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St Mary's

Church of England
Primary School

NEWSLETTER NO 7 Friday 9 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

Firstly, we'd like to thank you all for your **incredible generosity** this week. The library was overrun with bags full of your Harvest donations which have now been distributed to Homeless Action in Barnet [HAB] and the Chipping Barnet Food Bank.

HAB staff were absolutely delighted to receive the consignment of bags which filled 6 shopping trolleys! They explained that those who are homeless have been found temporary accommodation and that volunteers are delivering food packages to them. If you have a couple of hours to spare, they would be very grateful for your help in driving some of these packages in the area.

Please phone : 020 8446 8400 or email hab@habcentre.org if you are able to help in any way.

Chipping Barnet Food Bank were equally delighted and grateful for your generosity. When we delivered the bags, we were shocked to see that, for the first time in our experience, the shelves were empty. The need is very great, more so now than ever. **THANK YOU SO MUCH**



We have dedicated our collective worship this week to celebrate Harvest and also to explain to the children all about the vital work that the two chosen charities do. More families than ever are relying on Food Banks and the impact of Coronavirus has led to many people losing jobs and valuable income. Your donations will make a **significant** difference.

The Friends of St. Mary's:

Thank you to the parents to joined the Friends AGM earlier this week; it was wonderful to welcome so many Reception parents and carers to the meeting too. The Friends Committee will be busy planning safe activities for the school year so watch this space for updates!

It was announced at the meeting that Tracey Cobbett who co-chaired the Friends over last year will be sadly stepping down from her position. We'd like to thank Tracey for all of her hard work, creativity and commitment to the school.



Half term holidays: travel plans

Half term is fast approaching (Monday 26th- Friday 30th October) and if you thinking about planning a trip abroad, please be mindful of the potential for needing to quarantine when you return to the UK. **We strongly advise against travel to countries that require a quarantine period as this will mean that the children will have to take unauthorised time off school.**

For the up to date list of the current exempt countries (those countries for which travel for British nationals is now permitted) please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-countries-and-territories-exempt-from-advice-against-all-but-essential-international-travel>

Plan for travelling abroad

While the global coronavirus pandemic continues, no travel is risk-free, and your travel abroad may be disrupted. If you plan to travel:

- read the [coronavirus travel guidance](#) to make sure you are prepared for your travel
- read the [Travel Advice](#) for your destination, for information on current entry requirements and any local coronavirus measures that you will need to follow

COVID-19 testing update: Local Testing Site now open

A new Local Testing Site (LTS) at Watling Community Centre in Barnet opened last week. The new site will improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing for local communities without access to a car.

Appointments must be [booked online](#) and are available **7 days a week, 8am to 8pm.**

Testing is available only for those with coronavirus symptoms – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms should book a test.

The LTS is located within Watling Community Centre, but is completely separate, so please do not contact the Centre for appointments. This must be done via the [Government portal](#).

Mobile COVID-19 testing unit

The mobile COVID-19 testing unit also [returns to Barnet](#) this week and is open for tests for attendees in a vehicle and on foot between 10.30am-3.30pm on:

- **Saturday 10 October at Edgware Community Hospital**
- **Tuesday 13 October at Barnet House**

All appointments must be booked in advance, either [through the NHS website](#) or via the [national booking website to receive a priority slot](#) if you are an essential worker. [Testing is now available for anyone with symptoms.](#)

What's App Groups:

Parent What's App Groups have revolutionised the way that many parents/carers communicate, particularly at times like this when there are less face to face conversations. Group messages can be great way to share information and reminders about school. Please be mindful however, that information put onto these groups may be seen by children at home on parents' devices. We'd like to encourage parents to be mindful of this and to only share information that is not sensitive or confidential e.g. private medical information about a family member or a child.

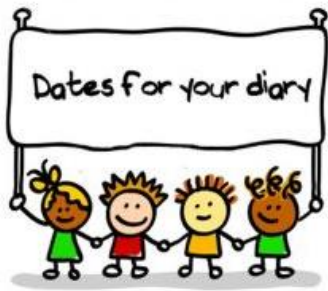


Just a reminder that **children should not be using What's App** – the official age rating for this application is 16+. Click [here](#) for more information and advice from [Net Aware](#) which is a great resource for checking different apps.

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.
- As the need for ventilation continues, we have turned on the heating early. This is helping to maintain a minimum temperature of 16 degrees in classrooms and around the school.
- 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.
- 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.



Dates for your diary:

- Half term: 26th- 30th October 9 2020
- Staff Training Day: Monday 2nd November – Children return on Tuesday 3rd November

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