

Newsletter July

The end of term is in sight and what a term it has been; full of learning and fun. Inside this issue is a round up of all that has been happening over the last few weeks at school.

Collective worship

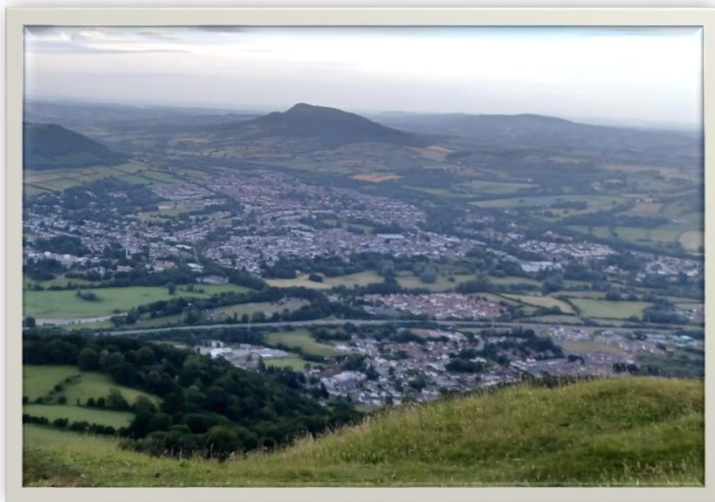
We have continued learning about Justice in our worship time. The children have heard different stories from the bible where Jesus teaches people about fairness. The children then learnt about how we can use these teachings in our everyday life.

Govilon

Our year 6 children had a wonderful time at Govilon in Wales. Here are some recounts from the children.

THE BLORENGE MOUNTAIN

We all clambered into the mini buses and started our journey towards the mountain. We reached halfway up when we started to slow. The door opened and we all began rushing out of the bus. Our instructors then directed us up to the top of the mountain and back down until we reached the mini bus again. We learnt lots of new and interesting facts whilst doing the activity. We could also see another mountain (called the Sugar-Loaf Mountain) from the top of The Bloreng Mountain.

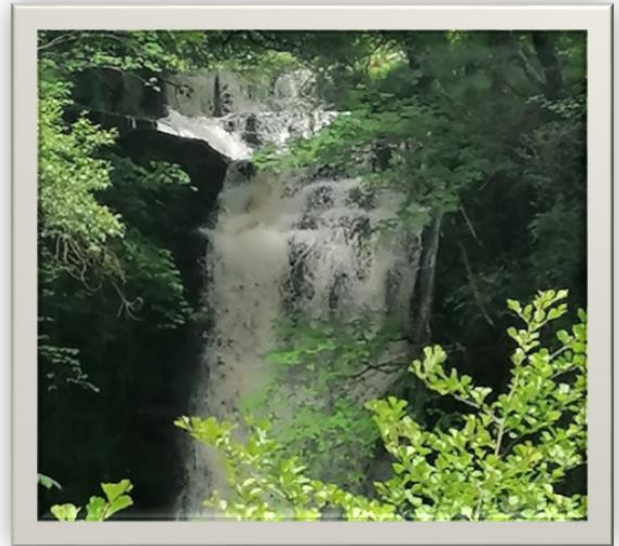


TUNNELLING

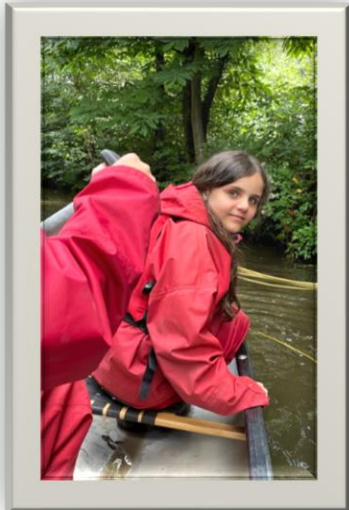
In the morning, we went tunnelling. The tunnel was light at first but when you went further in it, the tunnel became so dark you couldn't see a single thing. Along the tunnel were lots of manholes. When we reached the fourth manhole we had to count thirty-three paces. When we reached that point there was a stone indicating that we were in the middle of the tunnel. We also found out that the tunnel is an old railway station for the 1800s. By the time we had finally reached the end, the setting was beautiful. There were trees and a long stream running around them; the cliff-sides around us were covered in moss. We told stories before heading back and eating lunch on a small hill at the beginning of the walk.

WALKING IN WATERFALLS

In the afternoon, we walked down to this very large river. It was filled with big rocks (that didn't cause any harm). At the start, all we did was learn a few safety things but then they let us into the river. We walked carefully up the canal until we reached a specific spot. Our instructor told us to sit in this pile of smooth rock and slide down them. It was so much fun! Soon, we came to another area. It had a decent sized waterfall with a ledge that you could climb on. We all climbed across the ledge. Later, we got to trust fall into the water! Everybody enjoyed walking in the waterfalls.



THE CANOEING TRIP



On this day, we had breakfast and then we had to put our waterproofs and wellies on. When we got there, we had to listen to our instructor who told us what to do and then we started our activity. First, we had to carry the canoes out of the thing they were tied to and then we had to tie them together using ropes. Once we were done, we got to practise going forwards, backwards, round and learnt how to stop. Then, we had to canoe through some windier places of the river, until we got to our lunch spot (a forest).

We had to put up a tent, eat and while we were eating, we went around and explored the forest. After we were done, the instructors taught us some bush craft including: learning about the different fungus; how to light a fire using flint and steel; what kind of woods to use to keep a fire going. Then, when we were finished, we had to tidy everything up and take down the tent. Afterwards, we canoed back to where we started and went back to the centre to have dinner.



BEACH DAY!



We had to wake up early on the beach day since it was so far away. The beach was 1 hour and 45 minutes away so when we arrived it was already lunch time. We got our lunch out of the cool boxes and ate on the sand. After lunch, it was time to explore. We opened up the treasure trove of toys and started to play. Soon after, some people walked down and discovered some rock-pools so we went looking for some crabs and jellyfish. We even found some starfish under some rocks. Later, we were allowed into the sea where we found some jellyfish. We caught them and put them in a tub before letting them back into the ocean. When the day ended we went to a local fish and chip shop for dinner. After dinner, we ate ice cream and finally went home.



EVENING BOWLING

After one of the activities, the boys went bowling and the next day, the girls went. It was super fun and even though it wasn't as exciting as the other activities, it was a new experience for a lot of people.

THE BIG PIT MUSEUM

This was the final day at Govilon and we were all excited to finally go home. For our final activity, we went to a coal mine and the people there showed us what it was like to work in the mines. It was really interesting and we had a lot of fun.



Year 3/4 trip

Today the year 3 and 4 children are going Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. They will follow a Greek trail, find answers and look for clues to solve questions. The museum has a fantastic display of money, writing and textiles. The children will learn about the legacies of the past. There is so much to see and do.

The Ashmolean Museum is not far from us and entry is free so you may wish to go and have a look in the summer holidays. Take a guided tour from your child!

Time to say goodbye.

We are sad to see Mrs. Stevens leave us this year as she is retiring. We are so grateful to her for all that she has done for us and she will be truly missed. We also say goodbye to Mrs. Simpson who will not be returning after maternity leave. She has chosen to spend more time with her growing family and we wish her well.

We welcome back Miss Farrer who will be re-joining us after her maternity leave and will be sharing the class with Miss Freeman.

Sports days

That's sports days over for yet another year. It was wonderful to have parents back into school to watch this. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

September plans

The times of the school day will be 8:45am-3:15pm for **ALL** classes from September with access through the same gates that we have now. Gates will close promptly to ensure maximum learning time for the children. Please ensure that your child arrives on time.

Transfer day

The children had a wonderful time getting to know their new (or not so new) teacher. If you were not able to attend the meet the teacher meeting, there will be another one on Wednesday 7th September straight after school.

Parent forum

Thank you to those who were able to support the school at the parent forum meetings this year. We are so grateful to parents for all their help. If you would like to come and support

the school, we would love to see you at the next meeting on 19th September at 9am. Parent voice is important to us and a way to ensure that we continue to make progress as a school.

PTFA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTFA for all their hard work this year, we are so lucky to have such a dedicated and supportive team! From everyone at school, we want you to know how valued you are.

PTFA News



Please like, share and keep an eye on our [Facebook Page](#)

Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk

On Saturday 2nd July we held a summer fete themed as a Jubilee Festival. A lot of time, effort, and planning went in to buying food, making games, advertising, planning entertainment, decorating and everything else. When the rain started, and continued, and carried on, we thought that it would be a complete wash out!

Thank you to the most amazing school community..... in 4 hours of rain, more than 500 people turned out to watch dancing, choir, school talent, play games, threw wellies, eat BBQ and candy floss, play bingo, soak the teachers and more!!

You are all amazing!!! To see the children having so much fun, and families to be spending time together made the hard work all worthwhile, and proud to be able to create these events!

You made over **£1,000!!!** Yes £1,000 straight in to the pot of funds ready to buy a brand new trim trail for the school field.

Thank you to all of the staff that gave up their free time to help on the day, and to the team of volunteers that put their lives on hold for the past few weeks, spending time, money, and effort to make this happen.

❖ Spending

- The PTFA are proud to have purchased a **Fully Automated Defibrillator** for our school. The potentially life-saving equipment will be displayed in reception and available for any emergency requirement in the school building in just seconds.
- We are pleased this year to continue the tradition of providing our year 6 "**leavers 2022**" with a t-shirt, as well as a celebratory get together at Flip-Out.
- Welcoming our new Early Years children with their first school logo **book bag** received lovely feedback from parents, and we were able to greet new parents at the information evening. We will celebrate with parents in September at 'Tea & Tissues' when the children officially start school.
- Children were able to cool down after their amazing hard work at sports days this week with **ice poles** donated by the PTFA. Well done to all the children for taking

part, and thank you to the staff for putting on such brilliant sports days for all of the children.

- The **Wildlife Area** is a new corner of the field, surrounded by hedges, which will promote wild growth of plants and homes to our bugs and wildlife. **£1,000** has already been spent on an arch and hedge border, cobble stream with solar pump. Future additions will include a natural seating area, story telling chair, planters, and lots of bug hotels and homes!
The area has been designed by the School Student Council, and they look forward to creating a peaceful and interesting area for the children to explore and enjoy.
- We are pleased to have spent **£1,000** on games and sports equipment for the children to enjoy at lunchtimes. With cricket kits, space hoppers and balls and more, there should be something for everyone to play with.

❖ **Uniform Sale**

Our last pre-loved uniform sale of the year will be held on Monday 18th July at 3.10pm. Please continue to donate good quality used uniform. We are saving everyone pennies, and stopping uniform from going to landfill!

❖ **September Snake**

After the success of the September Coin snake last year, we are doing it again!! Start saving any loose change and look out for details! The snake competition will run 12-23 September.

❖ **Duck Race**

Sunday 18th September – we will be taking home a duck for sure and hopefully selling some sweets and drinks – come and see us!

❖ **Next Meeting**

Thursday 29th September 2021, 7pm – School Hall – Everyone welcome

We are always looking for new people to join our team. Whether it's to pour drinks at a disco, wrap gifts at Christmas, be on the committee, or add some new ideas. Events are only possible with enough volunteers, so please do join us!

❖ **THANK YOU**

Thank you for all of the support, giving, donating, turning up, positive feedback, and volunteering! We couldn't do what we do without you!!

Remember the ways you can always help St Mary's PTFA to generate funds.



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We are an Inclusive school, so everyone is always welcome to read, attend or access anything listed in this section of the newsletter.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

What a busy year we have had! I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support, engagement and encouragement this year. It has been a year of change and adapting and I thank you for making my first year in this role that bit easier! I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe holiday and we look forward to you all joining us again in September.



How to Support Your Child with Transition

It can be an anxious time for a child changing class or moving up to primary or secondary school and preparation is key to helping them manage the change.

Below are some tips for you to help to support your child through this time of change:

- Explain the change in small chunks to allow your child to process the information. Use pictures or visual cues where appropriate and repeat important information to ensure that your child understands. Transition booklets may be sent home over the summer period to support this process.
- Explain as much as you can about what will be the same or different in the new situation. For example, uniform, teachers, classmates, facilities, rules, and timetable. The use of visual cues, such as a same or different chart, photos, pictures or symbols can help with this and your child can look at them as many times as they need to leading up to the transition.
- Prepare your child for the transition early, use visual supports such as a countdown or calendar to help them to understand when events will take place.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about the transition. If they feel more comfortable, they could write them down. If you are unable to answer their questions, ask their current or new teacher or school to go through them with your child.
- Find out what they are looking forward to and use these ideas to create positive conversations about the transition.
- Use pictures and create a social story prior to the event. Social Stories provide descriptions of a particular situation, event or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and, sometimes, what to do or say in that situation.



SEND Support for Families

As well as providing support for our children at St. Mary's with SEND, there are also services available to support the parents, carers and families around those children with SEND, over the summer period.

Inclusive swimming

At Rushden Splash Station Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 9SJ telephone 01933 410505 (held on Tuesday mornings every school holiday).



Cube Disability

Cube Disability Kids hold SEN holiday camps for children aged 5-16 with a disability and their siblings in various locations in half term holidays and the main holiday.

Summer 2022 dates are:

1 -5 August, 8 - 12 August and 22 - 26 August from 10.00 to 3.00pm.

Contact cubekids@thecubedisability.co.uk for more information.

Northamptonshire Short Breaks

Action for Children's non-residential short breaks give children and young people with SEND an opportunity to relax, have fun, socialise, and make new friends. Youngsters will also have the chance to learn new things, try new activities, and build their confidence and independence. Parents can be assured that children are taking part in positive and enjoyable activities to grow and develop. See the [timetable here](#).



The Green Patch

The Green Patch is a Kettering-based outdoor space for the community. It hosts non-residential short breaks for children (aged 8-17) with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or mild to moderate learning disabilities (MMLD). Children are invited along to look after the animals, cook, grow, enjoy outdoor play and pond dipping, take part in scavenger and nature hunts, enjoy imaginative play – and much more. The Green Patch shares its site with its resident cat (Basil), plus chickens, ducks, and rabbits, all of whom play a big part in all the sessions.

School Holiday Clubs

Mondays: 10am - 3pm

Wednesdays: 10am - 3pm. Register your interest by calling Groundwork on 07703 720652 or by emailing vicky.bowden@groundwork.org.uk. They will respond to your enquiry and discuss your child's requirements.

Riverside Hub, Northampton

We organise dedicated events especially for families of children with special needs and disabilities and their friends. These events are quieter than our usual play sessions and take place once the venue has closed.

Our summer dates are:

Friday 22nd July 6.30pm - 9pm

Friday 2nd September 6.30pm - 9pm

Child tickets are 20% cheaper than our standard play sessions, PLUS adult carers are 100% cheaper!

[Book tickets here.](#)



I hope you find some of these resources and activities useful to you over the break. Have a happy and restful summer break and we will see you in September!

Together, we can make a difference!