



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 6

Thursday 9th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that it's half term already. Christmas seems like such a long time ago now. It's great that the days are getting ever so slightly longer and the mornings are just that little bit brighter. Roll on Spring! This is our final newsletter of the first half of the Spring term.

NSPCC Number Day:

On Friday last week, we celebrated all things number based in school to raise money for the NSPCC charity. Your generous donations have amounted to a wonderful £432! Thank you so much. This money will go directly towards safeguarding children and young people.



Y1 Sports Festival at East Barnet School:

Year 1 participated in a mini sports festival held at East Barnet School today. They took part in a variety of multisport activities, including basketball, netball, target games and relay runs. Year 5 will be taking part in a similar event at East Barnet School next term. It was lovely to see ex St. Mary's pupils at East Barnet School as Sports Leaders, helping to facilitate the events.



Y3 at the Natural History Museum: Year 3 had a wonderful trip on the London underground to the Natural History Museum last week. In their Dino Dig workshop, they were learning how to be palaeontologists; using brushes to find dinosaur skeletons. Here is one comment from a member of Y3: *"I loved the trip, my favourite part was seeing the robot dinosaurs moving and the little dinosaurs fighting."* Other highlights were looking at the rocks and dinosaur bones. Children were keen to share what they had learned after the trip including; *"I learnt about the Edmontosaurus... after dinosaurs died their bones were left lying in the soil....and Mary Anning was a famous fossil hunter who found a Plesiosaurus."*

Y5 Environmental Centre: Earlier this week, Y5 visited the environmental centre in High Barnet to enrich their science learning. The children went on a trail around the grounds to find out all about seed dispersal and collected lots of seed specimens. Whilst on our trail they heard a wood pecker pecking, saw some beautiful green parakeets, and a wide variety of trees including a 300-year-old Oak tree. They all had a go at pond dipping and despite a little ice, there were creatures galore below the surface. These included a newt, pond snail, a water spider and some dragonfly nymphs. The biggest excitement was probably travelling on the bus! On the way home they all got a fabulous view from the top deck of the bus too. Here's a comment from one of the children: *"I liked that we all went outside to look at nature; everyone was kind and respectful to it."*



A new arrival to our St Mary's Family:

It brings me great pleasure to announce that Rev. Alec Corio and his wife Sam have a new baby boy; Isaac Simeon. I am sure you will join me in wishing Alec and his family many congratulations on this lovely news.



Other news from St. Mary's Church:

With Shrove Tuesday fast approaching, there will be a children's pancake party in the St. Mary's Community Hall from 5-7pm on Tuesday 21st February.

In addition to pancakes and games there will also be face painting and plenty of fun. Everyone is welcome ☺

Children's Mental Health Week:

For children's mental health week, the children have been thinking about what connects us among other things. Here is a summary of what we have done in school:

- ♥ YR have been considering who the important people in their lives are. They talked about how these people support them in different ways and how they can seek them out if they need help.
- ♥ Y1 have been practicing mindfulness techniques. They said that it makes them feel '*calm, peaceful and happy*'.
- ♥ Y2 have been thinking about 'invisible strings' and who they are connected to, to link themselves with people who are important to them.
- ♥ Y3 performed a class dance of We're All in this Together from High School Musical. Annabel commented, '*After the Just Dance I felt more connected as a class*', Myles said '*Dancing made me feel good*'. Ava also made a link between the group work they had been doing in PSHE this half term and feeling connected as a class group.
- ♥ Y4 created a paper chain to help them feel connected to the people and things that they care about.
- ♥ Y5 played a game on the playground where they had to hold hands and pass a hoop around the circle whilst still holding hands. They then shared things that connected them with the person they passed the hoop to.
- ♥ Y6 have been reflecting on their mental health workshop learning and thinking about having a positive mindset. They have been weaving Words of Wisdom.



Reflections from the children about why looking after our mental health is important:

- ♥ *It ensures we are happy in our working environment (Lewis Y5)*
- ♥ *So that we can be encouraged to do better and feel better in what we do (Femi Y5)*
- ♥ *Some children might have lots of feelings bubbling up inside of them and it is good to let them out (Trust Y5)*
- ♥ *People can only see you on the outside but mental health is important so you can learn to control the inside (Radbod Y5)*

Dates for your Diary:

- Friday 10th February – Staff training day. School closed for children.
- Monday 13th – Friday 17th February – Half term break
- Monday 20th February – school re-opening



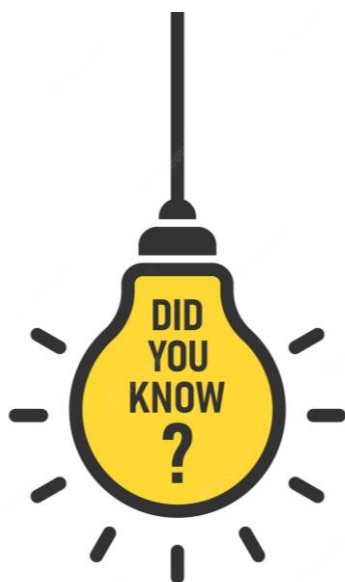
Coming up next half term: More details to follow

- Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day
- Annual academic reports for Y1-Y6 shared mid-March (YR reports are published at the end of the school year)
- Consultations for all classes – end of term
- Y4 trip
- Science week and Lego workshops – see forthcoming email from Mrs. Richardson
- Wellbeing week
- Viking-themed Spellings Tournament – see email from Mrs. Richardson



Take a look here at some free things to do over half term:

- ♥ Meet a T Rex and enjoy some [roarsome crafts at the free dinosaur](#) event at the Palace Shopping Centre in Enfield on 16th February.
- ♥ Take a free trip to the beautiful historic building and grounds at [Valentines Mansion](#) – it is Valentine's month after all!
- ♥ Enjoy free [Lego club at Chipping Barnet Library](#) (every other Saturday)
- ♥ Head to your nearest Lego store on the 11th and 12th February and build your own free Valentine's day rose.
- ♥ Explore, build and play at the [National Gallery's free, drop in workshops](#)
- ♥ Pop to nearby Hoddesdon to visit the free [Egyptology days the Lowewood Museum](#) on 14th and 15th February
- ♥ Get crafty at a [free nature event at New Barnet Library](#) on 17th February. Email Nick@inclusionbarnet.org.uk to secure your spot.
- ♥ Take a free trip to the pretty [Rye Meads in Hertfordshire](#) and try their Duck Detectives trail (£1).
- ♥ Enjoy the [Wood Green Community Fun Day on 18th February](#) for free, which includes a magic show, circus workshop, children's theatre, storytelling, arts workshop, music and movement.
- ♥ Head to the [Southbank Centre for free events over half term](#).



We hope you find this information useful.

**PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2023**
COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

ASDA CAFE Kids eat for £1 all day, every day with no adult spend until the end of March 2023	MORRISONS Spend £4.99 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.
HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for £1 on Mondays. Then Tuesday to Friday between 3 - 5pm selected Kids' meals are £1 & larger meals are £1.50.	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto during Half Terms
PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm	BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.
WHITBREAD INNS Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased	YO! SUSHI From February half term, kids eat free all day at YO! Sushi with any adult £10 spend
ANGUS STEAKHOUSE One free children's meal per paid adult meal 12-5pm daily throughout the holidays	SA BRAINS PUBS Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays
TABLE TABLE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!	FUTURE INNS Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays
THE REAL GREEK Kids eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult	IKEA Kids get a meal for 95p or £1.50 from 11am - All day, every day.
SIZZLING PUBS Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.	FARMHOUSE INNS Kids eat for £1 is currently on until Jan 31st but expected to be extended
BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!	TESCO CAFES Likely but not yet announced

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Class prayers:

This half term, our focus value has been respect – we have been thinking about respect for others, respect for our environment and respect for ourselves. I hope you enjoy reading our class prayers as we end this half term of collective worship.

*Dear Father God,
Thank you for creating and building us.
Sorry for hurting others.
Please help us to keep our promises.
Amen (YR)*

*Dear God,
Thank you for our respectful, good, kind, compassionate friends.
Sorry for when we hurt each other and are disrespectful.
Please help us to be kind, to share, be welcoming and generous.
Amen (Y1)*

*Dear God,
Thank you for respecting us and making us healthy. Thank you for all you do for our world.
Sorry for the times that we are not good. Sorry for littering in the world. Sorry for the times we are angry.
Please help us to respect the environment and respect you.
Amen (Y2)*

*Dear God,
Thank you for helping us to respect others and for working so hard to keep us all happy.
Sorry for not always treating our lovely world the way it should be treated. Sometimes people act badly by hurting animals and putting our world in danger.
Please forgive us. Please also help people to treat others how they would want to be treated whoever they are. Please continue to treat us well, to respect us and be with us always in our everyday lives.
Amen (Y3)*

*Dear Lord,
We thank you for those we respect and those who respect us.
We are sorry for those who do not respect the world by littering.
Please God, help us to remember to respect your world to save our planet.
Amen (Y4)*

*Father God,
Thank you for the wilderness in the world and for allowing us explore and nurture it. Sorry for all the disrespectful and destructive things we do to your creation.
Please help us to turn over a new leaf to help us to care for this wonderful world.
Amen (Y5)*

*Dear Father God,
Thank you for all we have: food, water, family, warmth, education and safety.
May we show respect and appreciation to those who provide for us.
We are sorry for the mistakes we make and for the actions of those who disrespect your wonderful world.
Please guide us to be respectful and appreciative so that we can make a difference in the world and the lives of others.
Amen (Y6)*



On a personal note, I'd like to say a heartfelt 'thank-you' for all the messages of condolence, support and love following the recent bereavement in my family. The children have been so kind too.

**St. Mary's is a very special place and for that, I will be eternally grateful and proud.
Have a lovely half term.**

***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***

