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St Mary's

Church of England
Primary School

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.

Thursday 10th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have been spectacular at following all of the new rules and routines in place; we are so proud of them. Some comments from the staff team:

"The children have picked up where they left off...they've settled so quickly... they're responding so well to all the new routines... they are so independent... it's lovely to see them smiling when they arrive and when they leave."

In our daily online worship we read the vision statement together. It has also been incorporated into our school prayer. We are certainly seeing the children inspired, excited, proud, determined and caring.

We couldn't ask for more from the children, so a big thank you to you too for your support of their learning during lockdown and for helping to prepare them for all the changes.

A HUGE Welcome to our new children and families in Reception

Almost all of the children have had their visits and some have had their first day in class for the morning. We look forward to seeing the rest of the children in the coming weeks.

So what have we been up to in school?

Aside from lots of hand washing, here's just a snippet of what the children have been doing in the short time they've been back...

- YR: Drew their first school picture for their Celebration books during their visits.
- Y1: Made a dragon out of paper plates decorated by each member of the class linked to their new focus text. They discussed the positive values the dragon displayed, and how the children might do this in class.
- Y2: Made superheroes from lollysticks because "we are all super learners".

- Y3: Talking about books they read whilst they were away from school and have made some lovely colourful bookmarks showing their favourite books and characters.
- Y4: Painting pebbles of positivity
- Y5: Thinking of ways we can inspire and motivate one another; the children have been sharing ideas of motivational and positive words and created posters for the classroom.
- Y6: Reflecting upon their inner selves by drawing and colouring their inner-self and outer-self-portrait, this depicts their physical face on one side and on the other side their hobbies and what they like to do.

Instrumental Lessons:

Pupils from Y3 onwards (Y2 onward for violin) are welcome to enrol for online instrument lessons. Please click on the following link for information <https://beatrust.org.uk/enrol/online-lessons/>

Collective Worship:

In worship this week, we have been speaking to the children (by virtual means) about overcoming challenges and growing as a learner and we have been exploring the phrase ‘Great oaks from little acorns grow’ with a view to introducing the parable of the mustard seed.



We have some further information and a number of updates to share with you to help with the smooth and safe running of the school.

General Information and Updates:

- The Church Hill Road Gate will open and close for each class 5 minutes before and after their official start time. Please arrive as near to this time as you can to avoid congestion on the pavement.
- We have been informed that there has been an increase in cases in Barnet. For this reason, we might like to seriously consider wearing a mask when you bring/pick up your child. Staff supervising on the school gate will be wearing a mask or visor.
- We know you’ve really enjoyed seeing one another again, **but please don’t stand and chat outside the gates in front of school as this can obstruct the pavement for members of the public** and can make it difficult for others to pass in a socially distanced manner. **THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT– following the news this week about social gatherings. The rule continues to be that we should all stand 2m away from one another.**
- Please don’t send in hand sanitising gel for the children. We have our own supplies that we use with them as needed as we have to use specific resources in school. As previously mentioned, if your child cannot use hand sanitiser please contact the office to let us know.

- Thank you to parents that have mentioned that they would like to offer a contribution towards the cost of PPE and other resources in school. As this is an additional cost to us, we have set up an optional payment on School Money called 'Covid Donation' with an opportunity to make this contribution online. We have set this amount at £5. You may give more or less if you wish by amending the amount. We are grateful for any contribution you are able to make, however small.
- Please ensure that all clothing is labelled, which can be with pen, and particularly jumpers, cardigans and coats, as we are unable to store lost property as we have done in previous years. Unfortunately, we will have to dispose of any lost property as we are unable to store fabric items in school. We will be reminding the children. If you too can remind them to bring these home and check when you collect them. They can come back in to collect it if necessary.
- Please don't send in birthday treats for the children or staff to share on your child's birthday as we cannot currently hand out items particularly anything edible.
- The children in the infant classes will continue to receive a fruit snack each day as part of the 5 A Day Scheme. All children will clean their hands before and after break times.
- If you would like to send in a piece of fruit as a snack for break time for children in junior classes, please do. The children should keep this in a plastic bag on their peg.

Absences:

Please phone the office to leave a message on the absence line as normal on the first day of absence. It is essential that you specify why your child is off school. **If you have been advised that your child should take a test for Coronavirus, it is essential that you let us know.**

As there are so many seasonal coughs and around already, we are going to update the answerphone message with the following information:

- If your child is absent due to illness, please follow these guidelines:
- If your child has a normal cough or cold other than a new continuous cough please check their temperature. If the temperature is normal they may come into school. We will also take their temperature on arrival with a non-contact thermometer.
- If the child has a temperature, dial 111 for advice. Do not send the child into school until you have followed the advice.
- If in doubt, contact your GP or 111.
- Any other illness, especially sickness and/or diarrhoea should be treated in the same way.

Please follow the above guidance [see coughs and colds below].

As we cannot have papers coming into school from home, we are unable to receive absence letters from you. **Instead, please follow up all absence with an email to this address:**

absence@stmarysen4.barnetmail.net

It is essential as always that all absences are explained so that they are not recorded as unauthorised. Please also use this email address to notify us of any medical appointments for your child.

Book Bags:

Following our evaluations, we are now asking that **green books shouldn't be brought to school**. We are managing infection control as efficiently as possible as we would like for the children to transport anything to school in a plastic bag. These bags need to be hung on pegs as we cannot store items together. Apologies for any inconvenience and we hope you understand our reasons for the change in decision.

Coughs and Colds:

As usual for this time of year, there are lots of coughs and colds around. Our advice is:

- If your child doesn't have a temperature they can be in school.
- We can check their temperature on coming into school if necessary – please speak to one of the senior staff on the gate if this is the case.
- If your child has cold symptoms **and** a temperature, parents should dial 111 and take advice. The child should stay off school until they have acted on the advice.
- Parents should take medical advice for any other illness. Please do not send children in until they have been clear of sickness/diarrhoea for 48 hours.
- Please be aware that some children may be in school with ongoing pre-existing coughs due to allergies or other medical conditions.

Coronavirus Symptoms:

- If your child has a **temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste/smell**, please dial 111 or go to <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> for advice.
- If you are advised to have a test, please let us know by phoning to speak to someone in the office and self-isolate until you have the result of the test. Call 119 to get a test if you have problems using the internet.
- You must let us know the outcome of the test, even if it's negative. If the test is positive, you will be advised to self-isolate for up to 14 days.

What happens if there is a positive test result for Coronavirus in the school?

- If a child or member of staff receives a positive test result, then that class bubble will have to close for up to 14 days based on advice from Barnet's Health Protection Team.
- We will notify you about bubble closure as soon as we can by text and email.
- Remote education plans will be in place via Google Classroom for Y1 to Y6 during the period of quarantine. This is likely to be in the form of a weekly overview for example with online links to resources. Information to follow as needed.

- Members of staff that have been in close contact with that class bubble will also have to self-isolate, which could affect staffing in another class. We will let you know if another bubble is significantly affected.
- Individuals that have tested positive will never be named in any correspondence.

We are doing everything we can to keep classrooms clean and safe for learning. It is highly likely that we will be making changes to our routines as an outcome of our ongoing evaluations and we appreciate your patience and cooperation during this challenging time.

Our revised school prayer incorporating our vision:

**This is our school,
Where we are inspired by Christian values,
Excited by our learning,
Proud of our achievements,
Determined to best we can be, and caring for all of God's creation.
Let peace dwell here,
Let each room be full of contentment.
Let love abide here.
Love of one another,
Love of people everywhere,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.
Let us remember
That as many hands build a house,
So many hearts build a school
And may God bless and keep each one of us.
May God make His light to shine upon us and be gracious to us.
May God give us His 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**