



St Mary's CE (A) Primary School

News Review – 12th February 2021

Living, Loving, Learning in God's Care



Website: www.st-marys-muckleston.staffs.sch.uk

Facebook: St Marys C of E Primary School

News Review – Introduction

As the first half of our Spring Term nears the end, I would like to share with you a flavour of our achievements and plans for the future growth of St Mary's.

It is certainly fair to say that this half term has brought some of the biggest challenges we have had to face as a school in recent years and I am extremely proud of the ways in which our whole community has risen to overcome these to help make St Mary's better than ever. Our children, parents, Governors and staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that, in difficult circumstances, our child-focused teaching and learning remain at the heart of all that we do.

The past few weeks have presented unique situations and have required patience and understanding as we endeavoured to find solutions together and I would like to thank all of the staff for their dedication and for working tirelessly during our period of remote learning.

As Spring approaches, we are hopeful that we will soon be able to re-open for all children and that the remainder of the academic year will be spent in school together. I hope that you all have a relaxing, happy and safe half term with a well-earned break from home learning. I look forward to beginning the new term on Monday, 22nd February.

Spring into Song!

We hope you enjoyed our Spring celebrations this morning? Thank you to everyone who joined us online; it was wonderful to see so many parents and families along with members of school our community and we hope the event added a ray of sunshine to your morning!

All of our children sang, read and played their musical instruments with confidence and I am extremely proud of them all. It was lovely to see the activities that children have been working on all week, everyone has been very creative and I hope it added a different flavour to your home learning in the final week of the half term.

A huge thank you to Martin Jones and Dom Qwynne for their musical and technical expertise and for making the event a success.

We understand that some families were unable to join the event as it happened so recordings can be found on YouTube to enable you to watch at your convenience.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/g6oT8KSId9T0ZBDJdYwqLa5oEdQ-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/g6oT8KSId9T0ZBDJdYwqLa5oEdQ-ePbrJzTnSmcJVSaDUD6NqY14AmSRKD8sWLU.mkOnhJpvBUXWxIsf?startTime=1613129151000)

[ePbrJzTnSmcJVSaDUD6NqY14AmSRKD8sWLU.mkOnhJpvBUXWxIsf?startTime=1613129151000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/g6oT8KSId9T0ZBDJdYwqLa5oEdQ-ePbrJzTnSmcJVSaDUD6NqY14AmSRKD8sWLU.mkOnhJpvBUXWxIsf?startTime=1613129151000)

Curriculum Update

Remote learning requires a different approach to teaching the curriculum and staff have worked hard to ensure online lessons are engaging for all children.

We have tried to offer a balance of maths, English and foundation subjects whilst also encouraging activities away from a screen.

This half term, children have planted seeds, recreated scenes from their favourite book in a box, baked Viking bread, had scavenger hunts, taken part in fitness challenges and created some amazing artwork.

We have also tried to maintain the routines of school life for all children through daily Worship and weekly Celebration Assemblies. Sharing children's achievements at the end of each week remains an important element of our ethos and we hope children have enjoyed receiving certificates.

Virtual Links

We are pleased that other aspects of school life have continued during our period of closure. Music tuition has taken place virtually and our Family Church Services have continued.

Thank you to Mrs HB, Martin Jones, Mrs Gibson and Mrs Keen for their contributions and making this possible.

Fun in the Snow!

The heavy snowfall at the start of the year provided a welcome distraction for children attending school and we enjoyed learning outside, despite the cold!

FOSMS Update

The current circumstances mean that the amazing support that FOSMS provides for our school are more important than ever.

Our usual, social events and activities are unfortunately not possible at the moment but the FOSMS Team have found new and innovative ways to raise money.

This year we have been fortunate to be accepted as one of the Co-op's local causes and have set up Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising to enable everyone to support FOSMS whilst doing their usual online shopping!

Our School Lottery launched in January and the participation in the draws continues to grow each week.

Thank you to everyone who has supported FOSMS in any way; your help is greatly appreciated.

Look out for more ways to get involved in the coming weeks.

Parent Consultations – 2nd to 4th March 2021

Please use the form that Mrs Sellman emailed yesterday to book an online appointment with your child's class teacher.

The meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and raise any queries or concerns you may have.

Singalong with Martin

Unfortunately, we are unable to run After School Clubs at the moment. However, each Thursday, Martin Jones will lead a singing session on-line for all children should they wish to join. This session will provide children with the opportunity to meet and talk to friends and engage in an activity together.

There will be a £3 per family charge for the club which will be payable via ParentPay on a 'pay as you go' basis. Please log in and pay for the first session and register your child in the usual way over the half term break as the club will begin on Thursday 25th February, 4.15pm until 5pm.

Remote Learning Next Half Term

Thank you to all our parents and carers for facilitating home learning over the last few weeks. The staff and I appreciate your efforts during this challenging time to continue the education of the children.

Online, live lessons have been a huge learning curve for us all and we appreciate your feedback in order to keep improving our offer. I would encourage anyone who has any issues with teaching and learning within our school to contact me directly so they can be addressed.

Please could I politely remind everyone of our remote learning guidelines to ensure all children are able to engage fully:

- Please ensure your child and members of your household are appropriately dressed during live online lessons.
- Please discourage your child from changing the settings and over use of the mute button as this is causing staff members to be interrupted during their teaching and it is not fair on other learners.
- As tempting as it is to help your child when you are next to them, staff have asked you refrain from giving them the answers as this is not a true indication to staff as to their levels of understanding.
- The 'chat' function is only to be used when sending important messages to the teacher. Children should not be chatting prior to or during lessons as this is very distracting impacts negatively on learning.
- We appreciate it is extremely challenging to supervise your child when you are trying to work from home but we encourage parents to be close to their child to monitor their behaviour and support them when needed.