



*Our Vision:*

*At St Mary's, inspired by Christian values we are excited about our learning, proud of our achievements, determined to be the best we can be and caring of all God's creations.*

### CELEBRATION!

We are proud and delighted to inform you, that the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection on 13 February judged the school as excellent in all areas.

- St Mary's is excellent because the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, is excellent in enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- Collective worship is excellent because it is 'inspirational in developing staff and pupils' understanding of the Christian faith. Pupils and adults feel inspired and uplifted by worship which influences their lives.
- Religious education is excellent because, 'it is taught extremely well so that pupils make exceptionally good progress. Pupils are inspired by RE and enjoy discussing contrasting views and comparing beliefs of different faiths'.

A huge thankyou to all staff and children for the amazing work they do day by day and to parents for all your support. The report is attached, so please do enjoy reading about what makes our school an excellent Church school.

## Coronavirus

There is justifiably a lot of anxiety everywhere about the coronavirus. There is some very helpful news and some fake news. We have sent you regular DfE bulletins which come to us daily. We would like to reassure you about the measures we are taking in school:

- Handwashing is the main pre-emptive measure. Children are reminded regularly about washing thoroughly for 20 seconds, singing happy birthday twice, or counting 1 to 20 elephants (1 elephant, 2 elephants to 20) the Lord's Prayer also takes 20 seconds. They are also told to dry thoroughly as this is as important as washing.
- All classrooms have handwashing facilities.
- All classrooms have sanitiser gel, but this is not a substitute for thorough hand washing.
- Sneezing and coughing: children must use tissues, bin them and wash their hands. Coughing and sneezing into the elbow does not work for young children, germs can live on fabric.
- Staff are being vigilant and supporting children by allowing extra time for washing.
- We are working with DfE advice, the most recent today has given us posters, catch it, kill it, bin it and these are going up around the school.
- The standards of our regular cleaning is high with all tables and surfaces wiped down every day. In addition we are cleaning door handles twice a day.

All of this is done in a very low key way so as not to raise anxiety for the children. Some are clearly concerned and we have told them what we know, that the illness is like flu and the vast majority of people recover as they do from flu.

Currently there is no advice about school closure. Should anyone come into contact with the virus or be infected, this will be reviewed and parents informed at the time. We will make whatever decisions are necessary with the advice available. Clearly we cannot plan ahead for this, and we ask for your support and cooperation should we need to close at short notice. Currently though, there is no need for this.

### How you can help:

- Remind children about handwashing
- Please send your child with a small individual pack of tissues. If you are able, please send in a box for the class. Our budget is being stretched buying extra hand wash, towels and sanitiser, so tissue contributions will be gratefully received.
- Managing your child's questions, concerns. Some parents have asked how to manage this: just answer the child's question with facts you know. There is no need to add any further information. If they are happy then that's fine. If they ask further questions, just use the same approach. At a time of such anxiety, children need to be realistically reassured.

### Next steps:

We are so used to being able to plan ahead, but for the management of this we are in the hands of the government and local authority. We only have the information you have, but are happy to discuss anything with you that will help to support your own decisions. In the event of a directive to close, we will notify you at the time. It is advisable to ask your employers about your position in the event of this happening so that you are able to plan.

### Children's absence:

- Self-isolation: in the event of this happening, it would be classified as an authorised absence.
- If you or any of your immediate family exhibit symptoms, please dial 111 or go on line for advice. In the event of infection, please do not send your child to school. Please phone and ask to speak to Mrs Adams or Mrs Constantinou.
- Should you feel at any stage that you would prefer your child not to be in school, please discuss this with us. Call the office and ask to speak to Mrs Adams or Mrs Constantinou. If we are unable to speak immediately we will book a time to speak within the day of the call. These will be treated on a case by case basis.

If you have any concerns, please ask to speak with us. We are not medically qualified but are here to manage a difficult situation and make sure that things carry on as normally as possible for the staff and children. Please be assured of our vigilance.

On that note, we are having some wonderful times in school as ever. Year 1 and 2 are at Willows Farm today, year 6 are performing in the Barnet Schools Dance Festival on Friday and the football team won their match last week. Day to day it is business as usual with all children learning and enjoying and playing as normal.