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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter No. 4 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,
We hope you've had a good week so far. We've had another busy school week!

Information coming home today:

We'll be sending home letters today, for you to check emergency contacts and consent for various permissions in addition to a letter regarding the governors' voluntary contribution. **Please return these to school via your child who will need to hand them in to their teacher.**



Worship at Church:

This week, the children in Y1, 2 and 3 had their first visit to church for worship with Alec. It was wonderful for the children to see Alec in person and to be part of collective worship at St. Mary's Church. It was the first time for Y1 and 2.

Years 4, 5 and 6 will be walking to church next Thursday 23rd September from 9am. **If you have a child in this class and you can help to walk to and from church, please wait at the Littlegrove entrance on Thursday morning.**

School Bags:

Please do not send your child in with a school bag, unless it is a book bag. The children are no longer bringing PE kits/home learning folders to and from school, and we are mostly paperless with letters home to you. Children may use a plastic bag if they'd like to bring anything in. This helps to keep classroom cloakroom areas free of trip hazards too.

After School Sports Clubs:

We are delighted to be able to re-introduce sports clubs after school, currently for children in Years 3 to 6. Email correspondence has already gone out to parents and carers in those year groups. Please take a look! We are exploring additional clubs at the moment and will let you know once we have confirmed arrangements.

Swimming:

We have had a few questions about swimming. Pre-Covid 19, each junior class would have had a weekly swimming lesson across half a term.

We were offered a revised schedule from New Barnet Leisure Centre for this term, which would have entailed the children participating in an intensive swimming course for 10 consecutive days rather than one lesson per week.

Diocese of St Albans
London Borough of Barnet



From school, the walk there and back, takes just over an hour. In addition, the half hour lesson, plus changing time, amounts to approximately two hours out of school in total. We are additionally concerned about the loss of curriculum time over ten consecutive days, especially given the time lost in school last year. These conditions wouldn't usually be an issue on a weekly basis, although the **daily** demands on the children would be quite considerable.

We really value the importance of swimming lessons, and have therefore requested that the New Barnet Leisure Centre offer us an alternative schedule. Once we have any updated information on this, we will let parents and carers know.

Top tips to support your child's reading at home:

Reading with your child is not only brilliant for their reading progress, it's also a lovely way to spend time together – sharing in the joy of books! The Education Endowment Foundation have produced 7 top tips for supporting your child's reading at home. Click [here](#) to read the guidance.

We have introduced [Reciprocal Reading](#) at St. Mary's which has a strong evidence base for supporting children's comprehension skills. Do take a look at the questions on this poster which you might find useful when sharing a book with your child. Even the youngest children can respond to some of these questions!

Reciprocal Reading: The Fab Four!

You might like to ask your child one or two questions from each section, when reading and discussing a book together 😊



Predict

What might happen next?

Which clues helped you to make this prediction?

Are there clues in any pictures?

What information from your own life helped you make your prediction?

? Question ?

Do you have any questions about what you have read?

Do you have any questions about a character or event?

What would you like to know more about?

How did this text make you feel? Why?



Clarify

Are there any words or phrases that you are unsure about?

What could you do to help you understand (clarify) the meaning of the word or phrase?

(You could reread around it; read on; find parts of the word you know; look in a dictionary; discuss with a friend/family member)



Summarise

Can you retell what you have read in your own words?

What are the most important events or ideas in this text?

What order did the events happen in?

If you were to write a review of this text, what would you say?

What is the main point of this text?

Who are the main characters?

Which key words would you choose to help you summarise this text/what you have read?

Books in school:

Just a reminder that our Amazon Wish List can be accessed [here](#). The link to our wish list at the Children's Book Shop in Muswell Hill can be found here: <https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists>.

If your child has a birthday coming up, donating a book might be a lovely way to celebrate!

**Thank you to the Gokcek, Kuzhangaira and Haggan families for books kindly donated this week.
We also had an anonymous donation too.**

These books are currently winging their way to classroom library shelves.



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 REMINDERS AND UPDATES****Covid in a household:**

Last week, we wrote to inform you of the latest Barnet Public Health guidance regarding self-isolation and testing in the event of a positive case of Covid with in school or at home.

All children that are a household contact following a case of COVID-19 should take a PCR test and should wait for a negative result before returning to school.

Please let us know immediately if there is a case of Covid in your household and please **do not send your child into school until you have had a negative PCR test result for them.**

Covid Contact not in household:

If your child is a close contact of someone that has tested positive for Covid, but is **not** in your household, then please **book a PCR test for them immediately**. For example, this may be the case if your child attends a club or accesses any after school provision where another person has tested positive. **Please contact us for further advice once a PCR test has been taken.**

These measures are all in place to help protect our school community.