrs Mucklow in Before and After School Club. As always, without my team of teachers the children wouldn't have the memorable learning experiences so I must express my gratitude to all of them: Mrs Finch, Miss Priestley, Miss Pahnke, Miss Keith, Miss Costa, Mrs Hawley, Mrs Watson and Mrs Banat-Rinz.

More thanks must go to our Site team, especially Mr O'Connor, Mrs Hearnden and Mrs Burdett – not only do they keep our school sparkly clean but they do this with a spring in their step and always having time to talk to the children. We have wonderful people in our school that give their time freely to help our children. Our volunteers do a sterling job and we thank Mrs Medley and Mrs O'Leary for all that they do.

My last message of thanks (this is beginning to sound like an Oscars' speech) goes to all of the governing body, Mrs Robb (our Business Manager) and Mrs Worrall – they hold me, rightly so, to account and support me more than they realise. There is always a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes that goes unnoticed, and these are the people that make this happen.

Today is also a day where we say goodbye to a wonderful woman: Mrs Watson

Mrs Watson has been a phenomenal asset to our school and we are all sorry to see her go. She has been an outstanding teacher and any child who has or has had the pleasure of Mrs Watson teaching them will know the difference that she makes. We all wish you the very, very best of wishes as you begin a new chapter of your life.

Lastly, I wish you all a wonderful summer, where new memories are made; stay safe, enjoy spending time with each other.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

## From the classroom... NURSERY & RECEPTION

- Mrs Finch & Mrs Hilditch

This week Warwickshire Fire Service have lent us their 'Fire Box' games, activities, dressing up and equipment! The children have loved being firefighters and role-playing different scenarios. It has been a great learning experience for them all!



**Audience participation was a highlight of the Leavers' Performance** (perhaps not so much so if you were on stage!!)



**Our music morning on Tuesday hit all the right notes.** Well done to all our performers



## Class Parties

Each class is having an End-of-Term party, class-specific details will come via your child's teacher, but we will be playing games and listening to music

to celebrate our fantastic year together. Everyone is welcome to wear their own party clothes and we are requesting that everyone brings in £1 by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July to pay for the food the provided.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July:**  
**EYFS, Year 1 & Year 6**  
(a separate letter was sent about this for Year Six)  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July:**  
**Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5**

## Stars of the Week

- Nursery** – Lily
- Reception** – Chester
- Year 1** – Frankie
- Year 2** – Betsy
- Year 3** – Joshua
- Year 4/5** – Tallulah & Ned
- Year 5/6** – Miriam & Sofia

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 July 17 - 2pm to 3:20**

EYFS Ice Cream Stay + Play

**NEW Tuesday July 18**

Y6 Take Over Tuesday

(see letter sent to Year 6 families)

**NEW Tuesday July 18**

3:30 - 5pm

Reports: Parents Drop-in  
(no appointment necessary)

**Tuesday July 18 @ 6pm**

Reception 2023 Parents' Information Evening

**NEW Wednesday July 19**

Y2, Y3, Y4 & Y5 Class Parties

Class-specific details from teachers

**Thursday July 20 @ 09:15**

Y6 Leavers Mass at Church

Whole school and families invited

**NEW Thursday July 20**

EYFS, Y1 & Y6 Class Parties

**Note:** Year 6 party is until 5:30pm

**Friday July 21 @ 14:15**

Y6 Leavers Assembly

(Arrival from 2pm - school hall)

**July 24 - September 4**

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

(Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September are Teacher Training Days)

**23/24 Academic Calendar**

'FRIDGE POSTER' OUT NOW: [LINK](#)

St Mary's school-specific training days:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**PLEASE NOTE:**

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Further dates and details online at:

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

### Work Experience

Next week we will be welcoming three Southam College students - two of them former St Mary's pupils - to volunteer their time and learn about working in a primary school.



### HOUSE POINTS:

St Andrew = 400

St Patrick = 231

St George = 153

St David = 144



### YEAR ONE - Ms Priestley

Wow! What a week! I feel I have to start by saying how proud I am of our class this week, although this is nothing new. They have been such a credit to St Mary's! We had the most wonderful time on our trip to Warwick Castle. We got to watch some real-life jousting, saw lots of birds of prey during the Falconer's Quest AND got to see them launch the Trebuchet! The children were fantastic at remembering all the different parts of the castle from our Towers and Turrets unit and absolutely loved seeing them in person! We even got to meet Queen Elizabeth and some knights - how lucky are we?! To round off the day, we explored the Horrible Histories maze and the children put their navigation skills into practice and got us all out safely! I hope the children enjoyed their day as much as we did - it was such a brilliant trip 😊

### YEAR TWO - Ms Pahnke

Wow! What a day we had on Wednesday. The children were super excited for their day out in Historic Warwick. Following our previous topic 'The Big Smoke' we set out on a trail around Warwick where the great fire took place. The children were fantastic at identifying Tudor houses and learnt many facts. We then visited St. Mary's Church where we were taken on an informative tour, learning lots of interesting facts. They got to explore the Crypt and the Nave (which was rebuilt after the Great Fire) and got to see exclusive artifacts including a medieval ducking stool. All reading books have now been collected in ready for the summer holidays. Please return any you may still have on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you for your continued support.



### YEAR THREE - Ms Keith

What another busy week in Year Three. We have enjoyed some river poetry and created our own rhyming couplet river poems. We have also looked at the key events of King Alfred's life who was a very important king during the Anglo-Saxon times. We have also loved celebrating the different children throughout the school this week. We had the pleasure of watching the music concert on Tuesday and I am so proud of all of our children that participated in the performance, they were all FANTASTIC! We also had the joy of watching the Year 5/6 end of year performance which blew our socks off! If your child still has a school book at home, can you please ensure that this is returned on Monday so that we are to sort books out ready for next year. As always, thank you for your continued support! Have a lovely weekend!

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

This week, Year 4/5 have enjoyed watching and taking part in all of the wonderful performances which have been going on in school. We watched the Music Showcase on Tuesday! A massive well done to all those involved. We have also been watching the Year 6's leavers assembly on Wednesday which was brilliant and included our talented Year 5s. In class we have been learning about the history of Southam and creating posters to share different events and periods in our local history.

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

Well, what a week we have had. It started on Monday with being given the opportunity to go to Southam College to watch Mary Poppins which we all loved. I think it really must have inspired lots of budding actors, as the next day, the change and effort everyone put into their role for the leavers' performance was clear to see. We continued "polishing" our performance and I'm sure you will agree that Year 5 and 6 produced the most spectacular leavers performance on Wednesday night. Everyone put in so much effort and it really showed. We then received the following feedback by email which really was the icing on the cake.

"First of all, let me just say what an amazing performance yesterday by all the children, it was absolutely amazing and well done by everyone who was involved in putting such an amazing show together. Congratulations."

What lovely words to receive.

A big congratulations must also go out to all the Year 6 children who smashed their targets and achieved outstanding results in their SATS- making me cry yet again! What a wonderful class I have.

### EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| YN: Everleigh | Y3: Brody             |
| YR: Arlyn K   | Y4/5: Inana & Casey   |
| Y1: Emma      | Y5/6: Amelka & Rishit |
| Y2: Finnley   |                       |

### LUNCHTIME AWARD

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| YN: Orla      | Y3: Riley              |
| YR: Poppy     | Y4/5: Niamh & Layla    |
| Y1: Frederick | Y5/6: Peyton & Harriet |
| Y2: Deep      |                        |

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