

# Newsletter

Issue 16

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4EU

<http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryipswich.com>



## Tweet of the Week

"In difficult and dark moments let us find the courage to say: "Blessed are you, Lord". Let us praise the Lord: this will be good for us."

[Pope Francis \(@Pontifex\)](#)



## SAFEGUARDING

Please be reassured that although the school is closed to some children, we are still here to support you and your family. If you have any safeguarding concerns please email [admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) and Mrs Berry will contact you directly.

## A letter from our Chair of Governors:

Dear Parents and Carers

I write as both a parent and as the Chair of Governors when I extend my gratitude to all the teachers and staff at school who have worked tirelessly to place work online so that children can continue their education at home. The current online learning is proving to be successful and whilst it will never be a perfect platform, it should be providing parents and carers with all the resources needed for our children to continue their learning. I hope you agree that the daily live lessons also make a real difference to the children; not only do they get to see their friends, it also gives them an opportunity to interact with their teachers.

The teachers have spent hours putting together resources to send home and are working in a very unusual way to record content and conduct live lessons to enable as much remote learning as possible. The planning, preparation and pre-records are highly time consuming and staff are regularly in school well into the evening. They are doing their very best and I am sure you will join me in expressing our appreciation.

It is also appreciated that parents and carers are going to great lengths at home too. I know personally that home schooling can be challenging, especially when there are other demands and work commitments to maintain. For those supporting their child(ren) with learning at home, this has highlighted the skills, patience and aptitude that our teachers are required to demonstrate each day.

It is important for me to state that the teachers and staff also continue to put themselves at risk by being in school and as a school community we sincerely thank them for doing so and recognise that their efforts certainly go beyond what is called for under normal circumstances. With this in mind, please can I ask each of you to carefully consider your need for use of “critical key worker” places at school. The spirit of the school provision is to provide care and supervision for children whose parents are key workers working away from the home. If you are working from home, then as difficult as it may be to work and support your child(ren) via remote learning, please really consider whether you must take the option of school place or whether you could provide that care and supervision at home. The more children at school, the higher the risk of transmission.

For those of you with children of different ages at home, or those working at home and home schooling or both, you may well be struggling to complete all of the school work as you can't be in two or three places at once. I understand what a difficult task this is. In these challenging times I wonder if it may be helpful for us to adjust our expectations – our best is good enough. If you are struggling to facilitate your children's learning, for whatever reason, please contact your child(ren)'s teachers who will be happy to help support you and your child/ren.

The staff team at St Mary's are aware of the pressures on us all and do not want home learning to be a source of stress. It is understood that some days will be better than others and that is ok. As the primary educators for your children at the current time you will know what is manageable for your family.

The school will continue to listen to feedback, build on the provision and fix any teething problems as we go along.

These are unique and challenging times which call for us to look after each other and ourselves. As a member of the St Mary's community my thoughts and prayers are with you all in these difficult times.

Very best wishes,

*Kevin*

Kevin Reilly  
Chair of Governors

### **Thank you to all of our Critical Workers**

The whole school community would like to thank all of our critical workers their on-going work during this pandemic.



## Activities

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/kids-cooking-recipes>



### Kids' cooking recipes - BBC Good Food

Create a bit of fun for kids by serving supper in a parcel. Open at the table to reveal delicious pink salmon, spaghetti, courgettes and tomatoes

[www.bbcgoodfood.com](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com)

<https://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/>

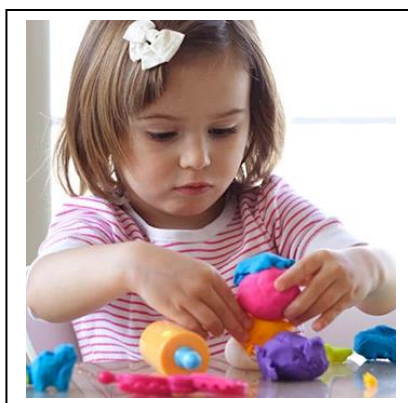


### Kids Science Experiments | Science Experiments for Kids | Science Fun

Science experiments you can do at home! Click on the experiment image or the view experiment link below for each experiment on this page to see the materials needed and procedure. Have fun trying these experiments at home or use them for SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT IDEAS.

[www.sciencefun.org](http://www.sciencefun.org)

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>



### Playdough recipe - BBC Good Food

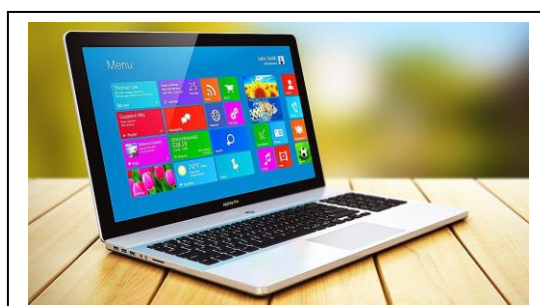
8 tbsp plain flour; 2 tbsp table salt; 60ml warm water; food colouring; 1 tbsp vegetable oil Method. 1. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl mix together the water, a few drops of food colouring and the oil.

[www.bbcgoodfood.com](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com)

## Online Safety tips from Mr Cook

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/10-ways-safely-entertain-your-kids-home>

Information for keeping safe online whilst entertaining your child.



## Year 6 Great team work

Year 6 during this weeks PE lesson.



## Dates for your Diary:

### Term dates for 2021

#### Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Half term:** 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Staff Training day:** 4<sup>th</sup> January

#### Summer Term 2021

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July

**Bank holiday:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**Half term:** 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June

**Staff Training days:** 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July (disaggregated)

**#YOUARENOTALONE**

**COVID-19 IS NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE.**

SUFFOLK DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE - FREEPHONE 24/7 ON  
**0800 977 5690**

**SuffolkCollective**  
Building positive and supportive relationships together

**ACT**  
Anglia Care Trust  
Support - Advice - Action

The banner features a teal background on the left with a white hand icon containing a heart, and an orange background on the right with white text. Logos for SuffolkCollective and ACT (Anglia Care Trust) are also present.