



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

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic start to the summer term and our preparations for our annual May Day celebrations began last week with Y6 ceremoniously unplaiting the may pole following last year's event. There has been lots of skipping and singing in school which has been wonderful.

Staffing news:

- Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to one of our longest serving staff members at the end of this term. Mrs Lyn Reynolds who currently teaches in Y2 and Y3 two afternoons a week will be retiring after over 23 years of service to St. Mary's School. In over 2 decades with us, Lyn has been a kitchen assistant, volunteer, parent in the school, teaching assistant, trainee teacher, mentor, curriculum leader, football coach, dance choreographer, and class teacher (as well as unofficial gardening adviser, Cornwall expert, baking aficionado and number one Strictly fan). Her expertise, passion and commitment to children over this time has been indescribable, and we will miss her very much.
- Whilst we cannot replace that work that Lyn does, we will be advertising for the role early next week, and ask that you support our recruitment effort by sharing the news with your networks.

Christian Aid Week:

- We will be supporting Christian Aid on **Friday 17th May with a non-uniform day** on which we will be inviting the children to also to **wear trainers to school**.
- We have set up a Just Giving page to raise funds directly for Christian Aid. [The link can be accessed here](#). We will also send this out by text.
- The 'wear trainers' element is to illustrate that some children in developing countries have to walk for many miles to obtain clean water – and many may do with no shoes on at all. We take our shoes and the comfort of them for granted every day, along with our access to clean water.
- Collective worship that week will draw on the work of Christian Aid and our fundraising efforts.



Thank you in advance for your support

Road Safety:

This is a plea to remind all parents and carers who need to drive to school to strictly observe speed limits and be very careful on the road during drop off and pick up times. We have had far too many near misses recently.

- Littlegrove has a **20 mile per hour speed limit**
- Church Hill Road has a **30 mile per hour speed limit**

Remember also, that stopping on zig-zags or yellow lines poses a **big risk** to children and families on foot.

Hope Committee:

Our Y6 hope committee continue to bring hope and joy to those around them. Last week, they helped to lead our collective worship all about the language of spirituality! Whilst that sounds very high brow, we have explored how we can have spiritual moments in 3 main categories:

1. 'wow' moments - amazing moments, when you want to breathe in and hold on to that feeling as long as you can.
2. 'ow' moments - times when life can be tricky, and feel like they knock the breath out of you.
3. 'now' moments - the everyday, normal and still times; taking notice of the present and noticing what's going on around us.

Recognising these moments also supports good mental health, knowing that life can bring ups and downs and everything in between. Taking time to pause, be mindful and be present is so essential when life can be so busy.

Supporting our local community:

Year 6 will be growing broad beans to help fundraise for the local charity, Friend in Need (FIN). They will plant and nurture their broad beans, at school, in order to donate them to FIN so that they can be sold at the FIN Garden Fair on Saturday 11th May.

FIN is a wonderful charity whose purpose is to help serve the needs of our local community, including care for vulnerable adults.

We know that Year 6 will be delighted to help serve our local community in this way and it links well to their 'Body Health' science topic.

Do pop along to East Barnet Baptist Church to the Garden Fair – entrance is free!



Chickenshed – Wonder Walk:

Chickenshed theatre company supports over 15,000 children and young people every year. Over 60% have experienced isolation and exclusion due to mental or physical ill-health, disability, bullying, gang pressure, interactions with the care system or being a young carer themselves. For many, Chickenshed is their safety net and second home.

They will be having a community fundraising Wonder Walk to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2024. The walk will take place on Sunday 9th June, starting and finishing at Chickenshed where they hope to attract 300+ participants and raise a minimum of £40,000. [Here is a flyer](#) to the event for more information and to register to participate.



Dates for your diaries:

- Friends of St. Mary's non uniform day: Thursday 2nd May
- Y2 and Y3 disco: Friday 3rd May
- Christian Aid fundraiser – Non uniform and wear trainers day: Friday 20th May
- May Day: Friday 24th May – more details to follow

Coming up next term:

- Friends of St. Mary's non uniform day: Thursday 6th June
- Class photos: Friday 7th June
- Y6 residential visit 10th – 14th June
- Sports Day: afternoon of 18th June in Oak Hill Park
- Summer Fayre: Saturday 22nd June

Thank you as always for your continued support,

Maria Constantinou

