

St Mary's

Church of England Primary School



Newsletter No. 2

21st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of our first half term of the academic year! Today's newsletter is a reflection of recent events and learning in school, as well as looking forward to what's yet to come.

Children's Black History learning:

Following discussions in collective worship and in class, many of the children have done some excellent research, finding out about the lives of significant black people throughout history and in the present day. Here are just a few:

- Jazz musician and singer; Ella Fitzgerald
- Actress and presenter; Floella Benjamin
- Emperor of Mali; Mansa Musa
- USA president; Barack Obama
- Astronaut; Mae Jemison
- Musician; Bob Marley
- Artist; Jean Michel Basquait
- Civil rights activist; Rosa Parks

Some children chose to focus on learning from our [virtual library books on Black History and Black Lives Matter](#):

Here is what one Y3 children wrote about the book 'Undeclared' by Kwame Alexander.

'The author helps black people to feel uplifted and thanks brave people that came before him.

I think that black people shouldn't be defeated by racism. Instead, they should stand up for themselves and believe in what they can achieve.'

Show Racism the Red Card

Today, we have shown our support for the excellent work of the charity 'Show Racism the Red Card', by wearing something red. Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism education charity which utilises the high profile of professional footballers as anti-racist role-models to combat racism in society. If you haven't yet made a donation, please visit www.theredcard.org

Ex-professional football player and Vice President of Show Racism the Red Card; Leroy Rosenior will be joining Year 4, 5 and 6 by zoom after half term to discuss racism awareness and the terrible impact that racism can have. The children will prepare questions to share with Leroy on the day.

Many thanks to Y4 parent Joe Lyons for helping us to organise with Leroy.



School Council:

School council is led by Mrs Harris and Miss Christou. Earlier this half term, new school council members were elected from Y1-Y6:

Y1: Anthony and Keshini, Y2: Arthur and Isabelle, Y3: Lana and Logan, Y4: Annabelle and Ethan, Y5: Matilda J and Teddy, Y6: Thomas and Amelia

Here are a few items that the school council discussed in this week's meeting:

- Return of bake sales – Following their suggestion made at the beginning of the year, the children are very happy to see that cake sales are back.
- School trips to new places – The children suggested that they discuss in classes and do some research at home to make suggestions to class teachers. They would like to focus on different museums linked to learning.
- More themed days instead of non-uniform days - School council would like to write a letter to the Friends to make suggestions and to ask what we can fundraise for.
- Return of swimming lessons – School council were pleased to hear that these will be returning after half term (with Y3).
- Uno cards for classes – The children have really enjoyed playing with these at playtimes. **Any donations would be gratefully received.**

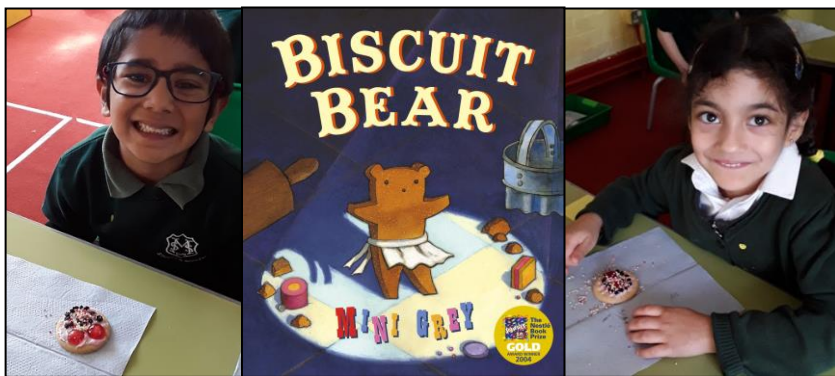
YR's Literacy – Stick Man and Buddying up with Y6:



The children have been reading the text 'Stick Man' in class.

They went on a walk around the playground to collect different sticks and then compared the length and size of these and used them to create their own Stick Man.

We have been so proud of how well Reception have settled into full days at school and Y6 have loved buddying up with them too! Y6 have been excellent role models, inducting YR into our St. Mary's family.



Y1 Biscuit Bear and icing biscuits:

As a way in to their new English text 'Biscuit Bear' by Mini Grey, Year 1 have been icing biscuits. Just like Biscuit Bear in the story, they used icing, glaze cherries, candied peel, currants and hundreds and thousands to decorate their biscuits.

Y2 Finger Puppets:

As part of Y2's learning in Design Technology, they have made wonderfully creative finger puppets.

They planned their designs on paper, thinking carefully about how to make them in 3 dimensions. The children have developed precision cutting skills and have learned how to sew their fabric purposefully. After the children made their puppets they evaluated their designs by choosing two things they were pleased with and something they thought could improve their design.



Y3 Skeleton puppets:



Linked to their Literacy text 'Funnybones', the children in Y3 have made articulated paper puppets. They have written scripts and used the puppets to bring these to life in a live performance to the class!

Y4 Lincolnsfields Residential Trip:

Y4 have returned from their first residential school visit this week. They spent 2 nights and 3 days at Lincolnsfields activity centre where they had a wonderful time building dens in the woods, exploring the woodland and learning about the wildlife that grows there. They also enjoyed songs and marshmallows by the campfire. [Click here](#) to see more photos.



Y5 Harvest Festival at St Albans Cathedral:

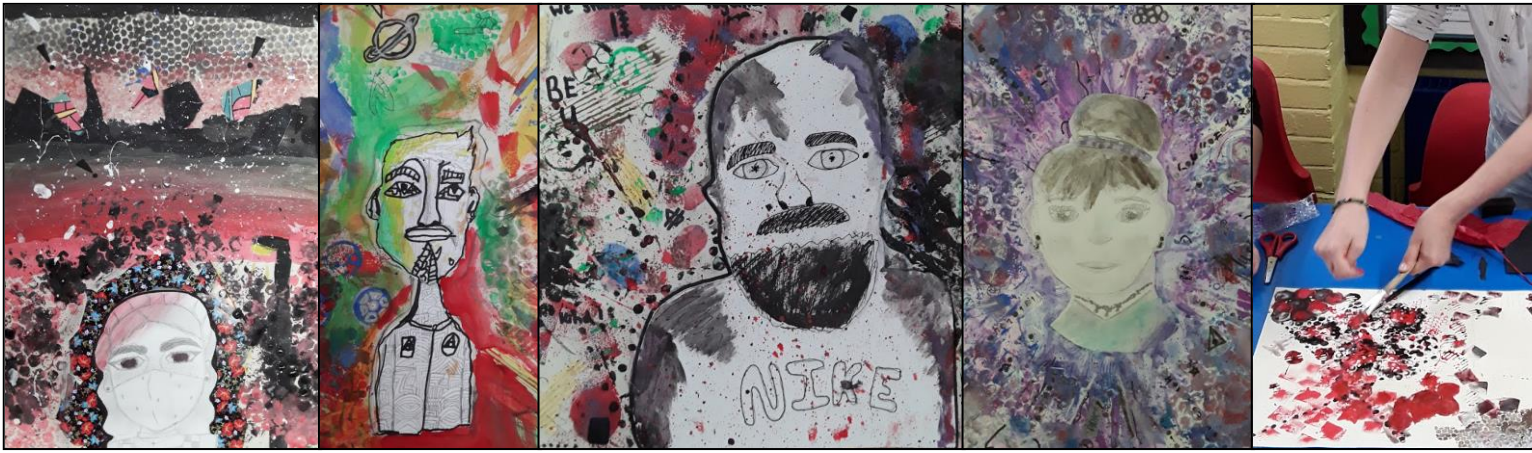
On Thursday 6th October, Y5 represented St Mary's School at the St. Albans Diocesan Harvest Festival at St. Albans Cathedral.

St. Albans Diocese is a family of 138 schools from six Local Authorities: Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton, Barnet and Buckinghamshire. The event was a lovely way to come together to celebrate God's generosity and greatness.

Y6 Layered Portraits:

Y6 have explored how artists use various aspects of their identity, creating imagery which explores many different aspects within one image by using layers and different positions.

They were inspired by the artists Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Yinka Shonibare, Thandiwe Muriu and Mike Barrett. The children experimented with different printing and layering techniques too. They wouldn't be out of place in the Tate Modern!



A brief message on behalf of the St. Mary's School Governing Body:

Dear Parents,

This week we had our second governors' meeting of the academic year (we can't believe how quickly the weeks have gone by already), spending quite a bit of time talking about the school finances, and the impacts of inflation and the cost of living crisis. I hadn't appreciated before coming a governor how tight school budgets really are, and would like to thank all parents for any voluntary contributions that have been made. They really are key to supporting the school in these challenging times and ensuring that Maria and her team can offer the very best learning experience for the children.

As the education system gets back into a more 'regular pattern', one of things we're expecting to experience this year is a long overdue Ofsted inspection. It's been over 10 years since we had a full Ofsted visit and I know that Maria and the team are looking forward to presenting the school, our talented pupils and the wonderful teaching and support team. In 2021, the then Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, oversaw a 're-boot' in the way Ofsted inspections are carried out. He and the chief inspector of Ofsted wanted to ensure all schools get more regular inspections and to deliver a re-distribution of school ratings. It's going to be really exciting to see the school tested against this evolved and now very ambitious framework, which sets out extremely high standards for schools to aspire to. We're looking forward to seeing how St. Mary's has progressed since 2010, and learning how we can continue to grow and develop in the future.

As the clocks change and the leaves start to fall, I wish you all a good half term break and look forward to meeting some of you later in the academic year.

Steven Hicks, Vice-Chair of Governors

A quick note about bumped heads:

At present, we contact a parent/carer via text whenever a child has any injury on the head area. This may be a scratch on the nose, a bump to the cheek or a bump on the head. Most of the time the child is fine and forgotten about their injury by the time they get home!

If your child has a minor head bump, they will be treated and given a 'bumped head' sticker which will alert the teaching staff of the bump so that they can monitor them in class and so that you are aware that this has happened. We will also send an email so that you are aware of what happened.

We will only contact parents/carers by phone if their child has had a serious head injury. First aiders will assess your child and will contact you if your child exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- Unconsciousness, or lack of consciousness (i.e. difficulty keeping eyes open)
- Vomiting more than once
- Any sign of blood or watery fluid coming from the nose or ears
- Any complaint of a headache
- Any complaint of 'seeing double' or 'blurred vision'

If your child has sustained a head injury, observe them closely for 24 hours to monitor whether their symptoms change or get worse. They may cry or be distressed but this is normal – with attention and

reassurance most children will settle down. However, seek medical assistance if your child continues to be distressed. NHS Direct provide full details of symptoms and treatment for minor head injuries.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-injury-minor/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

If First aiders are in any doubt, they will contact parents/carers to ask you to come and assess your child.

Consultations w/c 14th November for all classes:

Look out for information after half term regarding an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and attainment since the start of the academic year. Consultations will be in person, and we will send out a text message to let you know when and how to book an appointment.



Many thanks for book donations received from the Haggan family and the Gokcek family!

Dates for your diary:

- School closed for half term – Monday 24th to Friday 28th October
- Staff training day – Monday 31st October
- **Children return to school – Tuesday 1st November**
- Non Uniform Day – Thursday 10th November
- Friends AGM – Thursday 10th November
- Parent consultations – w/c 14th November
- Y4 Cake Sale at home time- Friday 18th November



This week, in class based collective worship, the children wrote class prayers inspired by our focus value 'generosity' this half term.

They really are such precious thoughts and reflections. I hope you enjoy sharing them at home.

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

**Maria Constantinou
Headteacher**



Dear Father God,
Thank you for our amazing world; your beautiful creation.
Thank you for our great friendships and for our families and pets that show us such love and kindness.
For our incredible time at school and for the wonderful harvest helping to change lives.
Sorry that people sometimes damage our world. We will try to make it a better place.
Please forgive them and help all people to be respectful and to love and care for each other.
Please continue to teach us to be generous.
Amen

Year 3

Dear God,
Thank you for juicy fruits, cake, doughnuts and all our food. Thank you that we could give food to others at our Harvest Festival. Thank you for our friends, our families and our homes. Thank you for presents, toys and all the good things we have.
Sorry for not always taking care of things. Sorry for when we are unkind to or hurt others. Sorry for sometimes making bad choices.
Please help us to be kind and loving. Please help us to care for our things and look after the world. Please help us learn and get better at things. Please give us love.
Amen

Year 1

Father God,
Thank you for this amazing world and all the people that live in it. Sorry for all the bad decisions we have made; harming or disrespecting this amazing creation.
Please forgive us for all the bad things we have done and help us to grow in generosity.
Amen

Year 5

Dear God,
Thank you for good sharing. Sorry for taking toys from others. Please help me to help other children.
Amen

Reception

Dear God,
Thank you for our food, the plants and the world. Thank you for our finger puppets.
Sorry for the times when we hurt others or we hurt the world.
Sorry for when we are silly.
Please may you stop everyone from throwing litter on the floor.
Please forgive us when we do wrong things. Please help people make good choices.
Amen

Year 2

Lord God,
Thank you for our Reception Buddies; help us to be good role models to them,
Thank you for the food we have to eat; may we be appreciative and not take it for granted,
And thank you for our friends and families who bring us support and love.
We would like to say sorry for the times that we have acted before thinking,
And sorry for not always caring for your beautiful creation as best we can.
Lord, please forgive our mistakes and help us to be generous and spread kindness. Please help us remember that little actions can lead to big change,
Please give us strength to be courageous advocates and to stand up for what is right.
Amen

Year 6

Dear Father God,
Thank you for your beautiful creation. For giving us our families and friends, a safe place to live and food to keep us healthy.
Sorry for those that are homeless and those that don't have enough food or clean water. Sorry that sometimes people are unkind and that they destroy your world.
Please forgive us when we do things wrong.
Help us to make the right choices. Help us to grow and take care of plants and animals to help rebuild your creation.
Please guide us to pay more attention to the world around us.
Amen

Year 4

Things to do/know for Half Term and Early November:

Barnet 0-19 Children and Family Service
PRESENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SHOW CASE

Canada Villa Youth Centre, Pursley Road, Mill Hill, London NW7 2BU
Thursday 27 October 2022 • 2:30pm – 6:30pm



JOIN US FOR:

- Arts and Crafts
- African Jewellery Making
- Afro-Haircare
- Photography
- African/Caribbean cookery and much more.

Activities for Black History Month will commence from **3 October 2022** and will end the month long celebrations with the showcase on **27 October** £1.00 entry for Adults 50p children (Under 3's goes free). Entry includes a selection of authentic Caribbean and African Food, entertainment, music Fashion show, a special guest and more.

(all proceeds will go towards running more activities for the young people of Barnet)

Together
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH 2022

Barnet 0-19
Early Help



BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

October Half term 2022:

29 restaurants/café's
where kids can eat
for **FREE or £1**

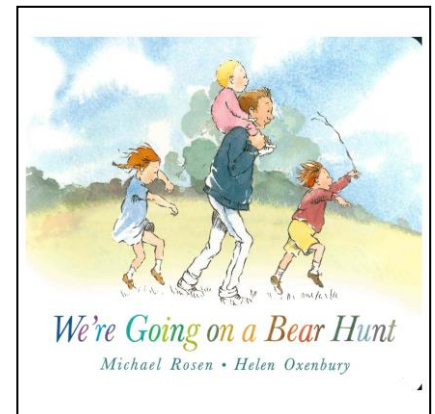
[Here you'll find all the restaurants and cafes where your kids can eat for FREE or £1 this October half term.](#)

Always make sure you read the terms and conditions and don't forget to share this with your family and friends.

We're Going On A Bear Hunt:

Barnet Education Arts Trust have been contacted by the composer of the orchestral music score for the animated film version of 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' (the hugely popular children's bedtime book) which is regularly shown on Channel 4.

There will be a charitable event, raising funds for the RBL London Poppy Appeal on Saturday November 5th (during the Remembrance period). A 40-piece orchestra comprised of Army musicians will perform the score alongside the film on the big screen, together with a fun presented intro (introducing instruments of the orchestra and themes in the score to listen out for) and interactive singalongs to George Ezra's catchy theme song 'Me & You'. The whole performance will run to about 40-45 minutes, at 1pm, 3pm and 5pm on Nov 5th at Regent Hall, Oxford Street (a very short walk from Oxford Circus tube).



- Here is the event page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1125860388357233>
- The event trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClZeidery2Y>
- And the ticketing page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/were-going-on-a-bear-hunt-the-film-live-in-concert-tickets-378202583107>
- **10% off with the code BARNETBEARHUNT**