

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | July 9th 2021



FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents and Carers,

Transition day today was complicated, but enjoyable. We all look forward to the demise of the bubbles on the 19th of July. As numbers of children have grown and we have five classes, we are now using most of our available classrooms. Sadly, we could not have our new little Robins with us, or our year 6 visiting their new school, but we made the most of it. A wonderful day was had with year 6 teaching an array of lessons to mixed groups of year 4 and 5. The lessons ranged from Science about volcanoes, an art lesson, a forest school session and a sports focus on cricket. These topics were chosen and executed by year 6 with support from Mrs Price, Ms McAloon, Mrs Hall and Mrs Lyons. Our children leave St. Mary's with oodles of self-confidence!

In the rest of the school, we welcomed Miss Pahnke to Year 2 and Mrs Winton to Year 3/4, as well as existing staff, Ms Costa and Mrs Hawley to Year 1 and not forgetting Mrs Finch and Mrs Hilditch in Robins. All were ably supported by our wonderful, dedicated team of teaching assistants who deserve special mention for the stability and care they offer to the children through changing times.

Academically, the children have continued to progress, filling gaps and making progress. Many children have impressed me this week. Robins have brought their independent sentences, Goldfinches have produced good sustained longer pieces of writing, Kingfishers have properly employed paragraphs and speech marks in their writing and in year 5/6 I have seen good 'Nrich' problem-solving. The children will continue to plough ahead in their learning so that they are ready for their next stage or school. We will continue to welcome Lil Heron for class forest school sessions, Jen for dance and Dan for multi-sports for the remainder of term.

This weekend will be our First Holy Communion mass and celebration on Sunday. The 13 children have been a great group to teach. We have enjoyed all our sessions, singing, learning about the mass and visiting the church. For me it has been a very special event at the end of the year. I look forward also to the Leaver's mass as an expression of faith-filled togetherness after a challenging year.

Mrs Price

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

ROBINS

Another busy week in Robins class this week!

At the end of last week, we had a go at making sculptures out of clay. The clay was very cold and quite hard to manipulate. We used our hands to make it softer and easier to mould. We made some excellent creations! After a few days we were able to paint them. Here is a small selection. What do you think?



GOLDFINCHES

Everyone had an excellent time in Forest School building magical homes strong enough to stop the dragon from blowing them

away! We enjoyed making clay models too. We have been comparing characters from our favourite stories in writing and working on our writing presentation. Please see Google Classrooms for information about our fun beach day next week; we have planned lots of exciting activities so come ready for seaside fun! Our maths learning was about describing clockwise and anti-clockwise movements and practising telling the time.



KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers are continuing to work hard and have been finishing and redrafting their own stories based on the Great Kapok Tree. The

children all wrote fantastic stories based on a Great Oak Tree. They were able to show they could write in paragraphs and include speech. The children also produced some super artwork (based on plants) to go with our rainforest topic. Next week we will be using our writing skills to write persuasive letters to encourage people to protect the rainforest.

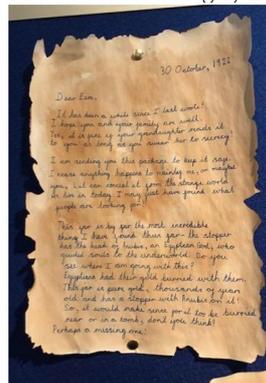
SKYLARKS

I have a piece of writing, which I would like to share on this week's newsletter. Taking it upon herself to retrace the paper and sing

its edges to age it and contextualise her writing - this is de their own learning. Bravo Scarlett!



It is based on our focus text for this half-term, Secrets of A Sun King by Emma Carroll:



Dear Ezra,

It has been a while since I last wrote.

I hope you and your family are well. Yes, it is fine if your granddaughter reads it to you, as long as you swear her to secrecy!

I am sending you this package to keep it safe. In case anything happens to mainly me, or maybe you, I'll conceal it from the strange world we live in today. I may just have found what people are looking for!

This jar is by far the most incredible thing I have found thus far - the stopper has the head of Anubis, an Egyptian God, who guided souls to the underworld. Do you see where I am going with this?

Egyptians had their gold buried with them. This jar is pure gold, thousands of years old and has a stopper with Anubis on it! So, it would make sense for it to be buried near or in a tomb, don't you think? Perhaps a missing one!



Right now, I am writing from a secret location in Egypt. Though, by the time you get I will be back in England, whole or not, who knows?

I hope you figure out what to do with the jar, and understand since I have written in hieroglyphics so that it can't be intercepted.

I am glad we are back in touch.

Selim

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF)

See letter sent with newsletter for more info

Holidays can be a really difficult time for families who are struggling to make ends meet or who are juggling work and childcare. The holidays should be a time for every child to enjoy themselves rather than worrying about having enough to eat or how they can spend their free time.

That's why we're really excited about the summer holiday programmes that are being funded by the Government and will take place across the whole of England. This was recommended by the National Food Strategy when it was published last year. A petition supporting the recommendation was signed by over 1 million people.

Children who receive free school meals can access places on the holiday for free, but children and young people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to attend. Each local programme will provide delicious, healthy meals, allow kids to get active, help them learn new things, make friends and have fun. And that is what the holidays are all about!

You can find out more by watching this new film that we've made:

<https://youtu.be/KDgm8KpXAXE>

See the local government website for Summer Childcare (look for activities marked 'HAF' as part of the scheme).

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory/46/summer-holiday-activities>

ASK ME ABOUT...

Transition Day

How did I get on with my new class, teacher and room; what's different in my new class and what am I most looking forward to in September?

HOUSE POINTS

St Andrew 45

St David 30

St George 26

St Patrick 19

STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins – Finnley M

Goldfinches – Tallulah

Kingfishers - Harriet

Skylarks – Toby

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Miriam for fantastic writing &

Maya for her resilience and hard work

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE – Summer Workshops

Our fantastic dance teacher Miss Jenny is doing dance workshops for Reception and upwards during the summer holidays:

Bubbenhall Village Hall

16th – 19th August

10am – 3pm

£20 a day

Limited places, please email or message for a booking form: jenfinney@live.co.uk / 07887 547 262

SCHOOL LIFE...

We're really pleased the removal of bubble restrictions on the 19th will mean we can return to something akin to normality in September. We don't have comprehensive guidance yet, but controls such as increased hygiene and hand washing are likely to continue and we will keep you informed in good time as plans progress and risk assessment are updated.

We know you'll all be pleased to see the return of our excellent full school dinner menu come September. Every day children will now have a plated hot, vegetarian, jacket potato or deli bag option.

You can find menus and a link to apply for free school meals on our website under 'School Life': <https://stmaryssoutham.org.uk/school-life-2/>

The image shows two posters. The left poster is titled 'Free SCHOOL MEALS' and states 'UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS - IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?'. It explains that children in Reception or Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free lunch every day. The right poster is titled 'OUR INGREDIENTS' and states 'IT ALL BEGINS WITH OUR PASSION FOR FANTASTIC FOOD!'. It describes the school's commitment to sourcing sustainable, ethical, and high-quality ingredients.

DIARY DATES

Every Friday

50p Fridays for FOSM

** NOW **

Learning Logs Due Back

Sunday, July 11 @ 11:30

First Holy Communion

Monday, July 12

Goldfinches' Beach Day

Tuesday, July 13

Robins' Forest School Day

Friday, July 16

Skylarks' Leavers' Day

Monday, July 19

No After School Club

Wednesday, July 21

Last day of Term

July 22 – September 3

Summer Holidays

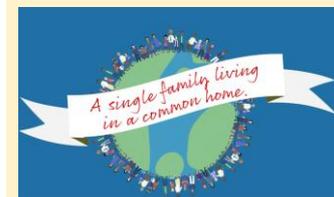
PLEASE NOTE:

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

CHURCH LIFE...

FRATELLI TUTTI

Fraternity & Social Friendship



Visit the [Catholic Life](#) section of our website to see a great animation from CAFOD explaining Pope Francis' letter, asking us all to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need, whoever they are, wherever they may come from.



We are all challenged to think of ourselves as a single global family living in a common home, and neighbours to all – you can make your own pledge on the CAFOD webpage here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/56460/775637/version/2/Fratelli%20Tutti%20pledge%20sheet.pdf>