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## **Newsletter No. 27** **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy St. George's Day!

We hope you continue to be safe and well and that you all had a restful Easter. It's been wonderful welcoming the children back into school after the holiday.

### **Gas Leak:**

Thank you for your patience and understanding today. As you'll appreciate, the safety of the children and staff is paramount and the initial emergency call out confirmed that a gas leak has occurred. We are hoping to get repairs done today and over the weekend so that we can open safely on Monday. We will keep you updated as soon as we have confirmation that school can resume as planned.

Thankfully, we have been able to use Google Classroom to upload the children's learning today.

### **School Uniform:**

You may recall that we were very happy to be flexible with school uniform before Easter given that clothing and shoe shops were not yet open. As all non-essential shops are now open, **we would like children to wear full school uniform, including school shoes, not trainers.** Please let us know if you foresee any difficulties with this.

Any additional layers worn in school, especially as the weather now begins to improve, must be **additional to school uniform and not instead of** e.g. an extra jumper to be worn over school uniform only if needed.

Classrooms continue to be well ventilated with windows and doors open all day, although the weather is now thankfully much warmer!

### **May Day 2021:**

For families new to school and for parents and carers that have not yet experienced May Day because of school closure this time last year, May Day is one of the highlights of the year at St. Mary's! Each class learns a May Day dance that involves skipping around the May Pole and we typically invite the whole school community to attend the event on the playground.

Due to Covid restrictions, we are unable to have an audience this year, so instead, we will be filming each of the dances on a given day, much like what we did at Christmas with the nativities.



Diocese of St Albans  
London Borough of Barnet



The children usually have the opportunity to go home on May Day although this will not be necessary this year as the event won't be taking place as a whole school.

We will be writing to Year 6 parents and carers separately regarding May Day as there is additional information that relates just to Year 6 and the important role they play in the event.

**We will notify you of the date that filming will take place for your child's class in the final week of the half term, so that they can bring a change of clothes with them:**

**What to wear:**

- Girls: Traditionally, girls wear a white dress on May Day, although on this occasion, girls may choose any dress (not necessarily white) for the event. Please ensure that they can skip and bend comfortably in the dress.
- Boys: White shirt/polo top and grey school trousers/shorts. School tie optional.
- Footwear: Plimsolls/canvas shoes that are comfortable to skip in.

**May Day Filming Consent:**

We will be sending out a short online form by text next week, in which we will ask for your consent to film your child performing their May Day dance so that we can create a recording to share with you, as we did at Christmas.



**Horse Chestnut Tree:**

You may have noticed the horse chestnut tree at the front of the school on the Church Hill Road side, has been significantly pruned! Following a recent tree survey, tree surgeons have made the horse chestnut safe and it is a requirement that the tree is now felled. Although this does change the appearance of the school, removing the tree was a necessary safety measure.

**Consultations:**

We will be having consultations by Zoom before half term. Teachers will be sharing information about your child's strengths and areas for further development in the discussion. We will let you know the dates once the schedules have been finalised with individual teachers.

**Amazon Wish List: Books**

As you know, currently, our Covid control measures have meant that children have not been able to bring sweets in to share and celebrate their birthdays.

We have very recently set up a Wish List on Amazon, which enables parents to make a donation of a book to the school. Some parents may choose to donate a book as a marker in place of birthday sweets in the past or future... or just out of generosity to the school!

There is an option to remain anonymous or to identify yourself in any purchase.

If parents would like to donate, and they leave us a message on the Amazon page, then we will include a sticker inside the book to note who has made the donation. That book will go to the corresponding class library where it will be enjoyed now and in time to come!



**The Wish List is now live and can be accessed [here](#).**

Thank you in advance for any purchases made.

## Collective Worship:

This half term, our focus value is 'Service'. We will be exploring what this means and how we can be of service to others. Attached to this newsletter is an activity sheet that you might like to discuss and share with your child over the coming weeks.

**'Serve one another in love.'**

Galatians 5.13

## QUOTES & QUESTIONS

Life is never so busy that there is no time to **serve**.  
*(Anon)*

You are what you do, not what you say you will do.  
*(C. G. Jung)*

Can you remember ever thinking that you were too busy to help someone in need?

Is there something important that you have never got around to doing?

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.  
*(Edmund Burke)*

No joy can equal the joy of **serving** others.  
*(Sai Baba)*

Can you think of a small act of **service** by someone else that made a big difference to you?

Think of a time when helping someone else made you feel joyful.

### Service is....

**S**pending time on others

**E**njoying giving help

**R**esponsibility in action

**V**olunteering willingly

**I** second, you first

**C**ommitting to a task

**E**veryone offering their talents and gifts

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



**COVID-19 Information and Updates: Here is the latest guidance regarding current restrictions in England as of 12<sup>th</sup> April.**

 HM Government			
<h2>COVID-19: Restrictions in England</h2> <p>From 12 April</p>			
<h3>STEP 2</h3> 			
<b>MEETING OTHERS</b> 	<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b> 	<b>EDUCATION</b> 	<b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b> 
<p>You must not socialise indoors except with your household or support bubble. You can meet outdoors, including in gardens, in groups of six people or two households.</p>	<p>Domestic overnight stays are allowed, but you must only stay with members of your household or support bubble.</p>	<p>Early years settings, schools and colleges are open for all students. Students on practical university courses can return. Students and staff will be regularly tested. Other Higher Education students should continue to learn remotely.</p>	<p>You should work from home if you can.</p>
<b>RETAIL AND PERSONAL CARE</b> 	<b>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b> 	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b> 	<b>LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES</b> 
<p>All retail open. Hairdressers, beauty and nail salons open.</p>	<p>Open outdoors for groups of six people or two households. Those that serve alcohol must provide table service. Closed indoors.</p>	<p>Campsites and self-contained holiday accommodation open for visits with your household or support bubble only. Hotels, hostels and B&amp;Bs closed.</p>	<p>Gyms, indoor sports facilities and spas open for use on your own or with your own household or support bubble. Saunas and steam rooms closed.</p>
<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> 	<b>PUBLIC BUILDINGS</b> 	<b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b> 	<b>SHIELDING</b> 
<p>Outdoor settings and attractions, such as zoos and theme parks open for visits of two households, or in a group of up to six people. Drive-in events open for visits with your household or support bubble. Indoor entertainment closed.</p>	<p>Libraries and community centres open.</p>	<p>People who live in a care home in England will be allowed two named regular indoor visitors.</p>	<p>Clinically extremely vulnerable people in England are no longer advised to shield, but should continue taking extra precautions such as minimising social interactions and shopping at quieter times of the day.</p>
<b>DOMESTIC TRAVEL</b> 	<b>OVERSEAS TRAVEL</b> 	<b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b> 	<b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b> 
<p>You should minimise travel as much as possible. Avoid the busiest times and routes - plan your journey and what you need at your destination ahead of time.</p>	<p>You must not go on holiday abroad. You could be fined £5,000 for travelling abroad without a legally permitted reason.</p>	<p>Places of worship open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix indoors with anyone outside your household or support bubble.</p>	<p>Funerals can continue with up to 30 attendees. Weddings, outdoor receptions, and commemorative events such as wakes can take place with up to 15 attendees (in premises that are permitted to open).</p>
<p>For more information and detailed guidance visit: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">gov.uk/coronavirus</a></p>		<p><b>COVID-19</b> Let's take this next step, <u>safely</u>.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	

**Free lateral flow testing**

A reminder that adults in the same household as school aged children can collect free lateral flow testing kits. These tests help to identify people not showing any Covid-19 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/>