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NEWSLETTER NO 8

Friday 16th October 2020

Our School Vision:

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

Dear Parents and Carers

We have come to the end of another busy week in school.
As always, we have plenty to tell you!

Consultations:

As explained in a previous newsletter, consultations will all take place via Zoom starting a couple of weeks after half term. We will notify you by text when you can book a 10-minute slot online to speak to your child's teacher. For families new to the school, booking will be done via Teachers2Parents and a text link will be sent to you, taking you straight to the booking site.

As using Zoom for consultations is new to all of us, we will be writing guidance for parents and carers after half term so please look out for this.

Goodbye Mrs. Duncan:

It's with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Julie Duncan next week in her 24th year of service to St. Mary's School as she will soon be moving to Gloucestershire to be nearer her two lovely grandchildren.

In the time that she has been here, Mrs. Duncan has supported **hundreds** of children as a teaching assistant and has been our school librarian and book club leader, helping children to foster a love of reading. Her brilliant practice as a teaching assistant has even gone beyond St. Mary's and has featured in training material which has been used nationally to develop the effectiveness of support staff in other schools.



St Mary's

Church of England

Primary School



Here are a few words from Mrs. Duncan:

"I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to friends, colleagues, children and the many families who have helped make my time working at St. Mary's a pleasure and a privilege.

Although I am sad to leave, I am looking forward to spending more time with my two young grandchildren."

Julie goes with our love and prayers as the next new and exciting chapter of her life unfolds.

Tier 2 Restrictions:

As of Saturday 17th October, all of London will be subject to [Tier 2 Restrictions](#) to support with reducing the spread of COVID. These restrictions mean people cannot meet other households socially indoors - whether at home or at other venues. **This means that children should not be going on indoor play dates and mixing in other households after school.**

The Rule of Six still applies in outdoor settings - as it does all over the country, so please continue to observe this particularly when coming and going from school premises.

The safety of all in school, which includes the school remaining open for all children, depends on all families being vigilant in maintaining the regulations to avoid infection being brought into the school.

Playtimes:

The children are really enjoying having the playground to themselves at different times in the day. So that class bubbles do not cross over, we are using the front playground across the day too. As part of our safeguarding duty, we are actively discouraging children from engaging in any way with passers by. If you are in the village at break time, please refrain from calling your children over or making any contact with them.

Reception parents:

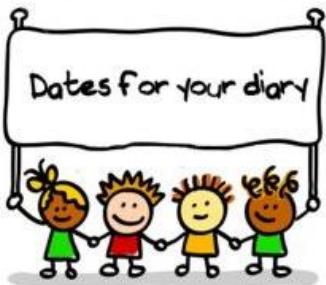
As you know, we have reviewed the way that Reception parents leave the playground. This is in the interests of your safety. Please wait to be directed by senior staff to leave via the Church Hill Gate so that we can safely dismiss all of the previous class before you enter the path to the outer zone. Do continue to observe social distancing as you make your way out.

Reminders:

- Please ensure that your child wears a **NAMED** school jumper or warm school cardigan in class, as rooms continue to need good ventilation, even in cooler weather. Children must continue to wear school uniform but you may send in an additional cardigan/jumper to wear in addition if they are cold in the classroom.
- The children will need to have a **NAMED** warm coat or jacket with them every day in school, even if it's dry in the morning. The weather is so changeable! They are spending at least an hour each day on play and outdoor activities.
- Please continue to take action to protect yourself and your child including:
 - Following government advice on social distancing, self-isolation, wearing face coverings in public closed spaces such as public transport and practicing good hand hygiene.

- If you or your child have symptoms of cough, fever or loss of smell or taste, contact NHS test and Trace to get tested, and isolate with your household - <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/nhs-test-and-trace-service>

In addition to our in-school infection control measures, the safety of the children and staff relies on everyone following the advice outside of school.



Dates for your diary:

- Half term: 26th- 30th October 2020
- Staff Training Day: Monday 2nd November
- Children return on Tuesday 3rd November
- Consultation dates TBC after half term

From all of us at St Mary's primary school, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers be with you as always.

**Maria Constantinou and Mel Adams
Headteachers**