



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

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 12

Friday 17th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all to **next Friday's** May Day celebration. The children have worked so hard to learn their dances in addition to learning songs to share with you all.

A few May Day Reminders

What to wear:

- Traditionally, girls have worn white dresses on May Day. As we have done in recent years, we would like to offer girls the option of wearing something colourful instead if it means that they can wear a dress that they already own. Please don't feel that you need to purchase a new dress. Please note that the children need to be able to skip and kneel, so dresses should not be too long or too short.
- If for any reason, your daughter prefers not to wear a dress, for cultural or personal reasons, please do get in touch with your child's teacher.
- Boys will need to wear a white shirt or polo shirt and dark grey school trousers or shorts. They can also wear a school tie if they'd like to, which is £3.50 and can be purchased on School Money Shop.
- All children will need to wear suitable footwear for skipping; no sandals please. Plimsolls or canvas shoes are most ideal.

If your child will be going home for lunch:

- Please be at the Church Hill Road gate at 11.25am. The children will be dismissed from class at 11.30am. Please collect them from the usual places.

If your child is staying at school for lunch:

- Please **send a change of clothes/shoes in a plastic bag** for them to wear for the event.

Arriving for May Day:

- The Church Hill Road gate will be open **from 1.15pm** and children should arrive dressed for the occasion.
- Children will come into the front playground through the large double gate and follow the track round on the left hand side, so that they do not have to make their way through a crowd of adults. We will section off this area of the playground for the children only.
- Mrs. Reid will be on the inner gate to meet the children in Reception.
- Visitors should not go into the coned off areas for the children so that they can come through.
- Adults should come through the central gate and will be directed to wait in the front playground away from the children and will be admitted once the children are in.
- Please be considerate of members of the public while you wait to come into school and avoid obstructing the pavement outside the school gate.
- Just a reminder – please don't bring dogs!

Preparing for May Day:

- Please keep an eye on the forecast – if it's going to be warm and sunny, please apply sun cream to your child before they come into school. Similarly, if it's forecast to be showery, please provide them with a shower proof jacket.
- On the day, your child will need:
 - water bottle
 - cap/sun hat – weather dependent
 - cardigan/light jacket – weather dependent

During May Day:

- We will have limited seating on the playground; you might want to bring your own fold up chair if you have one.
- Please clap for the children to show your appreciation for their hard work and wonderful dancing and singing.
- If you take photos or any videos of the children, **please do not share these on social media.**
- The Friends of St. Mary's will be selling cold drinks to enjoy.
- Please join us in singing the National Anthem.

After May Day:

- May Day usually finishes at around 3.30pm.
- We'd really appreciate your help to clear the playground once our celebrations are over. We will explain at the time how visitors can help with this.
- Children will be dismissed from their usual locations.
- **Please keep children off the stage after May Day**, apart from Y6 who will be using the stage for precious group photos, given that this is their last one.

Staff news:

- Earlier this month, our Y4 teacher, Mrs. Georgiou gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. We are all so happy to hear about this new addition to our St. Mary's family!
- Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs. Murray at the end of this half term. Mrs. Murray has served as a teaching assistant at St. Mary's school for many years. We will all miss her very much!
- I'm sure you will join us in prayer to wish both Mrs. Georgiou and Mrs. Murray all the very best for the next chapter of their lives.

Exciting news – filming in school:

- Over the past year, we have been reflecting on having a Heart for the Earth in collective worship. We have been exploring across school life how we might bring about a more sustainable and hopeful future where people and the planet can thrive.
- Next half term, we will be visited by the resource creators and a professional filming company. The purpose of their visit is to hear more about how we have used the resources as a school and the difference they have made to the school community's thinking and actions regarding environmental issues, including climate change. As part of this filming, they would like to film and interview a number of pupils. Pupil names will not be recorded or shared within the videos.
- The videos will be used to encourage and support other schools in developing and demonstrating a 'heart for the earth'. The videos will be published on participating school websites, the Diocese of St Albans website and used in teacher training. A short overview video may also be published on Twitter/X.
- **Please look out for a filming consent form which we will need all parents to complete. This will be sent by text message.**



Do take a look at our class prayers. They feature the children's reflections and spiritual 'wow' moments, and things they want to thank God for. We hope you enjoy them.



Care, Grow and Flourish in God's Loving Hands

Dear God,
Thank you for our lovely school, the whole world, our homes, the sun and the trees.
Amen

YR

Dear God,
Thank you for the animals; the ladybirds, the tigers and the snails.
Thank you for rivers and streams and lakes.
Thank you for the plants; the tomatoes, the strawberries and flowers.
Thank you for everything you have made for us.
Amen

Y1

Dear God,
We think wildlife, toys and parks are amazing.
We say wow when we see dogs, peacocks and penguins.
We say wow when we hear birdsong, calm music and loud cat meows.
We are thankful for our food and water.
Amen

Y2

Dear God,
We thank you for creating such an amazing world for us that makes us stop and think wow!
Thank you for beautiful bluebells, blossom trees and orangey pink sunsets.
Thank you for our greenhouses where we can plant and grow vegetables.
Thank you for our dogs, cats and for foxes and snails.
Help us to slow down and appreciate all of the beautiful things you have created for us.
Amen (Y3)

Dear God,
Thank you for our wonderful world,
Thank you for all the bees that give us honey, and for slimy snails.
Thank you for the planets and universe,
Thank you for the blossom on the trees and the oxygen in the air,
Thank you for all the natural colours we can see and enjoy,
Thank you for the sun shining on us,
Thank you for the ocean and the animals that live there,
Thank you for all the tulips we see flourish
Amen

Y4





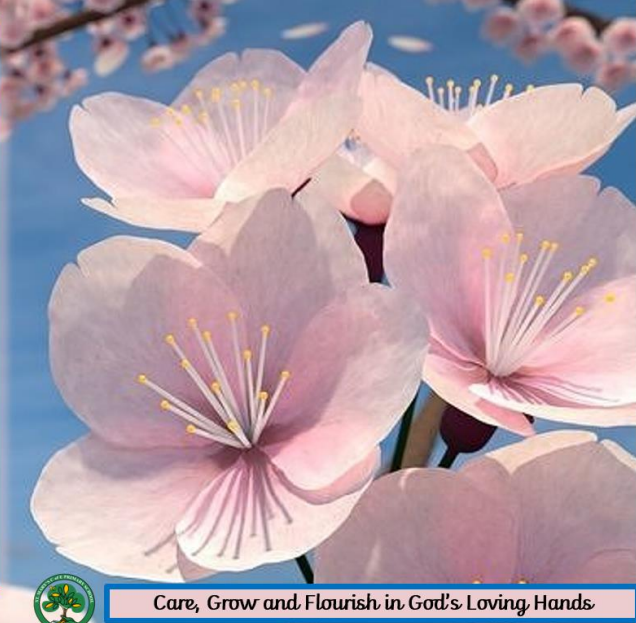

Dear God,
 Thank you all of your creation, for all the beautiful things you have made.
 Thank you for the flowers and the trees and the birds – for nature and all living creatures and for amazing buildings that humans have made. Thank you too for Cuffley Camp!
 Sorry that some people don't think about our planet and destroy your beautiful creation. Sorry if sometimes we are mean and upset other people. Please forgive us for what we have done wrong.
 Help to guide us on our journey through life.
 Amen

Y5

Dear Lord,
 Thank you for your beautiful creation, which surrounds us.
 For the stunning blossom on trees, which sway in the breeze,
 and for spectacular sunsets, which glow on the horizon.
 In our troubled world, may this beauty bring peace.

With grateful hearts,
 Amen

Y6

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- **May Day: Friday 24th May**
- Half term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May
- Staff training day: Monday 3rd June
- **Children return to school: Tuesday 4th June**
- Friends of St. Mary's non uniform day: Thursday 6th June
- Class photos: Friday 7th June
- Cake/fruit sale at home time: Friday 7th June
- Y6 residential visit 10th – 14th June
- Sports Day: afternoon of 18th June
- Summer Fayre: Saturday 22nd June
- Academic reports for Reception coming home: Friday 28th June
- Parent Consultations – w/c 1st July



Thank you as always for your continued support,

Maria Constantinou

Headteacher

