



St Mary's Newsletter

Issue 12

15th March 2024

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

<http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryipswich.com>

School Rules:

Be ready, Be respectful, Be safe

Tweet of the Week

"God seeks the humble who hope in Him, not in themselves and their own plans. Christian humility is not simply one virtue among others. It is the basic disposition of life. We believe we are in need of God and make room for Him, putting all our trust in Him."

Pope Francis (@Pontifex)

Week Commencing 18th March 2024

Mon 18th Mar: Year 4 Swimming (Last Session)

Mon 18th Mar: Year 6 Parents' Evening (Virtual through School Cloud)

Tues 19th Mar: Parents' Evening (Virtual through School Cloud) Reception – Year 5

Thurs 21st Mar: Parents' Evening (Virtual through School Cloud) All Year Groups

Fri 22nd Mar: Dress to Express Day

Thurs 28th Mar: Easter Liturgy 9am in Church
Parents/carers welcome

At St Mary's our Year 6 Worship Council and Minnie Vinnies led each class through the Stations of the Cross. At each Station the children were able to reflect, pray and think about the moments which led to Jesus' death. All the children, at each station, said these words: "Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world." These words really helped the children reflect upon the meaning of the stations. Our photos show Year 6 pupils supporting Year 1 through this special trail.

The prayer that the children said together at the ninth Station was one that really made them reflect and think deeply:

"Jesus, you felt the darkness around you, the crowds surrounded you.

You fell once more.

Walk with us.

When we lose hope, when everything is just too difficult, shows us how to reach out to each other and hold hands so that none of us have to do everything on our own.

Help us to know that you walk alongside us even when we feel most alone."

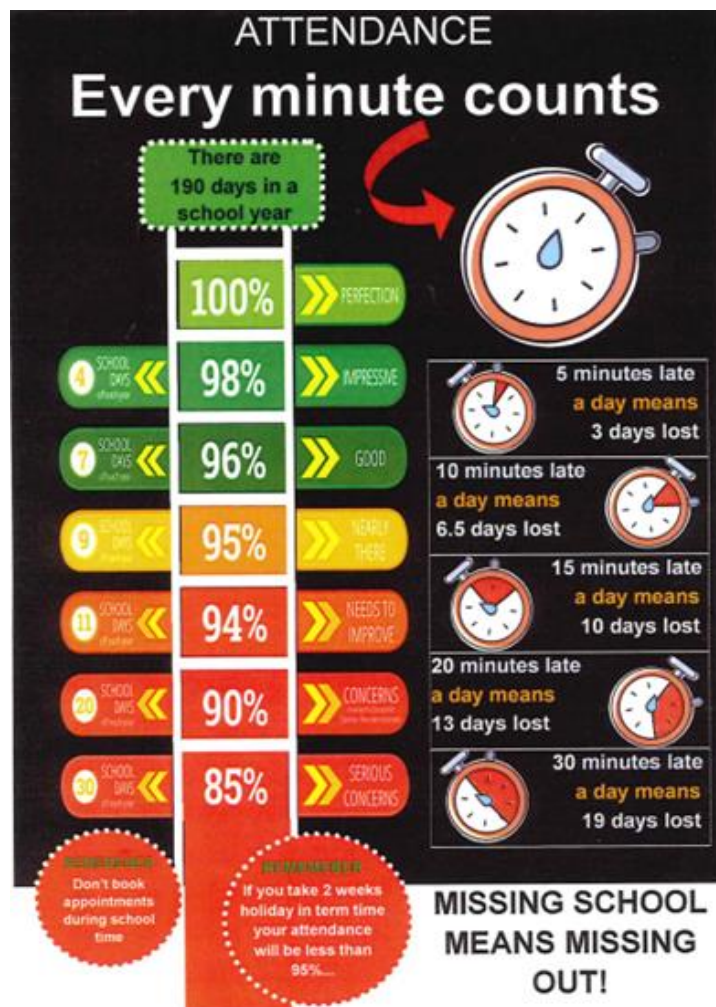


READY TO LEARN

William Shakespeare wrote "Better three hours too soon than a minute too late." While we don't expect our children to arrive in the early hours of the morning, please ensure that they are in the playground at 8.40am for when the bell rings. The roads are busy in Ipswich but perhaps leave a few minutes early to account for this. A late arrival after 8.50am means the class has already started and this is disruptive for your child and others in the class. Please remind children to come equipped for the day.



If your child is ill, please leave a message on the School Absence Line (01473 728372) before 8am, or send an email to: admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk We do ask that all children who have been sick or had diarrhoea remain at home until 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. Please try to make appointments outside of school hours, however, for unavoidable medical appointments we do request notice in advance.

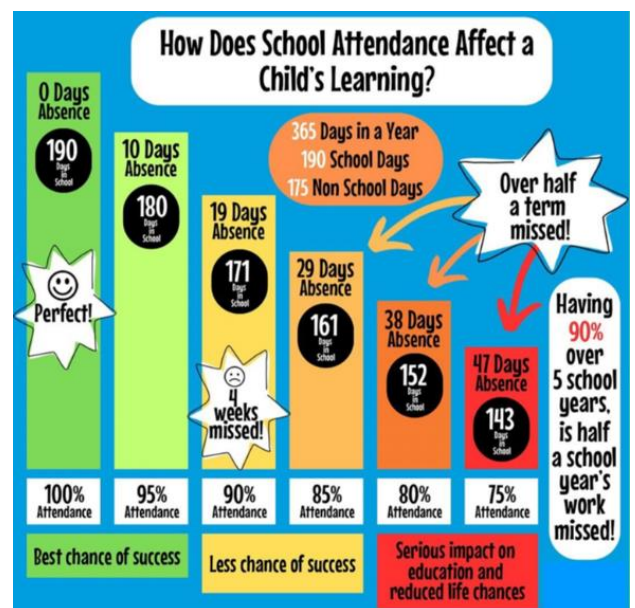


ATTENDANCE

Please take time to read and familiarise yourself with our Trust Attendance Policy: [Attendance Policy](#)

Please be aware that the school is unable to authorise holiday requests for absence during term time.

If you arrive after 8.50am, please come to the Office to sign the late book. It is really important that you ensure your child arrives at school between 8.40 and 8.50am.



PARENTMAIL/COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

The school uses Parentmail to communicate with parents/carers and it is very important everyone is able to access our messages. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties in receiving messages, as you may miss some crucial information.

If you move house or update your telephone number or email address, it is vital that we are kept informed. Please email us so that we can update our records with your new contact details:
admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk



SPORTS CLUBS SUMMER TERM 2024

Mondays

Football Club (years 3, 4 & 5 boys) 3.30-4.30pm.

Thursdays

Football Club (years 3, 4 & 5 girls) starts at 8am.

Fridays

Multisports Club (years 1, 2 & 3) starts at 8am.

Handball & Dodgeball (years 4, 5 & 6) starts at 12.10pm.

Cricket & Rounders Club (years 4, 5 & 6) 3.30-4.30pm.

Please contact the School Office for further information.



MUSIC LESSONS

Reminder of days when pre-booked and pre-paid lessons take place.

Mondays – Violin

Tuesdays – Brass

Thursdays – Woodwind

Please encourage your children to remember their instrument!



School Competition



Calling all children - we have 10 Lego sets, each worth up to £50, up for grabs!



Competition rules

- You must be registered to play Beat the Street and be active in the game (there is no minimum time you need to have played for - new players are welcome too!)
- You must have completed the registration health survey

That's it, that's all you have to do!

Winners will be picked at random over the next two weeks, starting from Monday 11 March.

We can't wait to see you out there!





Comic Strip Awareness

SENDIASS is hosting a relaxed online session for parents and carers exploring how comic strip drawing can be used in school and at home to help children and young people develop social understanding.

The presentation will be delivered by specialist teachers from Suffolk's Communication and Interaction Service. This is one of the [Specialist Education Services](#) which support schools to support pupils with different special educational needs.

The session will explore:

- How drawing can support children and young people to better understand their own feelings and other people's feelings in social situations
- Examples and practical ideas to build your confidence in creating and using your own comic strip drawings.

27th March 2024

10am – 11am

[Click to register](#)

What parents have said about this session:

'Thank you so much, this has been incredibly helpful and supportive.'

'This was really useful, clear and simple and something I hope to use with my son. Thank you!'

[Booking Link for Comic Strip Awareness](#)

NEW BEGINNINGS

A CHILDREN'S WRITING COMPETITION

Suffolk Archives are inviting children across Suffolk to take part in a story writing competition.

Suffolk Archives is delivering the project **Arrivals: Celebrating Migration to Suffolk**, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is collecting and celebrating stories of migration to Suffolk.

The competition is for young people to write a story or poem telling a story of arriving in a new home.

Below are some ideas to get you started...

These stories don't have to be about people, it could be about animals, aliens, boats...be imaginative!

Who did your character start their journey with? Who did they meet along the way?

When you character arrives in a new place, what can they see, smell, hear? Tell us about their experiences!

Are there new foods they tried or brought with them? What is life like in their new home?

Age Categories and Prizes

There are two age categories, 5-7 and 8-11. Winning entrants will receive a free family of 4 ticket to Suffolk Archives 2024 summer exhibition Brick Wonders, and a goody bag!

The Rules

Entries need to be received by Friday 12th April 2024 and 500 word maximum

Include your name, school name and contact telephone number or email

By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to our Terms and Conditions

Ask permission from a parent or guardian before entering

Any questions? archives@suffolk.gov.uk

You can submit one of three ways:

Email us – archives@suffolk.gov.uk

Post – The Hold, 131 Fore Street, Ipswich, IP4 1LR

Google Forms via the QR code here



ARRIVALS

CELEBRATING MIGRATION TO SUFFOLK



Please see this link for further information: [New Beginnings Children's Writing Competition](#)

WORLD BOOK DAY PHOTOS








**Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week**

On Friday 22nd March, we would like all children to take part on our 'Dress to Express Day'!

Our lives are full of colour and children can use colour to help make sense of how they are feeling and acknowledge through this that we are all unique and that different is 'OK'!

On this day, your child could wear their favourite colour or choose a range of colours or patterns that express themselves as an individual.

On this day we will be raising money to support the work of Suffolk Young Carers, along with brightening up the outside of our school. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and can be given in an envelope to your class teacher or staff on the morning gate.

**DRESS TO
EXPRESS**
Friday
22 March

Surviving Winter APPEAL 2023/24



Do you need help paying your fuel bill this Winter?

- Is your combined household income less than £35,000?
- Are you currently not receiving any means-tested benefits?
- Are your combined household savings less than £1,500?
- Is your home address in Suffolk?

If the answer is yes, then you may be eligible for a fuel grant.

Please call the Surviving Winter team at Citizens
Advice on 01473 298634 or visit
citizensadviceipswich.org/surviving-winter



SUFFOLK
Community
Foundation



Gooseberry Dental
62 Berners Street
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 3LU

email: admin@gooseberrydental.co.uk

Tel: 01473 254513

12th March 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

NHS DENTAL APPOINTMENTS FOR CHILDREN

Here at Gooseberry Dental we are mindful of the issue parents/guardians currently face in obtaining treatment for children under the NHS. With this in mind, we at Gooseberry Dental have decided to open our books to children within the Ipswich area who are not currently registered with an NHS Dentist.

We will also be offering intermittent Saturday appointments for children commencing
Saturday 16th March 2024

Should you wish to register a child with us, please do telephone the surgery as soon as possible. Places will be limited and we expect a large response.

Should you wish to know more about our surgery or dental practitioners, please see our website or speak with our team.

We look forward to meeting you.

With warm wishes,

Gooseberry Dental

www.gooseberrydental.co.uk

St Alban's Catholic High School



Open Mornings

An opportunity to visit and experience the school as a live, learning environment, see our outstanding facilities and talk with key staff members.

Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th July 2024
9.10am – 10:25am

To book a tour please
scan the QR code



St Alban's is part of the
Our Lady of Walsingham
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

St Alban's Catholic High School
Digby Road, Ipswich, IP4 3NJ
Telephone 01473 705266
@StAlbansHigh
stalbanishigh_ipswich

LEARNING RESPECTING CARING

#thetalbansway

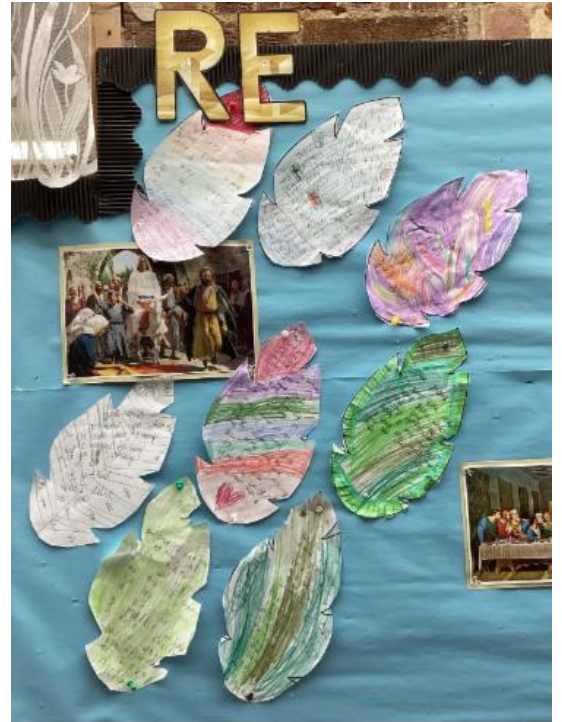


SPOTLIGHT ON

YEAR 2

RE

This term we have begun our learning about Holy Week. We have learned that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey and was greeted by lots of people with palm leaves. We have begun to learn about the Stations of the Cross and visited the church on Thursday afternoon.



DT

We had great fun designing our cars out of recycled materials. We thought hard about our chassis, axles and wheels. Once we'd made our cars, we had races in the Willow Garden!



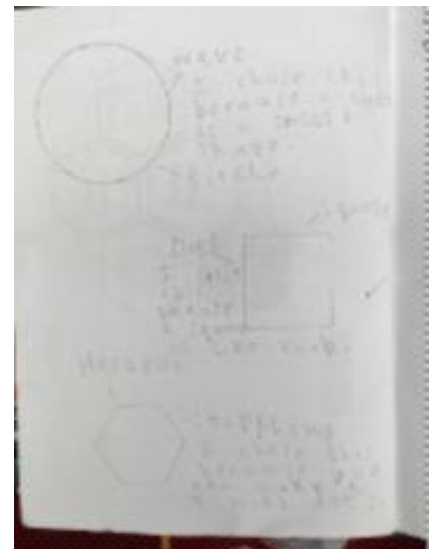
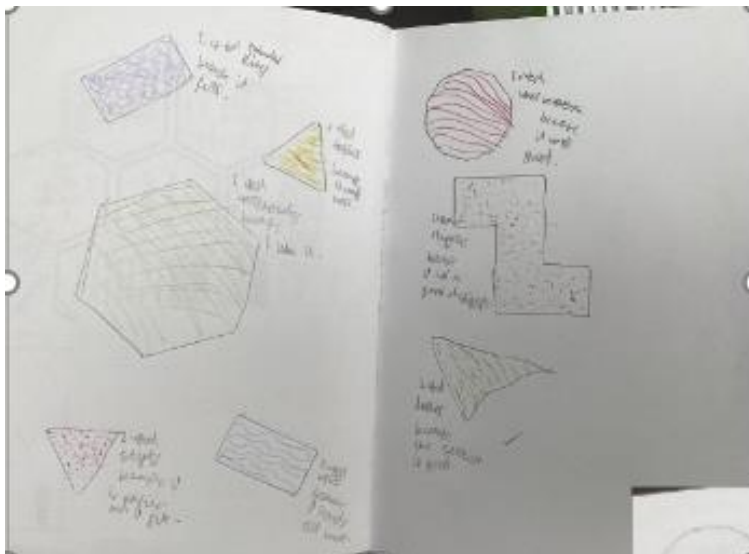
HISTORY

We have been learning about the history of Felixstowe, including what happened in 1953 – The Great Flood of Felixstowe! We role-played as experts trying to warn the local people about what would happen.



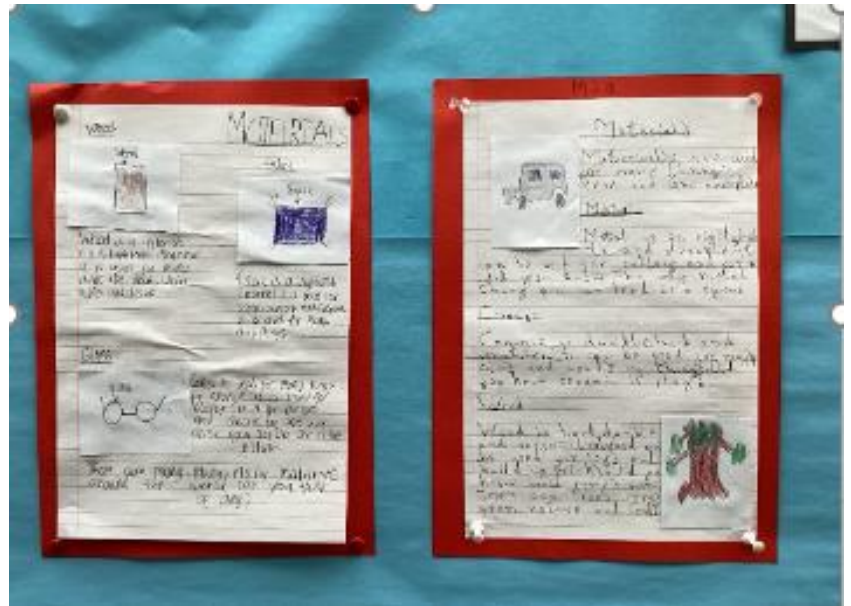
ART

We have been recapping our drawing techniques this term. We have been learning how to stipple, crosshatch, dash and swirl to create interesting effects.



WRITING/SCIENCE

We created non-chronological reports to support our science learning on materials. We have learned that there are lots of different materials that have different properties. For example, glass is usually transparent and brittle, whereas metal is opaque and durable.



ART/GEOGRAPHY

In geography we have been learning about Nairobi in Kenya and how it compares to London. We learned about the Masai tribe and created some facepaint artwork and pointillism patterns.



NSPCC LISTEN UP, SPEAK UP



It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes a community to keep children safe.

That's why the NSPCC is encouraging every adult in the UK to take their 10-minute digital training and learn how to listen up and speak up for children.

Listen up, Speak up will show you:

- *some signs a child might be at risk, and steps you can take to help
- *how to approach difficult conversations to help keep children safe
- *who you can contact if you're ever concerned about a child or their family.

Follow this link: [NSPCC Listen up, Speak up 10-minute Training](#)

Worried about a child?

If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure, contact the NSPCC Helpline to speak to a counsellor. Call us on 0808 800 5000, or email help@nspcc.org.uk

IN NEED OF SUPPORT?

Some sources of support are as follows:

<https://healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk/signposting/youngpeople/>

You can call Childline about anything on 0800 1111. There is the option to speak with one of its councillors. It also has plenty of information on its website, including information about Cyberbullying: <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

[Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Hub](#)

Information, advice and support for anyone concerned about the emotional wellbeing and mental health of a child or young person aged 0 to 25 years. Link above or call 0345 600 2090.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Anyone can call Samaritans on 116 123. It does not matter how old you are or what is bothering you. [This page](#) on the Samaritans website tells you what to expect if you call them.

If you are concerned about an immediate risk to the safety of a child, please call [Customer First](#) on 0808 800 4005.

In an emergency, call the Police on 999.

Spring Term Dates

4th March – Book Week
7th March – World Book Day
11th March – Science Week
19th March – 3.30-6pm parents evening
21st March – 4.30-7pm parents evening
22nd March – 1.15pm KS2 reconciliation
28th March – Easter Liturgy 9am in church

Term dates for 2023 – 2024

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April – Friday 19th July
Bank holiday: 6th May
Half term: 27th May – 31st May
Staff Training day: 12th April

Term dates for 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term 2024

Wednesday 4th September – Friday 20th December
Half term: 28th October – 1st November
Staff Training day: 2nd September, 3rd September &
4th November

Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 4th April
Half term: 17th February – 21st February
Staff Training day: 6th January

Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23rd April – Tuesday 22nd July
Bank holiday: 5th May
Half term: 26th May – 30th May
Staff Training day: 22nd April