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# St Mary's Church of England Primary School



## Newsletter No. 17 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you all safe and well. April has arrived along with some sunshine and a very cold breeze! This is the final newsletter of the Spring term, in which we share some lovely news and important messages.

### Our Christian Values have inspired our consideration and care for others as part of God's creation during this period of Lent:

- Following last Friday's fitness fundraiser, our total is an amazing £932! Thank you so much for your incredibly generous online donations. Every penny of this money will support the essential work of the Disasters Emergency Committee supporting the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.
- We collected in excess of 80 bags of donations that have been delivered to Homeless Action in Barnet and the Chipping Barnet Food Bank. Thank you!



### Y1 Trip: St Albans Cathedral

This week, Y1 visited St Albans Cathedral, in support of their Religious Education learning. The visit included an Easter Trail where the children were able to deepen their understanding of the Easter story through role play and looking at a rich variety of artefacts. In the afternoon the children all made a clay tile depicting an Easter linked image. They were very excited by their learning as you can see!



## May Day 2022:

May Day season will soon be upon us and we are delighted to announce that (all being well) we are planning on having a full May Day celebration at the end of the first half of the summer term. We haven't had an audience for May Day since May 2019 so we are very excited at the prospect! For families new to the school, May Day is a long upheld tradition at St. Mary's [here is a link to the event that we recorded last year](#), as we were unable to have an audience.

On Monday of this week, all children in school took part in a democratic vote to elect the key Y6 roles for the event. Y6 pupils spoke in worship, sharing something about themselves, and the children were reminded about choosing children who they observed to demonstrate the school's values in daily school life. Here are the results:



*Kaylín Daza Ríos: May Queen*

*Rebecca Osei: Sceptre Girl*

*Oscar Lyons and Toby Thorpe: Heralds*

*Many congratulations to the children who were voted into these specific roles.*

Year 6 will be the first class to use the may pole after Easter and their job will be to unplait the ribbons from our May Day 2021.

All of the classes will need to show great team work, cooperation and determination to complete their class dance successfully, so that it can be the best that it can be! It's always an event where the children feel so proud of their achievements. We can't wait!

## Breakfast Club Fun:



Some of the children in breakfast club collaborated to build a huge cup tower today. They were very proud of it so I promised I'd share the photo! It didn't come down in quite the same style as it went up in! Great team work 😊

## Roof Replacement:

We are very pleased to have been awarded a grant by the Diocese of St Albans to enable us to replace the flat roof and sky lights in the infant block of the school. Scaffolding will be erected on Saturday and work will begin at the start of the Easter holiday and is likely to be ongoing after the break too.

Please be assured that this has been fully risk assessed and the work is being completed by trusted contractors that typically work in schools. The day to day running of the school will not be affected. We will speak to the children about the work at the start of the new term. Please pray for good weather over Easter so that the work can be completed as planned!

### **Courageous Advocacy in Year 3:**

Year 3 have been so inspired by their learning about climate change that they have written a class letter to local MP Teresa Villiers to share their concerns about pollution, traffic and fuel emissions. The children look forward to receiving her response, hopefully with some solutions.

The children have shown a real interest in these important issues and an ongoing commitment to care for, and safeguard God's creation.

Dear Ms Villiers,

In Year 3 we have been looking at a book called *The Promise* by Nicola Davies. Based on this, we wrote about how we could improve Barnet. We have been learning about climate change and pollution. We are upset by how this affects the world and we are desperate to stop it. We are writing with hope and ideas that we feel would make Barnet a better place.

Around our school, there is a lot of traffic, which makes crossing the road difficult and unsafe. We would like to encourage people to walk, cycle or use the bus and feel that more cycle paths would help with this. If the bus cost less people may use it more.

Another problem with the traffic is it produces lots of emissions and greenhouse gases. We would like to encourage people to use electric cars and not use diesel cars. If we reduce the price of electric cars and make it more expensive to use diesel cars people may switch. Increasing the tax on diesel cars would make them more expensive and if we could give money to people towards buying an electric car that might encourage them to make the change.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. Can you look into finding solutions for some of these issues?

Yours sincerely,

Year 3

St Mary's CE Primary School East, Barnet

### **Ongoing Covid-19 management:**

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 over the Easter break, please let us know by sending an email to [contacthead@stmarysen4.barnetmail.net](mailto:contacthead@stmarysen4.barnetmail.net)

This is primarily to help us to track the number of cases in school and also so that we can provide online learning (for any children who will be absent because of Covid-19) at the start of next term.

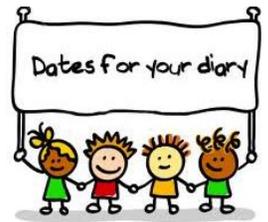
We are very aware of the shortage of lateral flow tests given the government's decision to stop providing them for free as of today. With this in mind, the latest government guidance, which goes live today states that:

- *Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people **for at least 3 days**. They can go back to school, when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.*
- *Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.*

### Dates for your diary:

- **INSET Day** – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April
- **Children return to school for Summer term** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Take a look on the [website calendar](#) for other key dates for events coming up in the Summer term.



### Easter prayers and palm crosses:

All of the children will come home with a hand woven palm cross today. These have been bought from [The African Palms Association](#), which is a community interest project set up to help farmers and their families in a very poor part of Tanzania through making palm crosses.



#### Here is a message from Rev Alec Corio:

At St Mary's Church, all of our Easter collections will be donated to Christian Aid's appeal for Ukraine. You might therefore also like to consider making a donation to one of the DEC appeals for the relief of poverty for refugees.

I would also like to invite you to all our [Easter services at St Mary's Church](#), and especially to our [Good Friday Messy Church](#) on Good Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, at 3pm at Brookside Methodist Church.

On Palm Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, you could pray for all those who struggle to feed themselves and their families; you could pray for those whose lives have been changed by famine, drought and war; you could pray:

*Jesus Christ,  
true and humble king of all creation:  
grant us the charity to serve all who are in need  
and the strength to protect all who desire justice  
as we follow your way,  
and seek the victory of your kingdom over poverty and violence.  
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 over the Easter holiday.

**Maria Constantinou  
Headteacher**

