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# St Mary's

## Church of England Primary School

### Newsletter No. 24 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,  
We hope you continue to be safe and well.  
We are delighted to have the children back in school this week!  
They have all grown so much!  
A big thank you to Claire Drayton for the beautiful balloon display and classroom balloons to welcome the children back to school.

As we transition back into school after being away for such a long time, we'll be focusing on **3 Rs**:

- **Restoration** back into school life, routines and restoration of self confidence
- Securing **relationships** with one another
- **Responding** to the children's individual needs.



#### The children's first week back: Celebration Week



It has been a joy to listen to the chatter in the playground and to watch the children be with their friends again.

We have had a wonderful first week back and the children have been busy reintegrating back into school life and face to face learning.

The children are working so well and have returned to learning as if they've never been away!

- Y6 made Christingles ready for our (very delayed!) Christingle service on Friday this week. Reception children also made Christingle which is also a part of our school Christmas tradition.



- All classes have been creating their collaborative art pieces too; watch out for photos of these on our website.
- Yesterday, Christmas lunch and parties, along with our traditional visit from Father Christmas and the reindeer helper bringing gifts were a joy for all the children and staff.

*It was such a pleasure seeing them dressed up and enjoying some restoration of what they missed before Christmas. We have been delighted to see them throughout the week, picking up where we left off and enjoying being part of the school community once again.*

Here are just a few photos from yesterday's Christmas lunch and celebration parties:



## Comic Relief Red Nose Day: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Comic Relief continues to make a difference to the lives of millions of people across the UK and around the world. We'd like to invite the children to **wear something red** on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, **in addition to their uniform** e.g. red socks, a red jumper, even red shoes! We will set up a donation section on School Money so that we can raise funds for the charity. Please give what you can. Click [here](#) to find out more about Comic Relief Red Nose Day and the work that they do.



### General reminders:

- Please ensure the children have a shower proof coat in school every day as they will continue to go out to play unless rain is torrential!
- The children need a water bottle in school every day. Staff can re-fill this during the day as needed.
- Thank you to all parents and carers for following the social distancing on the playground and for wearing masks.
- Just a reminder that phones should not be used on the playground please. Thank you for your co-operation.
- If you need to report your child absent, please leave a message on the office voicemail and then follow this up with an email into [absence@stmarysen4.barnetmail.net](mailto:absence@stmarysen4.barnetmail.net) NOT the usual office email inbox please.



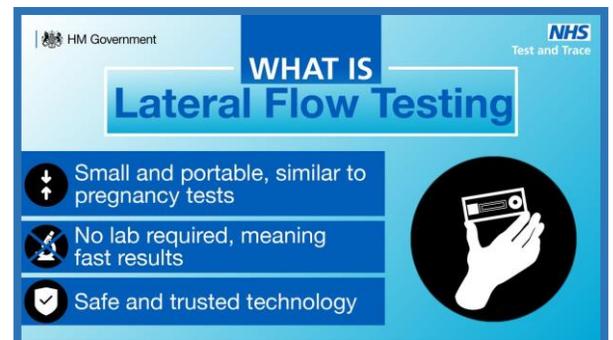
### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION: Lateral Flow Testing Kits

Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now **access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing**. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

#### Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most



If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

For more information look at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> 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/>

**Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a lateral flow test.**

### **Chipping Barnet Food Bank and Homeless Action in Barnet:**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, now that we are back at school we invite you to take part in a Lent donation. We were planning to do this before Christmas but prevented by early closure. The need continues to be very great and we recently hear of a local foodbank with double the number of requests from the previous week. Your generosity at Harvest in the autumn term enabled us to donate a large amount of food to both organisations.

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**.

We will then deliver them in time for distribution before the Easter holiday which can be a challenging time for some families. We will send you further details nearer to the time.

### **Lent and Collective Worship: Reminder**

We have heard about neighbours organising food collections on their streets to donate to local food banks. It would be incredible if our school community could do the same.

**Could you set up or discuss doing this where you live?** It would be really wonderful if you could! Please send us photos for our newsletters or for the website with your street name. Spread the word!



### **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**