

St Mary's

Church of England Primary School



Newsletter No. 1

29th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of September already and we've had a wonderful and busy first month in school. Newsletters will now be published at the end of every month, and any other necessary updates will be sent by email.

Focus value: Generosity

This half term, we have spent our time in collective worship reflecting on Generosity. We have thought about God's endless generosity in his creation and have looked at readings from the book of Genesis in church on Thursdays. Last week, Alec asked the children 'What is God like?' here are just a few of the children's impressive responses from children as young as Y1.

God is...

- Love
- Omniscient and omnipotent
- Generous
- Wonderful
- Eternal
- Hopeful

We have started to learn the hymn 'How Great Thou Art' and the children have really loved it. We sang it in church last week and it really was like BBC's Come and Praise! Amazing singing!

We have also thought about our own generosity – being generous with our time, support and care for one another, in addition to thinking about what we are grateful for in our own lives.

This has all been leading towards our Harvest Festival in school which will be on **Monday 3rd October**. On this day, please send in anything you can offer to support two local charities: [Chipping Barnet Food Bank](#) and [Homeless Action in Barnet](#) (HAB). Donations will be divided between the two organisations. Please send any donations in a strong, 'bag for life'.

Children can come straight to the hall to drop off their donations on their way to class in the morning on Monday.

Both charities are in need of non-perishable food such as:

- tins of meat, fish, vegetables
- pouches of rice and pot noodles
- tea, coffee and sugar
- long life juice and squash
- UHT milk
- toiletries

HAB have also requested baseball caps and mobile phones with chargers. Additionally, they have an [Amazon wish list](#) should you wish to donate directly.

Y6 Cake Sale and Friends fundraising:

- On Friday last week, we had our first cake sale since before the pandemic. You helped to raise approximately £290 on cake sales and £136 on the raffle, which is wonderful!
- Over the summer, we had 4 new interactive whiteboards installed in different classrooms across the school. This was only made possible because of the fundraising led by the Friends of St. Mary's. Thank you so much for all of your donations. Every cake sold, every game played and burger eaten at the Summer Fayre, and every non-uniform day donation all contributes towards further fundraising in the school.
- Among other projects, we are hoping, as a priority, to replace the final 3 interactive boards in classrooms later this year with your help!
- For more information about how the Friends of St. Mary's operates, come along to the AGM at school Tuesday 11th October at 7pm. There will be drinks and nibbles too!



Football Author Online Event for Y4, Y5 and Y6:



On Tuesday 27th September, Y4, Y5 and Y6 joined many other schools in attending an exciting online event hosted by the author, Dan Freedman, for half an hour of football fun. He talked about his love of football and discussed how he wrote his best-selling 'Jamie Johnson' series. The children enjoyed learning how he combines his work in the game with writing his series of books. They also had opportunities to ask him questions. If this has sparked an interest in your children to read any of his books, please take a look here: [Jamie Johnson Books - Dan Freedman](#). We have also added some to our School's Amazon Wishlist.

Mrs Richardson – Deputy Head and KS2 English Subject Leader

Bikeability – Cycling Proficiency Y3 and Y4:



This week, Years 3 and 4 have taken part in Cycle Confident's Bikeability scheme. The children have learnt how to carry out safety checks on their bikes before riding them and how to adjust and wear their helmets correctly. They have also learnt how to set off, pedal, slow down and stop.

Here are some of the children's comments:

'It was 10/10! I had so much fun!' (Ethan Y4)

'I learnt how to check and adjust the height of my seat' (Joe Y4)

'I learnt how to get on my bike properly' (Elias Y3)

'Now I can ride my bike without my training wheels!' (Olivia P Y3)

Mrs Prados – PE subject leader

Being on time for school:

A reminder that children should arrive between 8:45am - 8.55am through the Church Hill Road gate. Gates will be locked at 8:55am and after this time, children arriving via the Littlegrove entrance will be marked as 'late'. Please ensure that you arrive in sufficient time for your child to be in class by 8.55am each day.

Scooters:

Scooters are a great way to get to school and are a brilliant alternative to travelling by car. We do have a scooter park in the playground should you wish to leave your child's scooter here.

Please remind your child to dismount from their scooter before they come through the gate in the morning. At home time, children should not ride their scooter in the playground; instead they should wait until they are off the school site. This is particularly important as the playground is often very busy at these times.

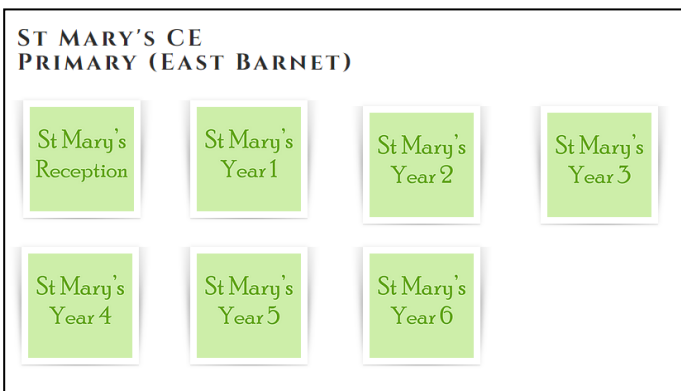
Books in school:

You may recall that last year, we invited parents to donate books to our class libraries in a couple of different ways.

Our Amazon Wish List can be accessed [here](#). We continue to add new books all the time. **If your child has a birthday coming up, donating a book might be a lovely way to celebrate!**



If parents would like to donate a book via Amazon, and they leave us a message on the page, then we will include a sticker inside the book to note who has made the donation.



As an alternative to the Amazon wish list, we have also worked with the Children's Book Shop in Muswell Hill to create a collection of St Mary's class wish lists:

<https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists>.

Once purchases are made, The Children's Bookshop will send books to school once a week for free, labelled with the child's name and class, but parents are also welcome to go into the shop and browse if they'd rather and take it with them immediately.

Cases of COVID-19 in school:

Unfortunately, and as expected, we have had some cases of Covid in school since we have been back. Here is the advice from the NHS regarding a child that tests positive for COVID-19:

- They should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This starts from the day **after** they did the test.
- If they're well and do not have a temperature after 3 days, there's a much lower risk that they'll pass on COVID-19 to others so can return to normal activities.

Dates for your diary:

- Harvest Festival in school – Monday 3rd October
- Friends of St Mary's AGM at school – Tuesday 11th October at 7pm
- Non Uniform Day – Thursday 13th October
- Y5 Cake Sale at home time- Friday 21st October



**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**

