



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 5

Dear Parents and Carers

Thursday 19th January 2023

We have had a very busy start to the Spring term and it's been wonderful to see the children engaging so enthusiastically with their learning.

Surveys:

To help us with our evaluations and future plans, we have been taking feedback in the form of surveys from children, staff and of course from parents and carers. We are in the process of collating this information and will share the outcome from pupil and parent surveys with you in due course. Thank you for taking the time to give us your views.

Focus Value – Respect:

For the duration of this half term, our focus value is Respect. We have explored stories from the Bible and have also reflected on respecting personal space as well as teaching the children about consent.

We spoke to the children about why respect is important. Here are a few responses:

- *If you ask me what would it be like without respect – it would be chaotic, miserable and quite frankly not a good environment for anyone (Amelia Y6)*
- *I think respect is the most important Christian value because if people had no respect then they wouldn't show respect to God's world then it would be a horrible place to live (Erin Y6)*
- *We should do to others as you would have them do to you. If there was no respect, everyone would be mean and not respect each other e.g. when someone is saying something someone else is chatting and not listening to the person speaking (Jacob Y4)*
- *When you respect people you are also showing a lot of different values too like being kind and patient (Sienna Y3)*

We have been learning 2 new songs in collective worship too. [Shalom](#) and [What a Friend we have in Jesus](#). Sing along at home!

Here are also a few things that you can discuss with your child at home. It would be lovely to get some responses from the children:



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 3rd 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 Number Day we will have 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 have set up a [Just Giving Page which can be found here](#).

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.

Y2 Theatre Workshop: The Great Fire of London

This week, Pudding Lane was transported our school hall and Y2 had a fantastic experience to enrich their history learning all about the Great Fire of 1666. They heard all about how the fire started, what it would have been like to be living at that time and how the fire affected the lives of so many Londoners.



Y5 African Drumming:

Y5 have been learning how to play djembe in their weekly music lesson, courtesy of expert music teaching from Barnet Education Arts Trust. Y5 parents and carers will be invited to an exclusive performance once the children have mastered the art! It's already sounding AMAZING after just a few lessons!

Voluntary Governor Contribution:

As you will be aware, St. Mary's is a Voluntary Aided school which means it's part funded by Barnet Local Authority, St. Albans Diocese and the school's Governing Body. The school sometimes receives grants to fund improvement projects to the school but, for each one, the Governors are required to make a contribution of 10% of the costs. Your contributions towards the school funds helps enable the Governors to meet their obligations and ensure the school continues to provide the best possible environment for the children.

In recent years, your support has funded several major projects to improve the school, including:

- Fire escape to first floor classrooms
- IT facilities – WiFi refresh, new notebooks and tablets for computing and other areas of learning
- A new flat roof above the infant corridor and office spaces

Before Christmas, we submitted a bid for a grant to replace the pitched roof on the infant side of the building – that will be **very** costly to replace. We really appreciate every penny that comes into school via parental donations. Contributions can be made via www.schoolmoney.co.uk and you'll find this voluntary payment in the same place as payments for trips and dinners. Thank you.

Reminder: School starts at 8.55am. Children must be **on site by that time**, or they will be marked as 'late'. Children can arrive any time between 8.45-8.55am. It's really important that children are **on time every day**, as it sets them up for a positive day of learning.

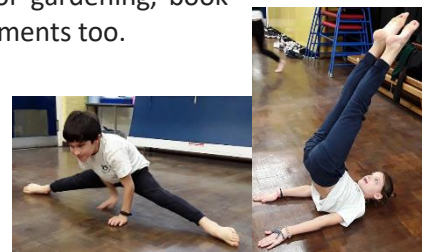




Family First is an online publication produced to help improve the physical and mental wellbeing of families living in the UK.

This popular parenting magazine is free for all carers, parents and grandparents and be found [here](#). This edition has articles about the new Online Safety Bill, Winter birds and what they like to snack on, how to get a great night of sleep, indoor and outdoor gardening, book reviews, yummy veggie recipes and some fun indoor experiments too.

Gymnastics: All classes has begun their gymnastics unit of learning in which they have been developing high and low movements, and symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes.



Has your child achieved something significant outside of school?

If so, then we want to hear all about it! In keeping with our vision statement, we love to share in, and promote being proud of our achievements. If your child has taken part in a competition or achieved a certificate e.g. in sport, music or anything else, then please let us know by sending us an email, or just send your child in with their achievement. We can celebrate either in class or in worship (it's up to the individual child how widely we share this!).



Children's Mental Health Week: W/C 6th February

Children's Mental Health Week is approaching at the end of this half term. This will be a great opportunity for us to focus on one of our whole school priorities; supporting and promoting good mental health.

Miss Christou, our PSHE leader will be speaking in Monday morning worship that week about what mental health week is and its importance.

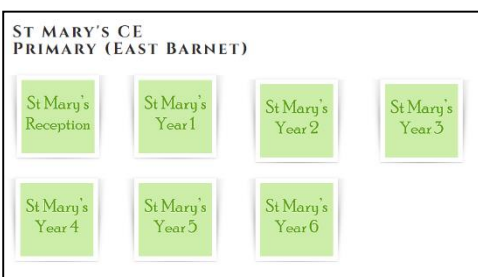
Our PSHE lessons that week will have a focus on mental health too. After seeing the lovely work Year 6 had done during their Healthy Minds unit last term, we will be speaking to the children about some of the things they learned. They are going to help Miss Christou to create some strategies to share with the other classes, which will help us with our ambition to have a whole school approach towards good mental health.



Book Donations:

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.

Dates for your Diary:

- Tuesday 31st January: Y6 SATs parent meeting at school at 6pm
- Wednesday 1st February: Y3 trip out of school
- Tuesday 7th February: Y5 trip out of school

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

Maria Constantinou
Headteacher

