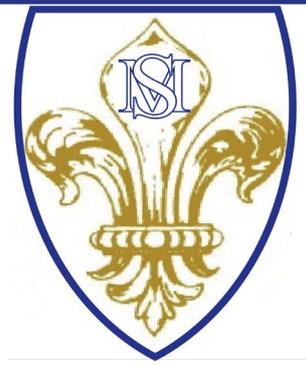


St Mary's News



11th February 2022

I simply can not believe we are over half way through the school year – where has the time gone? Before we know it our Y6s will be off to be Y7s and our Reception class will be in Y1! School has continued at pace over the last couple of weeks with Chinese New Year celebrations, Pet visits, Bikeability successes, visits from our Governors and Link Trustee as well as some Head and Deputy headteacher colleagues, a “Zoom” visit from Patrick Shevlin our School Improvement Partner and Pupil Progress Meetings.

Everyone has worked exceptionally hard this half term and we are all looking forward to our break – enjoy!

Chinese New Year

This week we continued our learning about Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year celebrations with our dance work shop. The children thoroughly enjoyed using all of the props and resources brought in by the dance team as they learnt the important traditions behind these customs. Reception even made their own dragon which they accompanied with a range of percussion instruments!



Bikeability

Well done to Giselle, Freddie, Alex, Hannah, Abigail and Ellie who passed varying stages of their Bikeability assessments on Friday. They were then great sports with their demos in assembly on Monday morning - we were delighted to hear you speak so confidently about your learning.

Pupil Progress Meetings

This week I have met individually with every teacher to talk about each and every child's progress - what's going really well and what we need to do to be even better. These meetings are always a joy as we discuss the children and I am able to see and hear just how well your child's teacher knows your child. Parents' Evening will be just after half term - please make sure you book a slot so you can see this for yourself.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week we've focused on our Mental Wellbeing and we were so pleased to welcome Mrs Bernadette Fisher from Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to speak with us in assembly on Monday. Mrs Fisher explained how we're like flowers - when we have the right tools and ingredients we grow beautifully, but sometimes we need a little help with this and that's ok.

Mrs Fisher was an extra special guest for us as she is our Link Trustee. She was delighted to meet our children and Mrs Yeboah Jackson (our Chair of Governors) and incredibly complimentary about the children's behaviour, the welcome she received from them, their contributions in assembly and how smart everyone looked - well done Team St Mary's!!!

We also welcomed our governors, Mrs Kerin and Mrs Bull, this week who came in to school to be part of an interview process. They were delighted to spend some time in the nursery with our youngest children and commented on how engaged the nursery children were in their learning.

Pet Visits

Reception class have been learning about Pets this half term and you simply can not learn about pets with a visit or two from some real-life pets. The children were delighted to meet Honey the cat and Ella the dog. They learnt how to approach animals safely and what you need do to look after a pet. Thank you to all of the grown ups involved who organised and facilitated this real life learning experience for the children!



As we close off our spring 1 newsletter please join me in wishing Miss Blasse every best wish for her wedding day in half term; I know you will all keep her in your prayers as she starts this next chapter with her fiancé. Year 6 – start practising as after half term Miss Blasse will be Mrs Roldan Rodriguez!

Wishing you all a wonderful half term

Kind regards



Mrs V L McBrown
Headteacher

In recognition of today (11th February) being Our Lady of Lourdes' Feast day, we pray together

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

