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St Mary's
Church of England
Primary School

NEWSLETTER No. 6

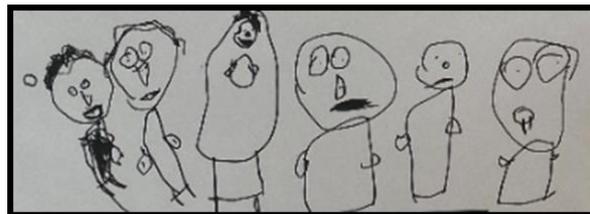
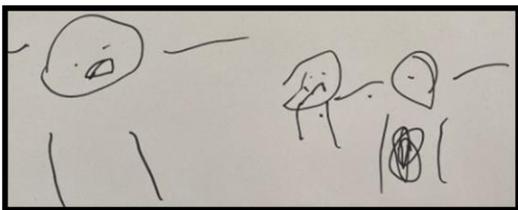
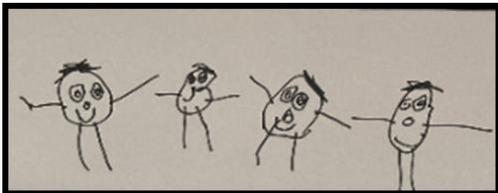
Friday 2 October 2020

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 welcomed Reception this week for their first full days in school. They have managed so well with the new routines and we are very proud of them! Here is a small selection of the wonderful artwork they have produced to introduce themselves and their families to us:



Harvest Festival: Tuesday 9 October 2020

We will be supporting [Homeless Action in Barnet](#) and the [Trussell Trust at Chipping Barnet](#) Food Bank as always at Harvest time. This is a time for giving and thinking of others.



We will need to organise donations differently this year, as children and parents cannot come into the hall as usual. For that reason, we'd like to ask for you to **offer a donation in a plastic bag**. The children should take their plastic bag with them to class in the morning and we will arrange for them to be collected.

There is a particular need for donations of:

Diocese of St Albans
London Borough of Barnet



- Protein based donations e.g. tinned fish and meat
- Biscuits
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned, dried or instant potatoes
- Pasta sauces
- Juice
- Toilet roll
- Microwavable rice pouches
- Cup/Pot Noodles
- Tea/Coffee/Sugar



Please send tins and packets only, **not toiletries, fresh fruit and vegetables**. Please give what you can to support. **Any** donation would be gratefully received.

Barnet Lighthouses:

A new community initiative has been launched by East Barnet Baptist Church (EBBC) to share a message of hope in the streets of Barnet by inviting local residents to sign up to be part of a week-long trail at the end of October.



The idea behind it is to decorate one of the windows in your home (that can be viewed from the street), based on the themes of light or love. Your home would therefore become a 'lighthouse'. Those who would like to become a 'lighthouse' need to register to take by **Monday 19th October** following this link to EBBC's website <https://ebarnetbaptist.org.uk/barnetlighthouses/>

Address details will be kept confidential and will be used to produce a map showing the approximate locations of each home that is taking part. The map will be available for participants to download from EBBC's website a few day before the trail starts.

How to get involved

Your window display can be as creative and imaginative as you like – using the themes of

light and love.

If you don't feel that you have the talent or resources to produce a "work of art" you could put a lantern in your window; hang up some fairy lights; use a light box or a rope light to write a message.

The trail will run from **Sunday 25th October to Sunday 1st November 2020**. Windows should be lit up between 5pm – 9pm each evening that week, so that people passing by can view them.



**NHS COVID-19
App**

On Thursday last week, the [NHS launched its COVID-19 app](#). It is available to download for anyone over the age of 16. A major function of the app is to automatically alert individuals if they have been in close contact with a confirmed case. It does this by using Bluetooth to assess the distance, over time, between users of the app.

The free NHS COVID-19 app is a vital part of the NHS Test and Trace service in England. You might like to download the app which is a key tool in the national response to COVID-19. The more people that download it and respond to its notifications, the slower the virus will spread.

[Get help downloading the app](#) and [Read more in common questions](#).



Local information: Barnet.

The local authority has provided us with the following link from their website. It is regularly updated with the latest information and advice about Coronavirus/Covid in the area.

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/Barnet-weekly-COVID-19-dashboard>

Friends of St. Mary's AGM:

The first Friends Meeting of this academic year is coming up on **Monday 5th October at 7pm**. Although many events were cancelled last year due to Coronavirus, the Friends are back and ready to start fundraising again for the children at St. Mary's. If you have the next big idea, want to use your skill set to help with the organisation of events, or you are just interested to see what the Friends of St. Mary's are all about, then please join in!



As we still cannot meet face to face, the meeting will be via Zoom.

Please look out for the link which will be sent via email on Monday.

Reminders:

- Please ensure that your child wears a 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 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.
- If you think you may have left a scooter in school prior to general school closure in March, please contact the office to describe it and arrange to collect it.
- It is essential that parents and carers maintain at least 2m distance from others when arriving and leaving school. The reason we ask for masks on site now is that we cannot provide enough space for you to distance at 2m. Government advice is that any contact, however brief, at less than 2m could lead to infection.



- Please do not congregate on the pavements outside the school gates. If you are waiting outside the gate, please remember to do so along the wall. Standing elsewhere causes an obstruction to members of the public putting both you and them at risk. Barnet has seen an increase in reported numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases with 114 confirmed in the past week, up 81 from the previous week. Please continue to be vigilant and safe.
- 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.

A Harvest Prayer which we will say at our harvest worship on Tuesday:

At this harvest time we thank you for the hard work of all those who grow, protect and prepare our food; for the shopkeepers, the transport delivery drivers, the processors and the farmers. Bless all those, Lord, who do not earn a fair day's pay for their hard work both at home and in other countries. Help us to buy local produce and fairly traded goods wherever we can so that everyone can work with dignity and there will be no more poverty.

Amen



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**