

# St. Mary's Mail



Date: 13th November 2020

Bi- Weekly News from St.Mary's

Dates For Your Diary

## Goodbye Mrs Lewis!



It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Lewis next week. Mrs Lewis has worked at St Marys for a just over 20 years and is a highly valued member of our team. In recent years Mrs Lewis has supported children in the classroom, has provided speech and language tuition for some of our youngest learners and has been our pastoral support assistant for children in KS2. Mrs Lewis has accompanied the children on many residential trips in both year 4 and in year 6 and I know that whilst these excursions are exhausting, Mrs Lewis has always valued the time in getting to know the children.

In addition to this, with her nursing background, Mrs Lewis has always been someone that we have looked to support children with medical needs and in this role, I know she has been a tremendous support to children and parents alike.

## Children In Need

It was great to see the children in fancy dress, wearing spots and sporting the Pudsey merchandise in school today. We are once again proud to support this incredible charity who exist to change the lives of children and young people across the UK.

At the time of sharing this newsletter, the school community had raised £454 which is an a great achievement.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated but do not worry if you have yet to give to the cause; our Just Giving page is still open: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmarysyate>



## Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 16th November

Each year we take part in the National Anti-Bullying Week. Whilst acting to eradicate bullying from schools and the wider society is always high on our agenda, this week's focus enables us to further raise awareness of the impact bullying has on children and reinforces messages that together we must stand up and speak out against bullying behaviour.

In kick-starting our week, we invite children to wear odd or silly socks to school on Monday. By wearing odd socks we celebrate that we are all unique! If you would like to find out more click on the link below:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/odd-socks-day>

If you would like some advice or support you can always speak to the school or if you would prefer you can contact Kidscape Advice Line: 02078235430, Whats app: 07496682785 or email [parentsupport@kidscape.org.uk](mailto:parentsupport@kidscape.org.uk)



16th Nov 2020 Odd socks for Anti-Bullying

16th Nov 2020 Reception 2021 virtual tours

20th Nov 2020 Individual school photographs

## Blue Peter on YouTube

We are big fans of Blue Peter at St. Marys so were excited to see that the BBC have now launched a BP YouTube channel. Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and they are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. They will have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how to's, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. They will also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge which as you will know is a much celebrated achievement in school!

To subscribe follow the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter>

## Family Food for Free

A local family supporting those in need in our community are asking for help with the following items:

Cereal, squash, pasta sauce, biscuits, tinned fruit, rice pudding, tinned meat, jams & spread

We will have a collection box by the office door from 16th—20th November, any donations will be gratefully received.

A message from SafeToNet



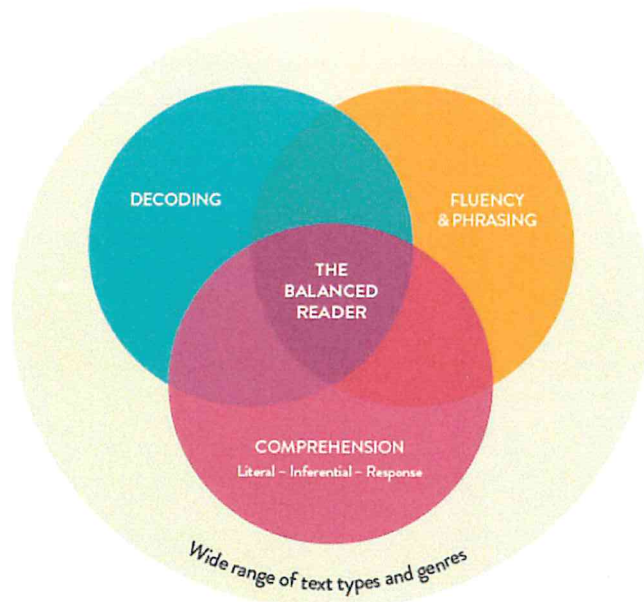
As part of SafeToNet's support for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 parents can now get a **60-DAY FREE ACCESS** to SafeToNet's pioneering safeguarding app.

Visit [safetonet.com/abw2020](https://safetonet.com/abw2020) and use the code **ABW2020** to sign up now and make sure your children are safer online.

## Home Reading Books

As previously shared, we have recently introduced PM Benchmarking as a form of assessing children as readers. This assessment not only informs us of children's next step in their learning but it also identifies the band in which a child should be reading which ensures that they are supported in their development as a reader. The information on the reverse of this newsletter has been shared previously but we felt it was good to review now that we are a term in and children have been bringing books home for some weeks.





### Reading Book Bands for Y2 – Y6

All children in KS2 will be assessed using PM Benchmarking and our reading scheme is now fully matched to this. Reading books are now grouped into bands by colour with appropriate Rainbow Reads to accompany and complement each band. Rainbow Reads are books that are challenging but age-appropriate to nurture the student's enjoyment and choice when selecting books which will replace previous "Free-Reader" books. All children in KS2 will be given a book band book and teachers will monitor when the time is right for children to progress onto a Rainbow Read within their band or onto the next reading band. To support us in nurturing our children as balanced readers, we ask for your support with the books your child brings home by discussing the book and using the reading and comprehension activities in most of the books as a way to deepen understanding.

### A Balanced Reader

A balanced reader works with many skills when reading. Pulling the skills of decoding (using phonics to read words), fluency and phrasing (sight reading accuracy and expression) and comprehension (drawing meaning from the words) means that children are more likely to be successful readers. It is not harder books that make good readers but deeper understanding of books they are reading. During our initial assessments using PM benchmarking, our focus is gaining a good understanding of how children are able to use these skills to read. It may be that the books your child brings home in the first few weeks or months seems easier than the books they previously read but they may be working on developing another area of their reading skills.

### St Mary's dress up for Children in Need

