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St Mary's
Church of England
Primary School

Newsletter No 14 Friday 4th December 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 hope you are all safe and well.

Christmas Cards:

Just a reminder that children can start to bring in Christmas cards for anyone in their bubble. To help with additional infection control, it would be most advisable for the children to avoid licking and sticking envelopes! Please help them as needed to use a glue stick or tape to seal envelopes and remind the children to wash their hands at home once they open their cards.



End of term festivities in School:

Christmas celebrations will go ahead as planned, albeit slightly differently in school...

Wednesday 16th - Christmas lunch:

- Although we cannot come together as a whole school to share this joyous occasion, the children will still have their special Christmas meal in their class bubbles, music included of course. If the children would like to bring in a Christmas hat to wear, then they are very welcome to!

Christmas Gifts for the Children:

- Although Father Christmas won't be making an appearance this year in the way that he usually would with all the children in infant classes... , Mother Christmas and her team of elves will be making their way round to all class bubbles to share some Christmas gifts and joy!

Class Parties:

- The children will all enjoy a party on the afternoon of Thursday 17th December. The children may come in an outfit of their choice (no football kits or fancy dress items please). Do be mindful that the children will need to wear something warm all day. Teachers will send out information about parties nearer the time and please look out for a 'party donation' on School Money so that we can buy some party snacks for the children to enjoy.

Homeless Action in Barnet and Food Bank Donations

As we approach Christmas, we are fully aware that some families may find this time even more challenging than usual. The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on so many people in addition to existing, difficult circumstances. For this reason, at this important time of giving, we'd like to invite you to offer a donation to Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB) and the Chipping Barnet Foodbank as we did at Harvest time. Please bring items to class **in a plastic bag** on **Monday 14th or Tuesday 15th December**. See below for suggestions from both HAB and the Food Bank.

Supplies Update

This week we need

- Men's thermal underwear
- Small jars of tomato pasta sauce
- Coffee jars
- UHT milk
- 'Mug shots' pasta meals in a mug
- Small bags of crisps
- Small tins of fruit
- Hot water bottles
- Small thermos flasks

As much as we would love to store clothes, shoes etc not listed above, we have very limited storage space at present. Please hang on to them for a little while and we'll update you when this changes

Thank you!

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

TINNED MEAT (HAM, CHICKEN, BEEF)
TINNED SALMON AND OTHER FISH
TINNED FRUIT

WE HAVE PLENTY OF

BAKED BEANS
TOMATO SOUP
RICE
PASTA
TEA
MINCE PIES
CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Nuts and Products containing Nuts

We have a number of children in school with very serious nut allergies and for this reason please remember that school is a nut free zone. Children must not bring in any items containing nuts. If your child has a packed lunch, please be sure to check the contents. This includes ingredients in cereal bars and pasta salad e.g. those with a pesto dressing.

Keeping warm – It's all about layering!

As you know, we must continue to keep classrooms well ventilated as part of our infection control measures. So despite the cool weather, windows remain open. So the children can work comfortably in class, please remember to send them in with additional layers e.g. sports base layer 'skins', extra cardigan/jumper – these don't need to be school uniform items and should be worn under or over their uniforms. Children cannot easily work whilst wearing coats as it is not practical or comfortable and they need them for extra warmth when they go outside to play.

Advent:

This week our Collective Worship focus has been on Advent and have begun exploring the Christmas Story with the children. Whilst we have continued with our focus on Thankfulness, we have also looked at the values of Joy and Courage in our reflections about Mary.

When the children were asked why God chose Mary to help bring Jesus into the World, they said some incredible things. Here are just a few examples of their thoughts:



- ♥ *Because if you read the Bible, it said that before she was chosen she believed in God and did all of the things God asked her to do when he created the world*
- ♥ *I think he chose Mary because she was a humble woman who believed in God*
- ♥ *She trusted in God and was happy with what she had*
- ♥ *Mary was special and God wanted the baby to be special too*
- ♥ *She was brave.*
- ♥ *Mary had done all of the right things in life*

Reminders of dates for your diary:

- Friday 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day (donations via School Money please). Children don't need brand new jumpers! See last Friday's newsletter for more...
- Friday 18th December – final day of term. The children will finish at their usual finishing time to avoid any cross over of class bubbles.

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**



CORONAVIRUS:

Thank you for everything you are all doing to help keep yourselves and one another safe during this challenging period.

Whilst the national lockdown ended this week, Barnet entered **Tier 2 'High Alert'** restrictions on Wednesday 2nd December. Please see an overview of what this means:



TIER 2 HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	BARNS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Open.</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Open.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower)</p>

Bubbles: What this means in school

Children are grouped into class bubbles in school. This also includes the staff that work with them including their class teacher, teaching assistants and teachers that cover the class teacher's weekly planning time. We work very hard to ensure that we do not compromise the integrity of bubbles.

The guidance is very clear with regard to meeting with friends and family for example outside of school. 'No mixing with households indoors... maximum of six outdoors.' Please consider this very seriously when you are planning any social events for your child outside of school e.g. birthday parties.

Close Proximity:

Thank you to so many of you who are wearing face coverings at drop off and pick up time to protect others. If you find that when you are on school premises, another parent is speaking to you from a distance that you are not comfortable with, please politely tell them. Senior staff on duty may come and remind parents and carers to maintain distances as this is a significant measure in infection control. If we do approach you about this, it is because we care about your health and that of your family.

Remote Learning:

Just a reminder:

- In the event of a bubble closure because of a confirmed positive Covid case: daily learning will be provided on Google Classroom to reflect what the children would be doing in school. This will involve age appropriate learning that may include audio narration and screen shares to support the children's independent access where possible.
- If your child needs to self-isolate because a household member has Covid symptoms or has tested positive for Covid, a weekly overview of learning tasks will be shared via Google Classroom.

A Reminder about Covid 19 Symptoms:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Please let the school know **immediately if your child:**

- Develops Covid-19 symptoms
- Tests positive for Covid-19
- Needs to self-isolate because a family member tests positive for Covid-19.

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.