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learning in
faith in
faith

Newsletter No. 12 28th January 2022



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope this finds you all safe and well.

NSPCC Number Day:

At St. Mary's, we LOVE numbers! We also know how important it is to think about others in need and we always keep the valuable work of charities in our prayers.

- We are therefore delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day **on Friday 4th February**. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline, which is the free helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern. On average, a child contacts Childline every 25 seconds...
- Next Friday, we are having a fun with maths activities and we will be taking part in **Dress up for Digits**. Pupils are invited to **wear an item of clothing with a number on it** (e.g. a football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). Or get even more creative by **dressing in a maths or numbers theme**. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of £2, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event.
- Please don't feel that you need to buy any new items of clothing of the day. Here are a few examples of what children could wear:



We've set up a Just Giving Page which can be found here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmaryscofeprimary-en4>

Please donate what you can, and share with friends so we can support the NSPCC together.

We're really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support.

All the money we raise at St Mary's will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC to be there for children tomorrow.

Pupil Voice

January 2022

What have you really enjoyed learning about and why?

I loved doing Macbeth because we had a brilliant workshop and we also because it's a really gory story!

Computing and art are really fun. In computing I'm learning exciting coding skills and in art we watched a good tutorial to help us draw more realistic faces.

I enjoyed learning about WW2, because it was interesting learning what life was like then. I had lots of questions about it.

PE, because it's really fun and good for your body.

Maths, because I did make some mistakes but I learnt from them and got better and better!

I've really enjoyed The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane because the story is really exciting.

Which achievement are you most proud of since the start of this school year and why?

I really like getting house points because it encourages me to do even better.

Getting 24 out of 24 in my arithmetic. I have used TT Rockstars and got to level 20 now so I'm proud of that! I like maths and it feels nice to improve.

When I climbed the climbing wall in Cuffley Camp!

Making the Christmas cards for the Barnet Rotary club and knowing they helped to cheer someone up.

My reading - I've learned lots of new words.

Making a buzzer buzz because that's pretty cool.

How do you learn and develop knowledge and skills in each subject?

The learning objectives help and we can tick the targets and what we have learned.

We do a lot of recaps of what we did before

Using the examples the teacher gives us. This helps me to know what to do first
When we finish an arithmetic test we go over it so I can see the mistakes I've made and learn a way to do it better next time.

By listening and watching the teacher - we also come back to the subject for people who still don't get it.
I add new facts to my notebooks or sometimes in the back of my maths book
One thing I do is edit my work so I can be better at writing.

Anything else to tell us about what it's like being a St Mary's pupil?

I love being a pupil at St. Mary's because I always learn new things and the teachers are great.

I'd like turf on the football pitch and proper goals (and longer play times)!

Maybe we could move seats more often?

Could we have more things to play with at play time?

I like being a pupil here because I can trust the adults to help me

Everyone is kind and caring. I've made some amazing friends.

Can we have more Tom Gates books in class please?

Could we have a gymnastics club?

I love this school and I never want to leave!

What have you found challenging and what's helped you?

Spellings, but I got better over time because I focused more on them. I've learned to use a dictionary properly now too.

Arithmetic, but overcame the challenging questions by listening to my teacher explaining the answers afterwards and talking through the method.

Since starting Y5, I've found the maths really challenging but different methods are helping me to understand and show my workings out.

Being new and I'm a bit shy, but this is a nice school and the teachers and people in my class helped me.

I found science hard at the start of the year, I've concentrated and kept trying and now I'm quite good at learning new things in science.

Tell us about your reading - what are your favourite books and how do you learn about reading at school?

I love the Dolphin Diaries because I love all animals and I would like to learn more about them. Reading books also helps me learn new words and I imagine being in a different world. Before we start reading, we 'observe, wonder and infer' and find out more about the main words.

I loved Bubble Boy about a boy with a medical condition - I really recommend it. I read fast when I'm really enjoying a book. I feel like I'm actually sitting in it! Reading helps me increase my imagination and vocabulary.

We summarise books using 'the fab four' - my favourite book is Diary of a Wimpy Kid because it makes me laugh.

In what ways do adults in school help you to learn?

They answer my questions

They explain very well in a nice voice

In maths, they suggest different ways to solve the problem

When I make a mistake they help me and teach me how to understand the mistake

My teacher helps me by not telling me the answer but helping me get to the answer

Teachers don't rush me

I have a support plan that helps me with things I'm struggling with

If we have a problem with learning we put our hand up and we can talk it through - if we still don't

understand, they have many different ways of explaining!

We watch interactive learning videos which help.

We go out in smaller groups sometimes.

Teachers explain VERY clearly and they believe in us and are patient too.

We have been capturing pupil views about their learning since the start of the academic year. Here is a small sample of some of their comments.



Parent Surveys:

Thank you so much for taking part in our recent parent survey. We had a brilliant 84 responses! The surveys have been very affirming and have helped us to evaluate what's going well and what could be even better at St. Marys'.



Your comments are very valuable and will help to shape further developments at school. Where parents have made comments that are specific to their circumstances, a member of the senior leadership team will be in touch to discuss this further if needed.

A collation of the parent survey responses can be [found here on the school website](#).

A Note from The Governors:

You may have noticed that Governors have begun contributing to recent newsletters with a view to sharing more about the work that the Governing Body does. Here is a contribution from parent governor Angela Johnson, who also holds responsibility for Curriculum governance:

It goes without saying that for many of us it feels like the world has been on hold over the past couple of years. It was encouraging to hear the Senior Leadership Team's report at our governor's meeting this week, which showed that learning at St Mary's has not been on hold. The children have made significant progress in their learning, despite the challenges that Covid has presented. But more important than any numerical data is the feedback that the children have shared about their experience at St Mary's, which overwhelmingly shows that they feel happy, safe and cared for at school. One child noted: "I never want to leave!" "Lost learning" is a phrase that has been used a lot in the media throughout the pandemic, but let's not let that overshadow the gains that many of the children at St Mary's have made.



Books in school:

Many thanks for the donations from the following families:

The Josephs

The Johnsons (Y3 and Y5)

The Shotinwa-Obadas

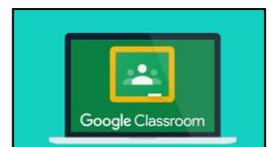
Just a reminder that our Amazon Wish List can be accessed [here](#). The link to our wish list at the Children's Book Shop in Muswell Hill can be found here: <https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists>.

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

Online Provision During Covid Isolation:

As we have done since the start of the pandemic, teachers will provide online learning for children who are isolating due to Covid.

- If they are well enough to engage with learning on Google Classroom, please encourage them to do so.
- Please note that learning may not always mirror what's happening in class that week as classroom learning activities may require a higher level of adult intervention. We aim as far as possible to provide tasks that the children can engage with independently with minimal adult support.
- Teachers will receive notification about Covid related absences during the working day and will endeavor to upload learning ready for the next school day.



Naming uniform:

Please remember to name your child's uniform. This week, we have washed around 30 jumpers and cardigans all without names! In the spirit of caring for God's creation, we have recycled these by offering them to families that need spare uniform. Sharpie penning names on labels will save lots of money!

Lateral Flow Testing:

As explained earlier this week, we have seen an increase in Covid cases at school.

- Please support your child do a **lateral flow test daily before school** until we are advised otherwise by Public Health.
- This has been a significant protective measure as some children have tested positive without symptoms.
- Lateral flow testing is therefore helping to limit the spread of Covid-19 within our school community.
- We will continue to review cases and infection rates in school, and will notify you as soon as we are able to begin to relax any of our current measures.



Dates for your diary:

- Friday 4th February – NSPCC Number Day
- Wednesday 9th February – last day of this half term
- Thursday 10th February – INSET day
- Friday 11th February – school closed in lieu of Bank Holiday in June
- Monday 14th – Friday 18th February - Half term
- Monday 21st February – Back to school

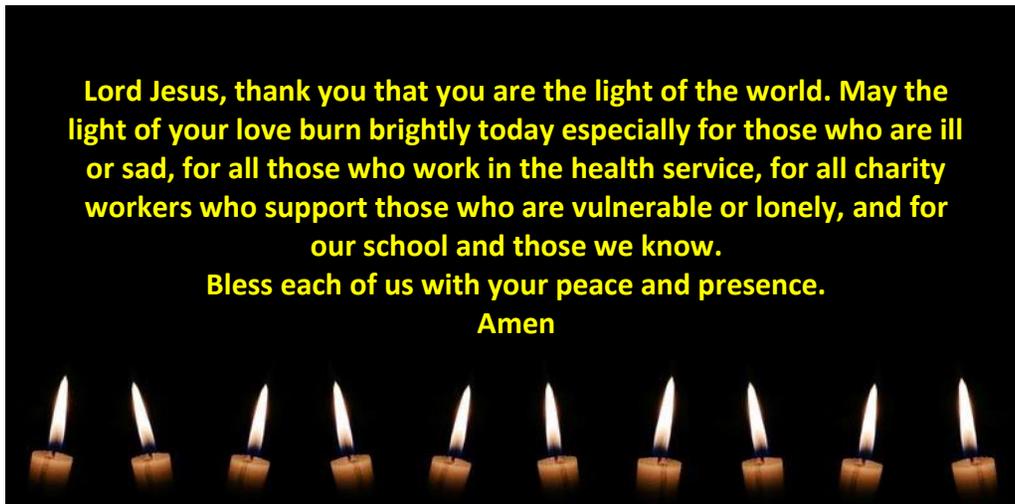


Next week, in the fourth and final week of Epiphany, we will be celebrating Candlemas with the children. Here is one of the prayers that we will be sharing:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the light of the world. May the light of your love burn brightly today especially for those who are ill or sad, for all those who work in the health service, for all charity workers who support those who are vulnerable or lonely, and for our school and those we know.

Bless each of us with your peace and presence.

Amen



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**