

Newsletter No. 11 14th January 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all well. I'm sure it's not too late to wish you all a happy new year! I hope that you all had a restful Christmas and that the children have enjoyed their first two weeks of the Spring term.

Y5 and the Barnet Rotary Club:

Before Christmas, Y5 designed and wrote Christmas cards for the Barnet Rotary Club. Many of their members were facing the Christmas period alone and Y5's aim was for this gesture to bring some joy to club members.



Here is some of the feedback from the Rotary Club:

"Thank you to the pupils at St Mary's for the lovely card."
"What a surprise, to receive a beautiful card from a child."
"Such kind words, from a youngster, it made my day."

A big thank you to Miss Hogg who led on this with Y5.

We are pleased to have created a purposeful connection with the Rotary Club going forward.



Parent and Carer Views:

On Monday, we shared a link to our annual parent and carer survey about St. Mary's School.

Thank you very much for the survey responses so far. If you have not yet responded, please do so by **Monday 17th January**. [Click here](#) to access the survey which will take no more than a few minutes to complete. We really value your feedback. We will share the summary overview in a subsequent newsletter.

Pupil Views:

We have been gathering pupil views about their learning since the start of term. We are continuing to take feedback from the children in all classes over the coming weeks. Here are just a few comments from across the school:

*If the teachers didn't tell us about our mistakes, then we wouldn't learn and we'd think we got everything right.
If we don't learn from our mistakes, then we just keep making the same mistake! (Y2 Pupils)*

*When I get stuck, I keep on going because I try my best, like our vision.
Nothing is impossible!
(Y4 pupils)*

*I found spelling really hard at the start of Y5 but I've managed to overcome it with help of my teacher.
(Y5 pupil)*

I've really enjoyed Science and experimenting with light bulbs, wires and cells – I feel like I really understand now. (Y6 pupil)

Curriculum Letters:

Just a reminder that these are [live on the school website](#); we upload these at the start of every half term in addition to sending them out by email. Please take a few minutes to read them as they provide an overview of your child's learning for the half term. There is a slight change to use of school bags – children may now bring in a SMALL bag if they need to.

Lateral Flow Testing:

Thank you so much for continuing with daily lateral flow testing. This has been a significant protective measure as some children have tested positive without symptoms. The lateral flow testing is therefore helping to limit the spread of Covid-19 within our school community.

I have sought specific advice from the Local Authority Public Health who have now advised that **individuals who have had Covid within 90 days should now engage with lateral flow testing**, UNLESS they have only just finished their self-isolation period. The reason for this is based on the possibility of individuals being re-infected with a different variant of the virus.

- If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test – they must self-isolate
- If your child has any of the following symptoms but they have a negative lateral flow test – they should have a PCR test



Please remember to report the result of every lateral flow test online as this helps Public Health to track the virus.

Self-Isolation Periods:

Following the government's decision to shorten the Covid self-isolation time to 5 days, we wanted to update parents and carers on the school's position. As of Monday 17th January, we are advising that if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 they may end their isolation on Day 7 only if they have **2 consecutive negative lateral flow tests on Day 6 and Day 7 (24 hours apart), and do not have a temperature**.

Should parents choose for their child to complete a full 10-day self-isolation, this absence will be authorised.

We will continue to review cases and infection rates in school, and I will be working with governors to review wider control measures in accordance with government guidance over the coming weeks.

Does your child enjoy music?

Barnet Education Arts Trust (BEAT) have established a music academy which provides musical training and creative opportunities for children of all ages. Click [here](#) for more information.

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>.

We regularly update the wish lists and are currently hoping to get more poetry books into school.

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

Epiphany and the light of Jesus' love: Since the start of term, we have been thinking about how we can show and share little acts of kindness to be bearers of light and love.

While our nativity sets are put away for another year, the Feast of Epiphany reminds us that the truth of Christmas never ends and that Jesus journeys on with each of us as well.

**He invites us to know the light of his love, joy, peace and hope guiding our way.
And he invites us in turn to be bearers of his light in the world.**

From all of us at St Mary's primary school, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers are with you as always.

Maria Constantinou

Headteacher