



Care, grow and flourish in
God's loving hands.

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy St. David's Day!

There's LOTS coming up in the next few weeks, so please take time to add dates to your calendars!

Friday 1st March 2024



Netball team:

Over the past term our Y6 netball team have made us extremely proud by representing St. Mary's school in an exemplary way in 5 local fixtures. Our team have shown great determination and resilience and they have been a pleasure to work with. It has been a joy to see the growth, progression and improvement they have made and we have enjoyed celebrating every single one of their achievements. With special thanks to Mrs Prados, Mrs Williams and Mrs Wright for their time, and support for the children.



Consultations and Reports:

In the week commencing 11th March, all class teachers will be offering consultation slots for you to book an appointment with them. This will be an opportunity for you to see some of your child's learning and to hear about their progress since the Autumn term. Look out for a text message inviting you to book a slot. Children in Y1 to Y6 will be bringing annual academic reports home on 7th March. Reception reports will be shared in July.

Surveys:

Thank you so much for all of your responses to our annual parent survey. We had a fantastic return. You can view the [collated surveys here](#). We have also added in some information about the actions taken since January 2023 as an outcome of your feedback last year. We really appreciate all of your comments and responses; these go directly into evaluations and developments at St. Mary's.



Governors: A message from Stephen Edwards, Chair of Governors

The Governors of St Mary's play a wide and varied role in school life – we have a strategic role, working with Mrs Constantinou to set the overall vision for the school and determine priorities into the future. We also work hard to scrutinise and understand the operation of the school on a day to day basis, both through our regular governors' meetings, and through visits looking at specific areas of school life.

For example, this week, a group of governors visited the school to hear from pupils and staff about the geography curriculum, and last week, Mrs Constantinou and I met the local police and Cllr Simon Radford to discuss how we can work together to ensure the school and its community continues to be safe and secure.

As a voluntary aided school, we also – via the generous contributions of parents through annual contributions – fund improvement projects around the school. Recent projects have included significant work to the school roof over the summer, new fire doors throughout the school, and improvements to the school's security system. We can reclaim tax on these donations through the Government's Gift Aid Scheme, enabling us to fund further improvements into the school environment. There are further details of how to do this on the [parental contributions section](#) of the school website. Donations can be made using School Money where payments for trips are made.

Governors are always keen to hear from parents (and pupils!) about their experiences of the school – so do please feel free to write to me, care of the school office, if you wish.

Collective worship – focus value:

This half term, in the run up to Easter and during Lent, we have been thinking about Service, which has led on beautifully from the wonderful work many of the children did in Hope-anuary. We have reflected on the skills and talents that we have and how we might use those to serve others. Here are a few of the children's ideas:

Our skills, talents, interests and qualities:	How these could be used to serve others:
Being good at singing e.g. being in a choir or singing well at home.	Making others feel happy and joyful when we sing to them e.g. when the choir sing to vulnerable or elderly community members.
Being observant.	Noticing if someone is feeling down, offering to help or finding someone who can.
Good at gardening	Growing fruit, vegetables or plants and flowers to give to others.
Having a love for reading.	Reading to others, helping friends to read and telling stories we've read.
Knowing how to play a sport like football or rugby.	Teaching someone the rules of the game and how to play safely.
Being a good dancer.	Perfuming for others to make them smile and teaching friends new dance moves!
Have good knowledge in a subject at school.	Offering to explain or show something to another child who might be finding it tricky.
Being generous with time for others and ourselves.	Spending time to help others in need. Recognising when a friend might be tired and doing a job for them. Invite another child to play if they look lonely. Taking time to share.

We have heard Bible stories showing Jesus serving unconditionally as servant king who did not come to be served, but to serve. Here is our 'service' memory verse for this half term:

'Serve one another in love'

Galatians 5:13

Food Bank Donations:

With service in mind, we would like to invite parents and carers to bring donations for us to share with the Chipping Barnet Food Bank on **Monday 18th March**. Please bring donations to classrooms in a strong plastic bag.



Urgently needed food items

- Tea 80 bags size
- Cereal
- Rice
- Rice pudding/custard
- Female hygiene products

Please given what you can.

If you are able to donate some Easter themed chocolates or treats, then that would be a wonderful gift to children who may otherwise go without in the coming weeks. Thank you in advance.

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT 11-17 MARCH

The Big Plastic Count: 11th-17th March

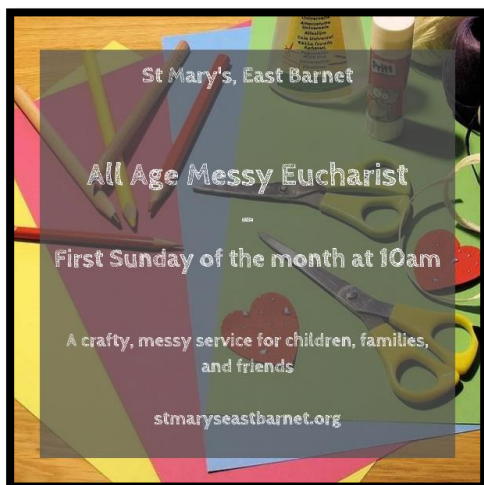
We would like to invite everyone at home to participate in positive change! **Please see the attached letter** for information about The Big Plastic Count. Together, we can build even more evidence about what happens to our plastic waste to help put a stop to the plastic crisis. At St. Mary's, we are wholly committed to climate change and sustainability; these conversations are so important.

Dates for your diaries: You will have received communication about many of these events already.

- Reception hearing and vision checks: Monday 4th March in school
- Skipping workshops in school – all classes: Wednesday 6th March
- World Book Day: Thursday 7th March
- Y1 to Y6 annual academic reports coming home on Thursday 7th March
- Consultations: week commencing 11th March
- Ducklings arriving in school: week commencing 11th March
- The Big Plastic Count: 11th-17th March
- Y4 residential trip: 14th -15th March
- Food bank donations: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March
- Holy Communion service in school: Thursday 21st March
- Y3 educational day visit: Tuesday 26th March
- Y3 Bikeability in school: 27th and 28th March
- Non uniform day and Y4 cake and fruit sale: Thursday 28th March (watch out for details from FOSM)
- Last day of term: Thursday 28th March – 3pm finish



St. Mary's Church events and dates for your diaries:



- Sunday 3rd March at 10am: All Age Messy Eucharist Service followed by Mothering Sunday arts and crafts – everybody is welcome!
- Young Voices is the children's choir of St Mary's Church. It offers children from year 3 and up a free musical education, and opportunities to perform. It rehearses on Wednesdays at 4pm.
- For more information about what's on at St. Mary's Church, click [here](https://stmaryseastbarnet.org).

Thank you as always for your support.

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

