



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 7

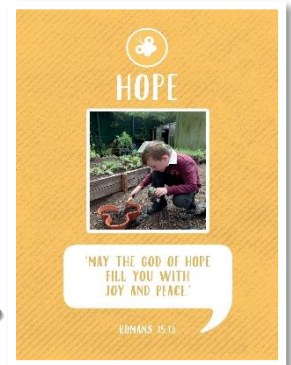
Wednesday 17th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels a little late to wish you all a happy new year as we are hurtling towards the end of January already! I hope that the children have all enjoyed being back at school; we have had a wonderful start to the Spring term.

Collective Worship:

This half term, we are focusing on the value 'hope'. So far, we have explored the story of Noah and when everything seemed hopeless, in darkness and destruction, God used Noah to bring new hope to the world. We have also been inspired by the work of Martin Luther King who was fuelled by his dream and hope for a better and fairer future. Do take a look at the Hope Home School Values at the end of this newsletter for reflections and activities of things to do at home.



Hope-Anuary: Have you seen the checklist?

You've heard of Veganuary, how about Hope-anuary? Last half term, we established a hope committee in Y6 and after exploring things that felt hopeless in the world, we developed a checklist of things that we could all do to bring more hope to ourselves and to others. 'Hope-anuary' was born! Please do encourage your child to engage with the checklist which can be found on Google Classroom Y1-6 and via email for YR.

Surveys:

To help us with our evaluations and future plans, we will be taking feedback in the form of surveys which will go out to children, staff and of course from parents and carers. Please look out for a parent/carers survey in the form of a text message containing a link.



Y5 Djembe 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!



Curriculum letters:

Please do take time to read the curriculum letters that have been sent by email. They are also on our [website](#). They give you an overview of every subject that your child is learning about this half term.

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



Diocese of St Albans
London Borough of Barnet

Taking your child around the world:

Not quite literally... but we will be using an award winning resource called 'Lyfta' which enables us to 'visit' people around the world to learn more about what life is like in their communities.

- Our aspiration is for children to develop informed views about the world that aren't filtered through news or social media, and we want to use this opportunity to shatter any stereotypes.
- Lyfta allows the children to experience what life might be like for people thousands of miles away. For example, to be at the top of a live volcano and see and hear what it might be like, or to stand on a cliff in Guatemala and look at the impact that flooding has had on the local community. The world is about places, but it's also about people. Click [here](#) if you want to find out more.



Local ju-jitsu club:

Might your child be interested in learning a martial art form? To find out more about this Brazilian Ju-Jitsu club that is held in New Barnet, [get in touch here](#). Let the club know that you saw the information in our newsletter, to qualify for a **reduced fee**. The school will also receive a small donation every time a St. Mary's pupil joins the club, so it's win-win!

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 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:

- Replacement of the pitched roof
- A new flat roof above the infant corridor and office spaces
- Fire escape to first floor classrooms

Before Christmas, we submitted a bid for a grant to replace the flat roof above the hall and junior side of the building – that will be **very** costly to replace.

Your contributions will also be going towards the cost of an updated security system that will be installed in April.

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.

Dates for your diaries:

- Non-uniform day and Y5 cake/fruit sale: Friday 26th January: FOSM will provide more details soon
- Growing Against Violence workshops for Y5 and Y6 and parent workshop at 2.30pm on 31st January
- Y6 SATs meeting at 6pm on 31st January

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

Maria Constantinou

Headteacher



This term we will be focussing in school on the value HOPE.
We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT HOPE TOGETHER...

The value **hope** is about much more than just wishing as hard as we can that things will be different. It is about believing that the world can be better and being prepared to do something!

The character Noah in the story opposite, was willing to look silly in front of his neighbours by building a huge boat even though he lived miles from the ocean, because he **hoped** and believed that God had a plan. As a family you may want to talk about:

- your **hopes** and dreams for the future
- what you can do to make them happen
- what others need to do

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"Learn from yesterday, live for today,
hope for tomorrow"
Albert Einstein



READ TOGETHER...

God's Special Promise

The world that God had made was a beautiful, colourful place – brimming with life and bursting with good things. It was his precious gift given with all his love. God **hoped** that people would care for it and care for each other but now they were doing just the opposite! They were quarrelling, fighting, and spoiling everything. God saw that there was only one thing to do; to begin all over again.

But God also saw that not everyone on the earth was wicked. There was one man and his family trying to do their best to look after the world and to look after each other and to listen to him. The man's name was Noah. God told Noah to build an ark – a huge, magnificent boat. Noah was mystified because he lived miles from the ocean and was not sure why he would ever need a boat. As word got around about the enormous boat Noah's neighbours made his life miserable with their taunts and jibes. Sometimes Noah was tempted to lose **hope**, but he knew from experience that he could trust God for the future, so he and his family kept on building.

When the work was finally finished God told Noah to gather two of every kind of creature as well as all his family together and set up home in the ark. It took a long time but Noah had to just keep on trusting God. And then the first raindrops began to fall, followed by showers, then torrents and finally floods. On and on it rained for forty days and forty nights. When Noah was beginning to lose **hope** of ever seeing the sun again, the rain suddenly stopped. Noah sent out a dove and when it did not return he knew that the bird had found dry land on which to build a nest. They were safe at last! And then a wonderful thing happened. God sent a rainbow - a beautiful, colourful bow in the sky. It was a sign of **hope** and promise. The world had been washed clean, and was all ready for a new beginning.

Bible story based on Genesis 6:1-9:17



QUIZ Word Search

Find the words from the story of Noah.
12 creatures are also hidden in the word search. They were on the boat!

- | | | |
|-------|----------|---------|
| NOAH | CREATURE | FORTY |
| ARK | DAYS | HOPE |
| BOAT | DOVE | NEST |
| BUILD | FLOODS | PROMISE |
| | GOD | RAINBOW |
| | | WORLD |

P	R	O	M	I	S	E	T
A	A	C	G	K	D	U	P
R	I	B	F	R	O	G	J
R	N	J	H	G	O	D	D

L	Q	R	O	B	O	A	T	L	E	K	A	N	S
G	O	A	T	O	U	A	M	F	O	R	T	Y	T
D	L	R	O	W	Z	I	H	O	P	E	D	T	S
P	M	K	C	A	M	E	L	X	N	E	L	F	E
O	L	I	O	N	E	V	O	D	S	K	E	O	N
E	R	U	T	A	E	R	C	A	R	B	E	Z	M
V	X	A	Y	G	I	R	A	F	F	E	B	Y	W

The Basket of Dreams

This beautiful sculpture is on the hills overlooking Lake Wakatipu in New Zealand. It is called the Basket of Dreams and is made from a spiral of steel. Spirals can remind us that we have a choice about the way we live. We can either travel inwards towards self-centredness where we only try to think of ourselves or we can travel outwards towards the world and other people.



FAMILY FOCUS

Spiral of Hope

Start with a circle of paper or light card and draw a spiral. On the spiral write a **hope** or dream that you have that will make the world a safer, cleaner or more healthy place to live. Cut along the lines until you get to the centre, leaving a circle in the middle. Make a hole in the middle so you can hang your spiral from a thread. (You may want to practice drawing a good spiral on some scrap paper before you start.)



FASCINATING FACTS

Rainbows

After a shower of rain we sometimes see a magnificent rainbow arched across the sky.

- rainbows are the reflection of the sun in the rain droplets in the sky
- they are curved because raindrops are round
- they are multi-coloured because each raindrop splits the sunlight into a spectrum of colours
- the colours of the rainbow are always in the same order – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet – and red is highest in the sky
- an easy way to remember the order is using the mnemonic 'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain'. The first letter of each word is also the first letter of the colour.



HALL OF FAME

Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is best known as a natural history film maker. He has made expeditions all over the world to watch and film wildlife in its natural habitat. His many TV documentary programmes have allowed us all to understand the wonder of nature and the importance of conserving the natural environment if species are to survive.

Sir David has shown us the impact humans have too often made on the natural world and the consequent struggle of wildlife to survive. His **hope** is that we leave future generations a planet that is healthy and inhabitable by all species.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Make a 'hopes and dreams' catcher

Dream catchers are traditionally made from a looped willow branch onto which a net or web is woven. The net is then decorated with feathers, beads and other decorations. According to American Indian folklore, as we sleep, dreams are caught in the net and with the first rays of sunlight any bad dreams are burned away.

Find a long twig that can be bent and tied to make a hoop or frame. Use natural string or thread stretched across the frame to make the net and then decorate it creatively to catch all the **hopes** and dreams you can!

