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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter No. 25
Friday 19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you continue to be safe and well.

Another busy week and the children have slotted back into school routines and expectations really well. We are so proud of them all!

Collaborative Art: To support the children's reintegration back into their class communities, all classes created a collective art piece which every child contributed to. This lovely activity reinforced 'togetherness' after such a long time apart. Please look on the website for a closer look at the children's creations.



Reception



Year 1



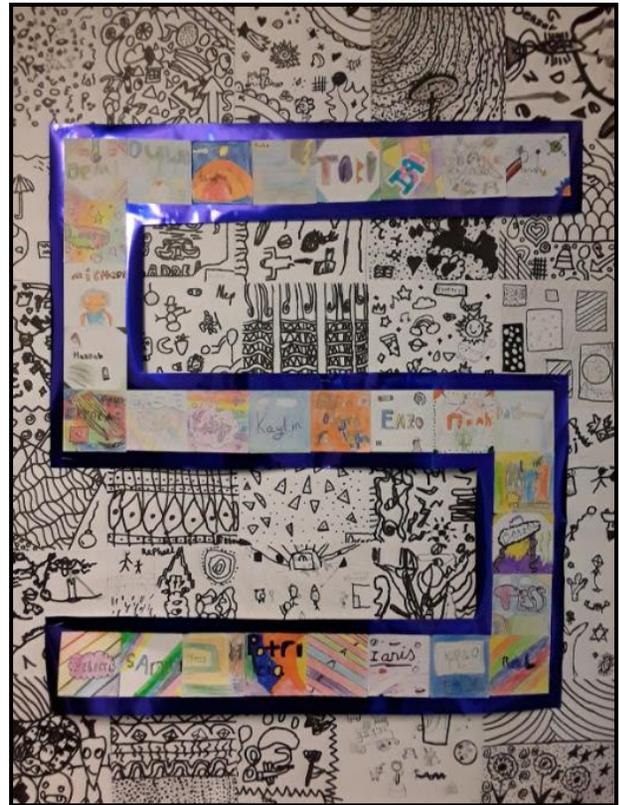
Year 2



Year 4

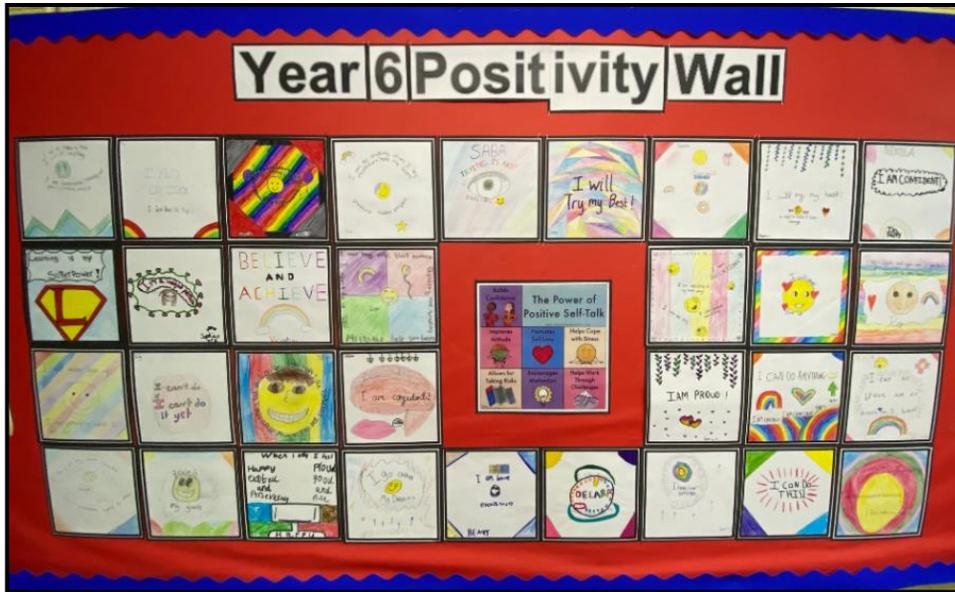


Year 3



Year 5

Year 6



Consultations:

As the children have only just returned to school, and with only a few weeks in class until the holiday, they are settling back to learning, we will need more time to assess their progress. As a result, we will be having parent consultations during the first part of the summer term, after Easter. We are delighted with the way the children have returned to their learning and look forward to talking with you when we have had a little more time to gain a clear picture of their strengths and areas for development. We will write to you after the holiday to let you know when Zoom consultations will be taking place.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to. You can do this by sending an email into the office or by passing on a message via the senior staff on the gate.

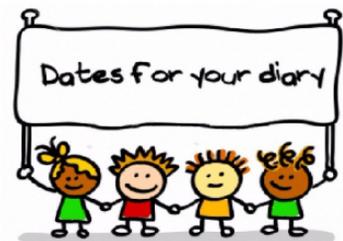
Caretaker:

You will remember that we said sadly goodbye to Mr Waller at half term, and we are pleased to let you know that we have been able to successfully recruit a new caretaker.

Mr Ross is an experienced caretaker and he joins the St. Mary's team on Monday 22nd March; we are really excited to welcome him to our school community.

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 23rd March: Bring any donations for food bank collection
- Wednesday 31st March: Last day of term. End of the school day is the same as usual pick up time
- Monday 19th April: Staff training day – school closed to children
- Tuesday 20th April: All children in school for the start of the summer term





In this period of Lent, we always think of others and the different ways that we can help.

Comic Relief Red Nose Day:

It's been lovely to see a smattering of red around school today as we celebrated Red Nose Day. This week, the children heard about the essential work that the charity does and they watched a video in worship which explained where funds that are raised for the charity go. [You can see the video that the children saw here](#). This has tied in with our learning about the values 'equality' and 'justice'.





WE'LL BE MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE



£10
could get 40 meals to children and families in need in the UK.



£50
could buy a bike for a health visitor in Ghana so they can provide vital health care for hard-to-reach families.



£100
could buy ten pairs of warm, winter shoes for children living in a refugee camp in Lesbos.



Thank you so much for the money raised so far. If you haven't yet contributed, please give what you can in the Red Nose Day tab on School Money.

So far, we have raised...£157.00 THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED SO FAR.

Other fundraising:

Before Christmas, you may remember that we collected funds on Christmas Jumper Day to support the charity 'Save the Children' and we also raised money for the Children's Society. Thank you so much for your donations! Here is what you raised:



£191.00



The Children's Society

£130.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Chipping Barnet Food Bank and Homeless Action in Barnet:

As mentioned in last week's newsletters, we invite you to take part in a Lent donation to the local foodbank.

If you are able to make a donation, however small, we are planning for children to bring them **in a plastic carrier bag** when they come to school on **Tuesday 23 March**. Here are the items that are in particular need at the Chipping Barnet Food Bank. But please give what you can.

We will then deliver the items in time for distribution before the Easter holiday, which can be a challenging time for some families.



LATEST FOOD SHORTAGES

Here are our latest shortages:

- Toothpaste
- Washing Powder/ Tablets/ Liquid
 - Washing Up Liquid
 - Jam
- Instant Coffee (regular size)

In the event of a positive Covid diagnosis in the school - Continued possibility of bubble closure:

Whilst we'd love to guarantee that all classes will continue to remain 'open' as normal every day between now and the Easter holiday, we have no way of guaranteeing this in a Covid-19 climate. We may find that a class bubble has to close in the event of a positive case of Covid in either a child or a member of staff working with that bubble. In which case, we will notify you immediately, and as soon as we find out. It's important that we all play our part to help keep school open for all children.

Things parents and carers could do to minimise risks:

- Maintain social distancing on the front playground
- Wear a face covering (unless exempt) on the front playground
- Keep children off school if they/someone in the household is unwell with Covid symptoms, until you are sure that it is not Covid
- Take the opportunity for adults in the household to take twice weekly **free** lateral flow tests which identify people not showing any symptoms. For more information look at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> regarding rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff. A new national website page showing testing sites has also gone live: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>



A prayer for others:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the light of the world.

As we begin this season of Lent, help us to shine your light by showing your love and care to those around us each day.

Help us to make the light of your love burn brightly.

We pray especially for those who are hungry and homeless,

For those who have lost their jobs or are unable to work,

For those who are feeling sad or lonely and for those who are ill.

Be with all those who are working today to help in so many ways, for all those who work in the health service, care workers and emergency services, for bus drivers, delivery drivers, shop workers, refuse collectors, cooks and those who deliver food.

In a moment of silence, we think of others we know... we pray for each other while we are apart from family and friends and especially those who are unable to be in school.

Bless each one with your generous love, your presence and your peace.

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**