

**Our Vision:**

At St Mary's, inspired by gospel 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.

**Welcome to the Autumn term 2019-2020!**

We hope you had a good summer and are all ready for the new academic year.

It has been good to welcome the children back to their new classes and they are now well settled into the routines of the new school year. Our best wishes, thoughts and prayers go to our last year 6, now year 7, as they begin their secondary school careers. We have also welcomed our new Reception children and their families to our school community.

Year 6 parents and carers are able to visit secondary schools over the next few weeks. Dates for visits have been issued and are on the Barnet website. Further information has already been sent to year 6 families.

Teachers finalised curriculum letters and these were emailed last week – please do take the time to look at and discuss all the exciting things planned for the coming half term.

**Staffing news**—Reminder following information sent to you in July:

- Miss Caroline Goringe has taken on the role of SENCO as of this term. We'd like to remind parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities to liaise directly with Miss Goringe with matters relating to SEND. Miss Goringe is in school on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays each week.
- Mrs Maria Constantinou will be maintaining an overview of Inclusion. Mrs Adams and Mrs Constantinou continue to share the headship responsibilities. Mrs Adams is in school Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and Mrs Constantinou is in across the week.

**Congratulations:**

- Many congratulations to Mrs Julia Oliver and her husband Andreas! The couple were married in sunny Cyprus last month.

**Kitchen staff:**

- Caroline Eade, our regular cook is currently on sick leave, and we are hopeful that she will be back with us before too long. Our thoughts and prayers are with Caroline.
- Kitchen assistant Mati has also not returned this term.
- We are very grateful to ISS catering services manager Catalina Harding for ensuring that the kitchen is covered. Currently our cook is Mary Lamptey who has worked with us before and she continues to provide excellent meals supported by Iwona Wojtas our new kitchen assistant.

**Fundraising:**

Some parents have already signed up to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>. This is a free and easy to use platform to help raise money through your normal, everyday online purchases at many high street retailers including Amazon, Sainsbury's, Boots, Marks and Spencer and many more. A small percentage of your purchase (at no cost to you) will be donated to your chosen cause.

The link below will take you to the Friends of St. Mary's page with just one click! All you need to do is sign up with an email address and start shopping.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofstmaryscofeprimaryschooleastbarnet/?invite=UETJNY&referral-campaign=s2s>

Do download the free app for even easier access.



Church worship: It's been wonderful having Dr. Rev. Alec Corio leading our weekly worship at St. Mary's. Please note that this year, we will be going to church every Thursday morning (rather than Fridays). Any help walking the children to and from church would be greatly appreciated.

Website: We continue to develop and refine the school website on a regular basis. The [calendar](#) is an excellent source of information – did you know that you can subscribe to the calendar so that it syncs with your existing online calendars including Outlook, Apple and Google.

Dates to note coming up soon:

- **Friday 27 September at 9:00am**  
Friends coffee morning for new Reception families.
- **W/C Monday 30 September** Whole school focus week:  
'Caring for all of God's Creation'. The title is the final phrase of the vision statement which steers all that we do in school. Children know that in it's broadest sense, caring for all creation includes both nature and people. We will be looking at matters related to topical issues such as climate change, conservation, plastic pollution, and also at matters related to inclusion and social justice. Teachers have planned a range of activities for their classes across the week and will also be preparing a short item for the open evening:
- **Tuesday 15 October:** Open evening–'Caring for all of God's Creation'. 6-pm-7pm.  
You are invited to attend with your child, look round the school and go into all classrooms to see the work the children have been doing, including displays from the focus week. This is a rare opportunity to look round the whole school. Each class will do a short presentation in the hall and parents from each class are invited to attend. Please put the date in your diary. We will send further details nearer the time.
- **Monday 30 September and Tuesday 1 October** Macbeth workshops years 3, 4, 5, 6  
We are looking forward to actors from the Young Shakespeare Company doing half day workshops with each of the classes, exploring and acting out the story. These sessions will be followed by a literacy focus in class later in the term and a visit to the Wyllotts Theatre to see an inter-active performance of the play. These activities are very popular with staff and children alike and the children will be producing some wonderful writing as a result. The Shakespeare focus is a very important aspect of the Key Stage 2 literacy curriculum, enabling children to cover 4 plays during their junior years. We are very grateful to the Friends for funding the workshops.
- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September:** Harvest celebration in school  
We have supported the Chipping Barnet food bank <https://chippingbarnet.foodbank.org.uk/> and Homeless Action in Barnet <https://www.habcentre.org/> over recent years through the generous giving of St Mary's families and children. You are invited to send donations of tinned or packaged food, toiletries, and small items of clothing in good condition such as hats, gloves and scarves. Children can bring their gifts to the hall before school on **8<sup>th</sup> September** and we will celebrate Harvest thanksgiving in school worship. The donations will be delivered later to each of the charities. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Scooters:

It's great to see so many children being active before school, riding their scooters. Just a reminder that in the interests of safety, children need to come off their scooters at the main gate before coming onto the playground and parking in the scooter park. This also applies to pre-schoolers.

Communication:

We do want to keep in touch with you which we will continue to do through emails and texts and occasionally correspondence. Attached is a reminder of who to speak to and when so that we can keep lines of communication clear. Just a reminder that class teachers are not able to have conversations when the children are lining up in the morning; their priority is to get the children into class.

Please return the Home School Agreements, Student update forms etc which were sent home to Year 1–Year 6 last week, in order that we can keep our records up to date. Thanks.

This information will be sent to Reception parents/carers by the end of this week.

