

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursey, Southam | September 10th 2021



From the Head

On behalf of all the staff, we welcome you to the beginning of another exciting school year at St. Mary's. What a fantastic first week back we have had, the children have settled quickly in to routines and are getting used to sharing break times after last year's bubbles - and it is lovely to see them all playing together again. It was fantastic to see all the children arriving looking so beautiful. Thank you for following our school uniform policy; these standards reinforce the high expectations we have for everything at our school. (Don't forget to label or write on labels inside of uniforms too!)



We extend a warm welcome to all of the new families joining our school community and our new staff: Mrs Bant-Rinz - Skylarks Teacher and Assistant Head, Mrs Winton - Kingfishers Teacher, Miss Pahnke - Goldfinches Teacher and Mrs Costa - Doves & Robins Teacher parttime. We ask for God's blessing on our school as we prepare for all of the exciting learning experiences and opportunities that lie ahead. The staff and I would like to express our appreciation at the warm welcome that we have received from you all.

We are currently having some much-needed building work completed and I am sure that you will agree that the windows have made such a huge difference to the front of the school, it has made the hall look so much brighter. This will continue with all class doors and windows being replaced over the next three weeks to completely transform the environment. Your patience is very much appreciated as some morning drop offs and collections may change temporarily as a result of this work to keep our children safe whilst the installation is completed. We just need restrictions to be lifted so that we can welcome parents and grandparents in.

We will be holding a virtual Parent's Evening before the half term holidays and the date for this will be confirmed in the next week. This is an opportunity to speak to your child's teacher to see how they have settled and to ask any questions you may have.

Mrs Collier

Communication

If you have a concern about your child, you can book an appointment to discuss the matter with your child's teacher. You can do this by passing a message on to the member of staff on the door, by telephoning the office or by talking to me on the gate. At this time of restriction, your child's teacher will contact you by telephone. In the first instance your child's class teacher is the first port of call. If you feel that this has not been resolved, the next step is to speak to the Assistant Head, Mrs Banat-Rinz. If a matter is not resolved, an appointment can be made with myself. This is the procedure and all staff will direct parents through these steps as they have been found to be the most efficient way to resolve concerns and allow clear communication at the school. We aim to continue to have these very positive relationships with school and home.

Please can you make a real concerted effort for your child to be in school every day. It is vital after the disruption of the lockdowns that your child is in school for every single learning opportunity this year. As a school we are aiming for at least 97% whole school attendance but 100% would be amazing!



Faith life... Mass on Thursdays

On Thursday Skylarks led us in mass where they read beautifully and clearly, it was such a privilege to share this with them. We had comments from parishioners and our church community praising our children. Parents and Grandparents are very much welcome to attend mass with us and I have enclosed the dates for each class. We are focussing on our Key Stage Two children this half term to enable our younger children to settle first. I would like to pass on my sincere gratitude to you for entrusting your children in to our care, they make us proud each and every single day.

Thursdays at 9:30:

- Skylarks Mass: 16th September
- Kingfishers Mass: 23rd September
- Whole School Harvest Festival Mass: 30th September - TO BE CONFIRMED
- Father Arul in school with Goldfinches: 7th October
- Skylarks Mass: 14th October
- Father Arul in school with Doves: 21st October



Birthday fun

Children can come into school in non-uniform on their birthday. This is so wonderful as everybody within our school community who sees them will know that it is their special day. If their birthday falls on a weekend, on PE day or within a school holiday the child may come in non-uniform on the Friday before or the Monday afterwards.



ROBINS

Wow, what a fabulous start to Robins class! We have had so much fun this week. We have painted, danced, created and played our way to the end of our first full week. Well done Robins, you are all superstars!



DOVES

This week Doves have been settling well into their new class, we have been learning about Mary, Mother of Jesus and creating collage artwork of her. We have been talking about our worries and how we can make them better, we also met William our worry monster who can eat worries.



GOLDFINCHES

What a fabulous first week! Goldfinches have shown their positive and hardworking attitude. They have shown perseverance when revising place value and great imagination with what they would like to do in Year Two in their letter writing. We have been exploring our Values and Virtues; eloquent and truthful. The children enjoyed identifying how we can be truthful and made some beautiful welcome posters for our school.

KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers have settled in so well! We have been busy creating several large pieces of art, representing Mary using differing mediums. We used tissue paper, pastels and mixed collage and worked collaboratively. Daniel and the Lion's Den has been a story we have explored; sequencing and retelling to understand the moral of the story and as a link to our current school values; eloquent and truthful. We have introduced a new text -The Promise by Nicola Davies. We have been using our senses to explore our beautiful grounds in more detail and will be creating some poems to celebrate our immediate outdoor school environment.



SKYLARKS

Skylarks have had a fabulous first week. They have settled in quickly and really impressed me with their maturity and "can do" attitude. I know that we are going to have a great year ahead. We have researched and written fact files about Mary, created art work on Mary and learnt about what it is to be "Eloquent and Truthful" - this half term's values and virtues.



DIARY DATES

Wednesday, September 29th

Swimming Lessons Start
Year 3/4 (more info to follow)

Tuesday, October 5th

Flu vaccinations YR – Y6
(more info to follow)

Thursday, October 21st

Individual School Photos

Thursday, October 7th

Open Morning for new parents

October 25th – 29th

Half Term

**** UPDATED ACADEMIC CALENDAR ****

Please see our website for the latest version [here](#) which includes our school-specific inset days and an extra day's holiday in lieu of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday (because it falls in half term).

PLEASE NOTE:

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



Healthy Snacks

We want all our children to have a healthy, varied diet. Free fruit is provided daily for children up to Year 2 and milk for under 5s. (If you want your child to continue with milk after they turn 5, you can register [here](#)).

The below website is fun to look at with your child and has lots of easy food swaps and astonishing sugar stats:

www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids

HOUSE POINTS & CAPTAINS

Our KS2 pupils are currently preparing their applications as part of our recruitment for these upper school responsibilities:

- House Captain & Vice Captain (Y5/6 Only)
- Sports Captain
- School Council
- GIFT: Growing in Faith Together

Our new captains will share the tally next week as St Andrew, St David, St George and St Patrick all vie to be the ones lifting the house trophy this year.

Stars of the Week

Little Robins - Poppy

Big Robins - Loui

Doves - Delilah

Goldfinches - Dylan & Ben

Kingfishers - Chloe & Jimmy

Skylarks - Max & Florence

ASK ME ABOUT...

Our Values and Virtues

We focus on a different pair of values and virtues each half term. Can your child tell you about the ones we've been looking at this week, what they mean and how we can show them?