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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter No. 9 7th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,
We hope you are all well. Christmas is now in full swing at school and we are looking forward to recording the children's singing and drama performances before the end of term.



Christmas Cards:

Children can start to bring in Christmas cards for anyone in their class bubble. To help with additional infection control, it would be most advisable for the children to avoid licking and sticking envelopes! Please help them as needed to use a glue stick or tape to seal envelopes and remind the children to wash their hands at home once they open their cards.

Christmas Parties in School:

On the afternoon of **Thursday 16th December**, the children will have class Christmas parties. The children may come in an outfit of their choice (no football kits or fancy dress items please). **Do be mindful that the children will need to wear something warm all day.** We will provide some party snacks for the day and we ask for a donation of 50p to be made on School Money please. The children can bring in a drink to enjoy e.g. a small, **named** carton of juice (no cans or fizzy drinks).

Keeping warm – It's all about layering!

As you know, we must continue to keep classrooms well ventilated as part of our infection control measures. So despite the cool weather, windows remain open. So the children can work comfortably in class, please remember to send them in with additional layers e.g. sports base layer 'skins', extra cardigan/jumper **to wear on top of uniform.** Children cannot easily work whilst wearing coats as it is not practical or comfortable.

Homeless Action in Barnet and Food Bank Donations

As we approach Christmas, we are fully aware that some families may find this time even more challenging than usual. The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on so many people in addition to existing, difficult circumstances. For this reason, at this important time of giving, we'd like to invite you to offer a donation to Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB) and the Chipping Barnet Foodbank as we did at Harvest time. See below for suggestions from both HAB and the Food Bank.

Please send donations to school in a plastic bag on Monday 13th December and Tuesday 14th December. Your child will need to take this into the classroom please.

Supplies Update

This week we need

- Men's thermal underwear
- Small jars of tomato pasta sauce
- Coffee jars
- UHT milk
- 'Mug shots' pasta meals in a mug
- Small bags of crisps
- Small tins of fruit
- Hot water bottles
- Small thermos flasks

As much as we would love to store clothes, shoes etc not listed above, we have very limited storage space at present. Please hang on to them for a little while and we'll update you when this changes

Thank you!

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

TINNED MEAT (HAM, CHICKEN, BEEF)
TINNED SALMON AND OTHER FISH
TINNED FRUIT

WE HAVE PLENTY OF

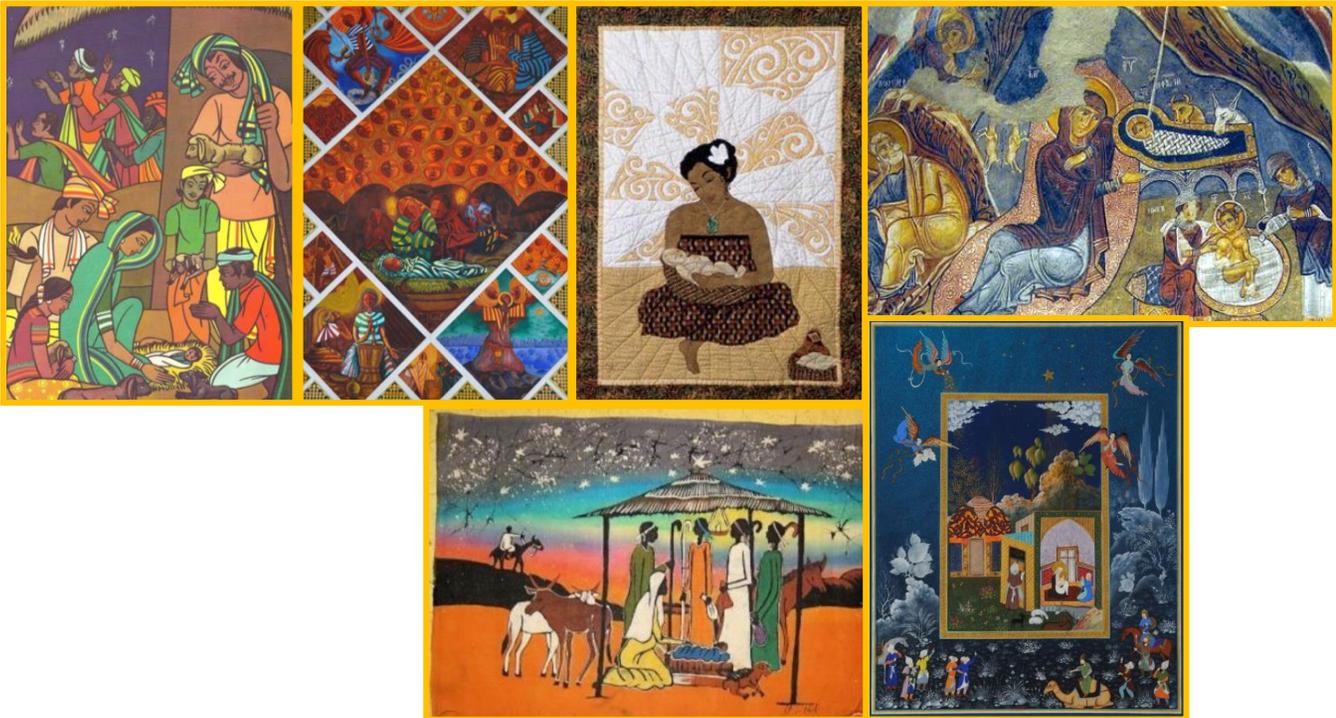
BAKED BEANS
TOMATO SOUP
RICE
PASTA
TEA
MINCE PIES
CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Here is a link to Homeless Action in Barnet's [Amazon wish list](#) should you wish to donate something directly. It includes food items as well as clothing and home wear.



Global Nativity 2021:

In school, we are sharing images of nativity scenes from around the World. It's lovely for the children to see different cultural representations and celebrations of this wonderful moment. You might like to take a look at this [interactive google](#) map which shows you where in the world the artwork is from.

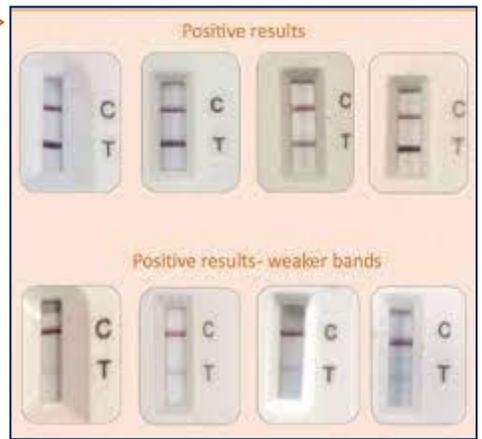


Information for Parents and Carers regarding COVID19:

It's essential that all children have a lateral flow test each morning before school as this is the most efficient way of ensuring the safety of the children and staff in school right now.

If your child's lateral flow test indicates a positive result, please do not send them to school. You will need to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. Please let us know if this is the case.

Positive results on a lateral flow test can look like any of these →



For anybody that has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result:

They are not usually advised to be re-tested within 90 days of this result.

However, they should have a PCR test within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test if:

- they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19
- they are a close contact of someone who has been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19
- they are required to take a PCR test upon entry into the UK

If they are tested within 90 days of a positive PCR test result for any of these 3 reasons, and the PCR test result is positive, they must stay at home, self-isolate and follow the stay at home guidance

More details here: [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person)

Travelling over Christmas?

For any trips outside of the UK, please check [government guidance](#) which is regularly updated. Checking travel information and quarantine rules for your family is essential before the start of term. Please note new information that take effect from today.

Changes to pre-departure testing from 4am, Tuesday 7 December 2021

From 4am, Tuesday 7 December all people aged 12 years and over must take a PCR or LFD COVID-19 test before they travel to England from abroad.

You must take the test in the 2 days before your service to England departs. If your journey to England is a multi-leg journey, you must take the test in the 2 days before the start of the first leg.

This will apply whether you qualify as fully vaccinated or not.

Some people, including children aged 11 and under are [exempt from taking the test](#).

Reminders and Dates for your Diary:

- Friday 10th December: Christmas Jumper Day
- Last day of term: Friday 17th December (usual home time)
- Children return to school Tuesday 4th January
- Here are some additional dates from Rev. Alec Corio too:
 - 16th December Carol singing in East Barnet village and outside the Prince of Wales
 - 19th December Advent IV with the Revd Dr Ayla Lepine as preacher
 - 19th December Christmas Carol Services
 - 24th December Family Crib Service at Brookside Methodist Church
 - 24th December Christmas Eve Eucharist
 - 25th December Christmas Day Eucharist
 - 26th December St Stephen’s Day Eucharist
 - 2nd January Epiphany Eucharist

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



Father God,

At this time of Advent we pray for the work of Save the Children, The Children’s Society, Homeless Action in Barnet and the Chipping Barnet food bank. Help us to recognise the importance of their work especially at Christmas time, when they provide for those in need. Help us to realise and be grateful for what we have in our own lives.

Amen