



Care, Grow and Flourish in  
God's Loving Hands.

# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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## Newsletter No. 3

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the end of our first half term together and what a joyful and productive time it has been.

### Collective Worship:

This half term, we have been so inspired by our memory verse 'Be a light for other people. Live, so they will see the good things you do.'

So much so that the children have made incredible links to how this looks in their daily lives. They have been inspired by recognising Jesus as a lighthouse and I have been inundated with drawings, reflections and prayers from children across the school.

We have learned some wonderful, new contemporary hymns this half term including a song called [Jesus Loves Me \(Yesu Anjagala\)](#) which is sung in two languages - English and Luganda. The children LOVE it, so do listen at home and have some fun! It's very uplifting.

We've also learned to sing [Jesus Strong and Kind](#) (and the 3 British Sign Language signs for the words Jesus, Strong and Kind). Have a listen. It's very beautiful!



### Spiritual moments:

Children are spiritual beings by nature and we have seen so much evidence of this in school. Robert Coles who has written a lot about spirituality and children in worship says that 'children are active agents who walk with adults on the journey of life'. He suggests that children are spiritual pilgrims who march through life as they seek God, ask questions, discover answers and wonder about lies ahead of them.

I'd like to share just a few examples of this – children who are exploring their spirituality with us...

#### God's Door

God's door is always open and still  
His light shines – a perfect will  
A place of peace, I have no fear  
I know His door is always near  
Evagelia Y1

Dear God,  
Thank you for  
the happy times  
Amen  
Kriva Y2

We know God is always with us to lead  
us out of the darkness and into the light.  
Hari Y4

Dear God, we know you are with us in all the  
up and down times. Amen  
Charlie Y2

On our training day after half term, the staff team will be thinking more about Spiritual Development.

### Evensong Service:

We were really pleased with the turn out for Evensong at school on 13<sup>th</sup> October. The school choir sang so beautifully.

If you enjoyed our service, then you might enjoy Evensong at St.

Mary's church at 6pm on the first Sunday of every month.

Your child might also enjoy the opportunity to be a chorister for an afternoon at a church event at the end of November



### Be a chorister for an afternoon

at St Mary's, East Barnet

- Join 'Young Voices' and
- learn music
- make friends
- have fun
- lead services

Sunday 24 November  
3 - 5:30pm

4:30pm sing at the Service  
followed by refreshments

Booking is essential and all choristers must be accompanied by an adult  
Email [administratorostmaryseastbarnet.org](mailto:administratorostmaryseastbarnet.org) to book your child's place

### Smartphones:

**We'd really appreciate your support with the Childhood Free Smartphone campaign. Here is a reminder of what we have asked you to do:**

- If your child already has a smartphone, take a moment to think about the Childhood Free Smartphone campaign.
- **If your Y6 child is an independent traveller and they carry a mobile phone with them for security,** we kindly ask that this phone is not a smartphone. We appreciate that a non-smartphone is not trackable so recommend buying an AirTag to put on the phone or in a school bag if you wish. A list of alternative phones to smartphones can be found [here](#). MANY local secondary schools have already adopted this policy.
- **We'd like to action this decision from 5<sup>th</sup> November.**

Please also note that children should not come to school wearing smart watches (watches that make calls, take photos and videos). Fit bits and watches that monitor movement are fine to wear as long as they don't have the features described above.

### Just One Tree:

Thank you for all your support for the charity Just One Tree. So far, we have raised enough funds to plant 72 trees. It's not too late to donate!



#### Why should we plant more trees?

- Trees absorb the pollutants we humans put into the atmosphere.
- They clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, prevent soil erosion and flooding, give life to the world's wildlife, house complex ecosystems, supply us with medicine and provide jobs to over 1.6 billion people.
- They really are the superheroes of the planet and we need them in order to survive.

You can donate £1 or whatever you'd like to give, by clicking our [school fundraising page here](#). For **every** pound donated, **one** tree will be planted.

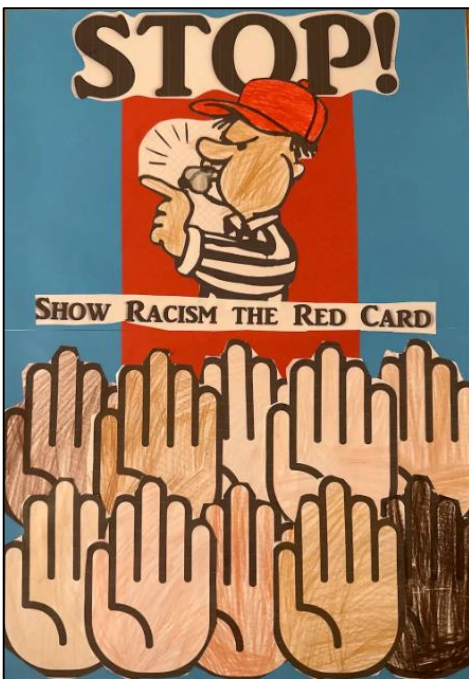
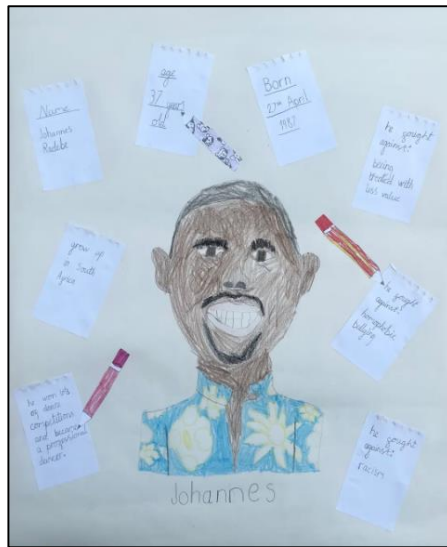
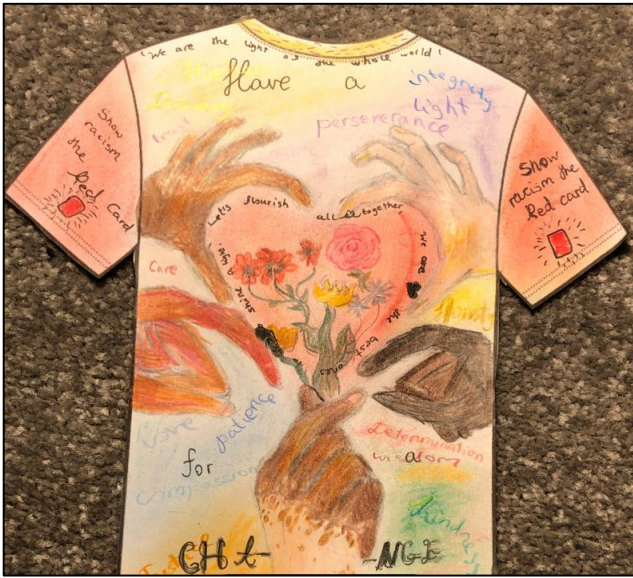
### Black History:

On Tuesday, KS2 took part in a workshop on Breaking Barriers: Black British History Makers. The children discovered the remarkable stories of four Black British figures: Jacques Francis, Claudia Jones, Sislen Fay Allen, and Stormzy. Take a look at [our web post about the workshop](#). The children had so much to say about what they had reflected on:

*'We may all be different in many ways, but we're all children of God.'*

*'Even though we are all different, we should all be treated equally.'*





Here is just a tiny sample across the school of the children's responses to Show Racism the Red Card and Black History research ☺





Yesterday, Y4 had a brilliant workshop exploring racism through a beautiful story. The workshop was led by 2 qualified mental health professionals who used the book they wrote to help the children recognise racist behaviour and the impact this has on the individuals involved.

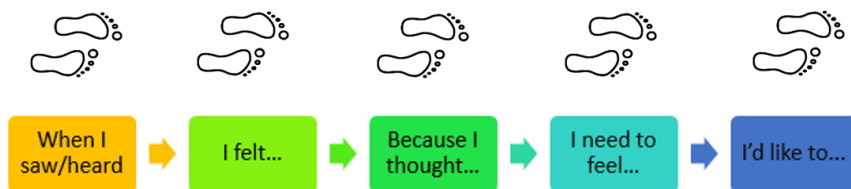
One of our school priorities this academic year is on supporting the children's mental health and wellbeing. The practitioners who led the workshop have written lots of therapeutic stories to help children navigate life.

You may have seen the books on sale at home time yesterday. [Take a look here](#) if you're interested in seeing the themes that they write about.

### New Behaviour Policy:

Next half term, we will be launching a new behaviour policy. It will be focused on using Restorative Practice to support the children to engage in reflection and communication. Our policy will be called the 'Relationships, Communication and Behaviour Policy' as we believe that relationships are the bedrock of our work, and that all behaviour is communication.

We have already begun using some of the new strategies in school with some of the children:



### New Book donations:

Our Amazon Wish List can be accessed [here](#). We continue to add new books all the time.

**If your child has a birthday coming up, donating a book might be a lovely way to celebrate!**

If parents would like to donate a book via Amazon, and they leave us a message on the page, then we will include a sticker inside the book to note who has made the donation.



As an alternative to the Amazon wish list, we have also worked with the Children's Book Shop in Muswell Hill to create a collection of St Mary's class wish lists:

<https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists>.

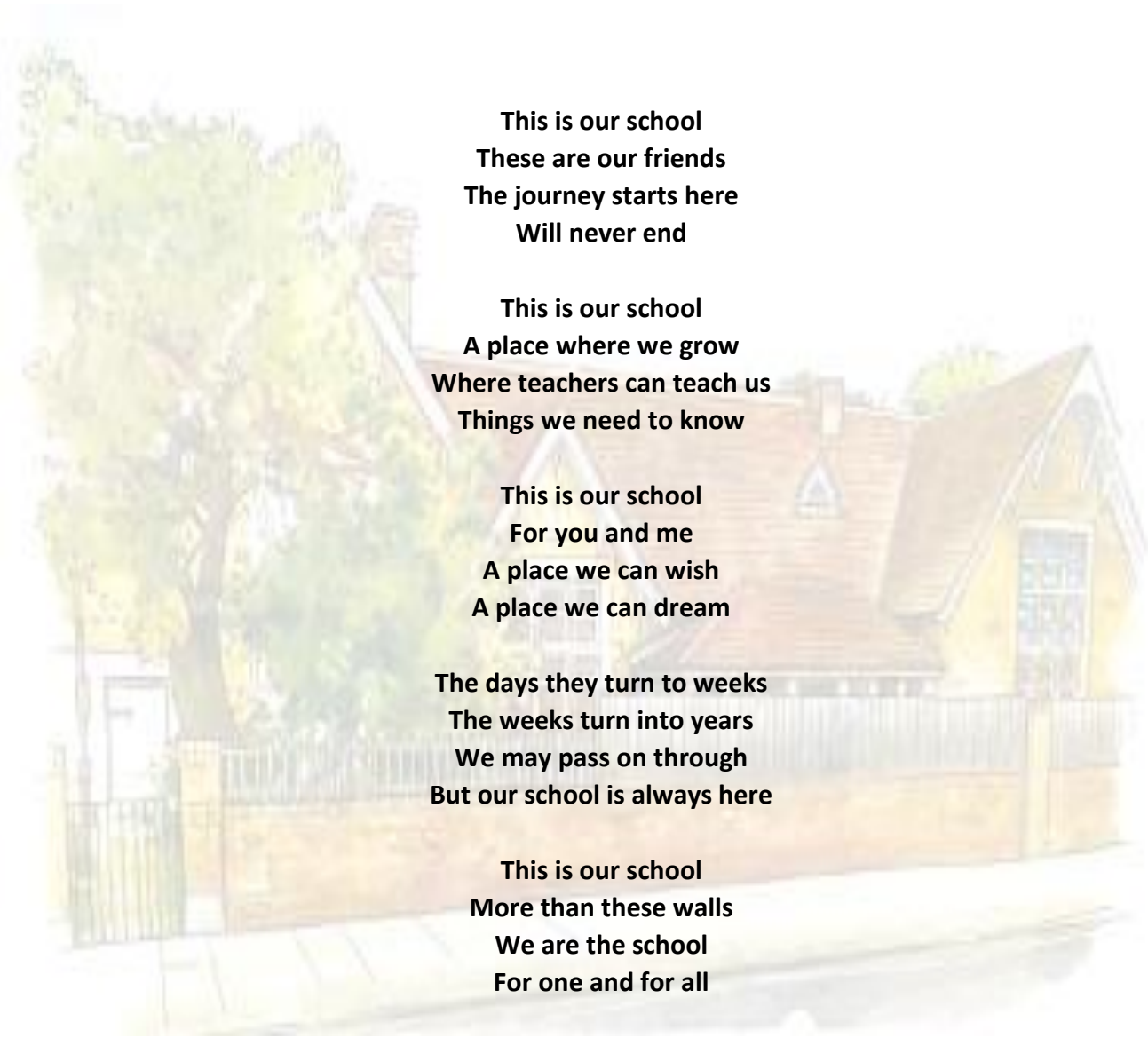
Once purchases are made, The Children's Bookshop will send books to school once a week for free, labelled with the child's name and class, but parents are also welcome to go into the shop and browse if they'd rather and take it with them immediately.

### Key dates coming up after half term. More details to follow regarding events:

- Staff training day – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November
- **Children back to school Tuesday - 5<sup>th</sup> November**
- Remembrance Day – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November
- Parent consultations for all classes – w/c Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.
- Food bank donations – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December
- School carol service – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Infant Nativity – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and 6pm
- Junior Christmas Production – 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm
- End of term – close at 3pm – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December







**This is our school  
These are our friends  
The journey starts here  
Will never end**

**This is our school  
A place where we grow  
Where teachers can teach us  
Things we need to know**

**This is our school  
For you and me  
A place we can wish  
A place we can dream**

**The days they turn to weeks  
The weeks turn into years  
We may pass on through  
But our school is always here**

**This is our school  
More than these walls  
We are the school  
For one and for all**

**By Georgie Anglis Y3**

Georgie wrote this beautiful poem at home.

This is the abridged version but it captures so much about our school. I hope you enjoy it. Thank you to Georgie for sharing these precious words with us.

***And never forget that even with faith as small as a mustard seed, we can do anything!***

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

***Maria Constantinou  
Headteacher***

