



ST MARY'S C. E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dream, believe, achieve

Fortnightly Newsletter

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WELCOME BACK

It is so wonderful to have the children back in school; they have been truly missed by us all. School feels complete once again. Thank you to all the parents who have worked so hard during lockdown to support the children with their learning as well as their well-being. You are our unsung heroes!

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our value for this term is kindness. We have looked at the kind actions that Jesus did and talked about how we can show kindness to others. We will also think about the symbolism of Easter over the next few weeks.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thank you to everyone who took part in our World Book Day celebrations this year, both in school and at home. We were lucky enough to have a virtual author visit from Sarah Oliver who is a journalist and passionate author. During her visit, the whole school got to learn about what inspired her to initially become an author as well as learning about her books. Throughout the rest of the day, every class (both in school and online) had the opportunity to join Sarah for reading and writing workshops focused on her books. EYFS and KS1 learnt about her latest picture book which is called 'The Best World Book Week Ever' which tells the tale of Danny, a cheeky monkey who loves to read all kinds of books. Year 3 and 4 watched a reading of Pollyanne - the incredible donkey story before taking part in a guided writing session. While Year 5 and 6 learnt more about the biographies she has written and had a go at writing their own A-Z fact files.

During the afternoon, both KS1 and KS2 children in school joined Sarah Oliver live for a Q&A session.

If you would like anymore information about the author Sarah Oliver here is her website: <https://saraholiverauthor.co.uk/>

CURRICULUM

EYFS

In Early Years this half term our theme is growing. The children are going to be learning about how to take care of living things and what plants need to grow. They will plant their own seeds and investigate what the best conditions are for a seed to grow. As part of this theme, the children will also learn about minibeads and will compare how many minibeads they find in the winter months with the warmer spring/summer months. The children will explore minibead habitats and create their own bug hotels. They will learn about the life cycle of a caterpillar and the importance of bees.

Year 1/2

This term, we are thinking all about our "Blue Planet".

In Literacy, we will be looking at The Tantrum that Saved the World. We will be finding out about the effects that our lives can have on the planet and ways that we can resolve them. The children will learn the skills to write a story with a problem and a resolution.

This term in Geography, the children are going to be introduced to 3 new parts of the Earth: the North Pole, the South Pole and the equator. They will learn about colder places being further away from the equator and will begin to explore the human and physical features that can be found in the North Pole and the South Pole. They will discuss the weather, climate and landscape of these two places and will be able to describe their position in relation to the equator and the other continents.

In Science, the children will continue to explore the North Pole and the South Pole. They will learn about the animals that live there and how they have adapted to survive. They will also be looking at the seasons and weather in the North and South Poles and make observations about how they are different to the UK and Africa.

In Art this term, the children will be focusing on 3D junk modelling. The children will be learning about 3D sculpture and the different materials that can be used to make these. They will then be designing, making and evaluating an animal from the North or South Pole using a range of materials!

This term in RE, our question is *Why does Easter matter?*

Children will have an understanding of the true meaning of Easter and why it is so important to Christians.

In PSHE, we will be thinking about positive attitude and how we can manage negative feelings like anger.

Year 3/4

In our English lessons, we have started looking at a new story called "The Tantrum That Saved the World" as we are learning to be like the character Sophie and write a persuasive speech to convince people to save the world.

In Maths we have been working hard with fractions. We can all explain the vocabulary associated with fractions.

In Science we are learning about healthy eating and soon we will be making our own digestive systems. Our knowledge of a healthy diet is linking with our new D.T. project as we design a one pot meal for a mountaineer.

In our History lessons we are finishing learning about the Romans and their impact on Britain before we jump into the amazing world of mountains. As we finish our Roman topic, we have been visited by Boudicca and a roman soldier called Dexter Maximus.

It has been an exciting start to our term and look forward to sharing this learning with you all in new displays we are putting together. We will post these displays on our Google Classrooms for you all to see!

Year 5/6

This term in English, Year Five and Six will be writing a balanced argument discussing whether or not we should still use fossil fuels as our main energy source. We are taking our inspiration from 'The Tantrum That Saved The World'; a fascinating book looking at the effects of climate change and global warming. Our class story book this term is The Explorer by Katherine Rundell; which complements our Geography study which is focused on the human and physical geography of the Amazon rainforest.

In Maths, Year Five have started this half term finishing their topic on Fractions before moving on to decimals and percentages. Year Six have started this half term converting units of measure including metric and imperial; they will be moving on to perimeter, area and volume.

In Science this term the children will build on their prior knowledge of Animals including Humans; learning how humans first develop as a foetus and develop through each stage of life.

In RE this half term we are considering the question 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?' The children will make connections between Bible texts and what Christians believe it means to be 'People of God'.

For Year Five and Six, PSHE this half term is 'All about attitude'. We will be discussing how our attitudes can have a direct correlation on our successes in life.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is fast approaching (14th March). Although we can't celebrate with our usual tea party, we will still have a performance to share with you. Each class/year group have been working hard to show their female role models how much they mean to them and this will be posted on the google classrooms on Friday 12th March. (Please use your child's login to access this.) We are also grateful to the PTFA for supplying craft/gift ideas for the children to create. These are also on the google classroom. To all the female role models that are a part of the St. Mary's family, we thank you!

COMIC RELIEF

Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day. This year the theme is super heroes. We would love the children to come to school dressed as their favourite superhero, a superhero they have created or someone who is a role model to them.

We do not want parents going out and spending money on costumes – be creative with what you have already available to you (old bed sheets make great capes).

All monetary donations (suggested £1) will go to Comic Relief.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Reynolds via receptionist@stmarysceb1.info

We look forward to seeing the children (and adults) in their costumes.

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

PR Sports Coaching Ltd have teamed up with St Marys C of E Primary Academy to provide a sports holiday club again this Easter Holiday.

This club will take place Monday 29th March- Thursday 1st April and Tuesday 6th April- Friday 9th April at St Marys C of E Primary Academy, 8.45am -3.15pm during the Bright Sparks mobile. This club will be available to children aged 4-13 years, £22 per day.

Each day promises to bring fun sporting experiences to participants in a safe and professional environment, as well as offering films and craft activities. Enhanced DBS checked, qualified, experienced coaches will deliver a variety of sporting and craft activities, giving participants a choice of multiple activities to participate in, throughout each day.

Participants will be required to wear appropriate sports clothing and footwear; they will need to bring packed lunches, healthy snacks and plenty of fluid. Activities will take place outside for as much of the day, therefore additional warm and waterproof clothing are also advised.

In order to comply with the strict Covid guidelines we have an extremely limited number places available, therefore places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, with payment required up on booking.

Bookings can be made at www.prsportscoaching.co.uk, our coronavirus policy and terms and condition are also displayed.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact PR Sports.

EASTER SERVICE

This year our Easter service will be recorded and online. The children have all been rehearsing their part and will film this over the next week. This will then be put together in a film which will be shared with the children as an in school service on Friday 26th March. This will then be uploaded on the google classroom for parents to view. (Please use your child's login to access this). If you have not signed the permission slip then your child will not appear on the video.

FRIENDSHIP AMBASSADOR

Each class has chosen children who are 'friendship ambassadors.' These children are there to look out for any children who are struggling or lonely and will look after them and play with them. This idea came from the PTFA and school wholeheartedly agreed that friendship is an important part of children's lives – especially as they have been apart for so long. Each class has designed a buddy sign to go on the playground. Any children who feel lonely or anxious will go and sit on the sign and the friendship ambassadors will look out for these children and support them on the playground.

THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA who are working so hard behind the scenes and coming up with new and exciting fundraising ideas, we are very lucky to have such dedicated and supportive parents.

PE AND SPORTS

PE Lessons

Many thanks to all pupils that participated in their PE home learning and submitted their personal best sheets. We loved seeing all your videos and photos too.

For the remainder of the term our PE focuses will be:

EYFS will be using their balance and coordination skills to explore gymnastics equipment, discover alternative ways to move and perform balances, linked to their growing theme.

Year 1/2 will be focussing on their coordination and accuracy skills via bat and ball themed lessons.

Years 3-6 will be enhancing their coordination and accuracy skills via target/accuracy activities, these will link into the inter and intra school sports competitions we will be taking part in.

Healthy School Ethos

KS2 will also be working with Northampton Saints virtually on their tackling health programme, to further develop their understanding of the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles.

Lunchtime initiatives will also ensure that lunchtimes allow greater opportunity for pupils to access play equipment and increase their activity levels across all years.

Active Lives Survey our school has been selected to participate in a National survey to monitor children activity levels during the pandemic and opportunities our school offers outside of the pandemic. All pupils in years 1, 3 and 5 have been asked to complete the survey as well as parents of year 1 pupils.

Information has previously been sent out via parent mail and google classrooms. Our school receives vouchers for sports equipment if we collate enough replies, so we would be extremely grateful if you could please complete it if you haven't already.

School Competitions

Thank you to all pupils that entered our intra school gymnastics competition, it was lovely to see your routines and I can tell you practiced really hard, certificates and sweets are on the way to you all.

Our gymnasts (years 3-6) will continue to practice their routines and submit their videos to represent our school in a virtual inter school gymnastics competition.

Thank you to all pupils that entered our walking competition during half term, it is fantastic to see that so many of you stayed active despite the lockdown.

All pupils who submitted their record sheets were entered into a prize to win a fitness tracker watch, congratulations to the winners, certificates and prizes will also be given to all who entered.

We have calculated the **average** scores for each year group in distance and time, please see results below:

Year	Distance	Time	Watch Winner (drawn from a hat)
1&2	24.5km	630minutes	Seb
3&4	16.5km	432minutes	Leo
5&6	22.5km	173minutes	Lilly
EYFS	11.25km	415minutes	Mark

This term we will continue to take part in a number of virtual intra school competitions, including KS2 Archery, KS2 Bocca, KS2 New Age Kurling, KS1 New Age Kurling, KS2 Gymnastics. All pupils in years 1-6 will take part in at least one competition, and represent our school.

Clubs

We are excited to announce that extra curricular sports clubs will be returning after the easter holidays.

Places will be limited due to government guidelines so book early to avoid disappointment. Letters will be out the next 2 weeks.

PE Uniform

Please ensure you have your PE kit in school everyday, this includes plimsolls/trainers, shorts or joggers/leggings, t-shirt and a PE jumper. Please note PE lessons will take place outside throughout the year, therefore gloves, and sun hats are also advised.

PTFA

Please 'like', 'share' and keep an eye on our **new** facebook page

[Facebook Page](#)



Thank you to everyone that bought a balloon and joined in the Valentie's Balloon Race!

We had a lot of fun tracking the balloons from Paris, across the channel to Margate, towards the Netherlands, and close to Great Yarmouth!! We raised a fantastic £521.48 to go towards the playground improvements.

This was a national event, but we also awarded prizes to the three St Mary's Balloons that travelled the furthest.

Thank you to The Sugar Barn, The Palmichael, CMD Property Services, and Sainsbury's for donating the prizes.

Next Event

EASTER RAFFLE

Look out for raffle tickets coming home in children's book bags next week. We have some wonderful prizes including a pair of Dr Marten Boots, a £50 Galleria voucher, vouchers for local restaurants and beauticians, chocolate, wine, and more!! £1 per ticket, return all tickets and cash in the envelope back to school before Friday 26th March. Unfortunately the tickets have April instead of March printed on them, please make sure these are with us by Friday 26th March to ensure you are entered for the draw on Saturday 27th March. We can now also take BACs payments, details are on the tickets.

EGG-STRAVAGANZA TREASURE TRAIL

Flyers will be in book bags next week with full information.

Follow the trail, answer the questions, explore our town and learn about the story of Easter.

Monday 29th March - Sunday 11th April

Other ways to support our fundraising

Here's how you can support us anytime...

smile.amazon.co.uk - every time you order from Amazon Smile a little bit is donated to us.

How to set up St Mary's on Amazon Smile on the phone app - [instructions here](#)

Use the charity number 1111218.

The Giving Machine - click through The Giving Machine and we will receive a percentage of your purchase from many online shops.

Quick Sign Up Code: 57630

Next Meeting - Wednesday 21st April 2021, 7.30pm

Zoom - Meeting ID: 724 7479 1680 Passcode: 0XRDbS