



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

# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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## Newsletter No. 8

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and that you have all found some time to enjoy the Spring sunshine!

### Food Bank Donations:

In line with our focus value of Service this half term, we would like to invite parents and carers to bring donations for us to share with the Chipping Barnet Food Bank. Please bring donations to school on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March**. Children should bring any donations to classrooms in a strong plastic bag.



### Urgently needed food items

- Coffee
- Jam
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned meat

### Please give what you can.

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

### Recycle to Read Toys

We have registered our school with Tesco's 'Recycle to Read Toys' campaign, which is a fun and rewarding way to teach sustainability while earning free books! Everyone can recycle broken, hard plastic toys at a participating Tesco store to earn Planet Care Points for our school. Every recycling visit will help our school climb the leader board, with the top 50 schools on nominated 'Book Reward Days' winning book vouchers worth £50-£500!

More information here:

<https://jointhepod.org/teachers/films/r2r-toy-recycling-video>

*With thanks to Angel in Y6 for sharing this initiative with me!*



### Year 5 iHeart Ignite Programme

Earlier this term, the Year 5 children had a wonderful opportunity to take part in the iheart ignite programme. This programme explores mental wellbeing and innate resilience.

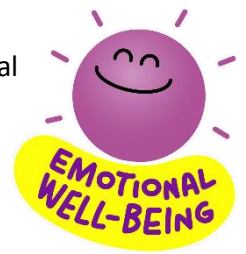
The children had some visitors from the programme who talked through the iheart instruction manual, to provide the children with the opportunity to use these skills independently in the future. Year 5 were also very excited to meet some of the actors from the associated videos. They even got some autographs!

## Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Development - Parent Workshop: Save the date

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 6 -7pm, we will be inviting parents and carers to attend a practical workshop at school. We will be sharing practice reflected in our recent Relationships, Communication and Behaviour policy based on fundamental principles of Emotion Coaching, Zones of Regulation and Restorative Practice.

Our ambition is that you leave the session with a deeper understanding of children's emotional development and how to manage conversations with children about how they communicate their emotions. It will also serve to create a consistent approach and use of language between school and home can really benefit the children. Please note that this workshop should not be attended by children.

Watch out for a google form which will go out to help us to plan seating for the session.



### First Aid Workshops:

Last week, every class took part in a First Aid Workshop. They learned a huge amount at an age-appropriate level and all went home with a certificate and booklet.

YR-Y2 learned about:

- What is happening to their bodies if they are hurt? e.g. Where their blood comes from and why do you get a lump if you bang your head?
- The Mini Adventures of Freddie; a story about a brave, accident-prone little boy which covered bumps, bleeds, calling 999 and the recovery position.
- Sit, Chop, Chew – this covered choking and the correct approach to eating safely.



Y3-Y6 learned about:

- How they can help themselves and each other should they or their friends become unwell or injured.
- What CPR is and how it is administered (the children had the opportunity to practise techniques on mannequins).
- How to help if someone is choking or has experienced more day to day injuries, such as bleeds, burns and bumps to the head.



### Religious Education:

This half term, most classes have been learning about Easter in RE. Our units have included exploring the ideas of Salvation and Resurrection and the significance of the Eucharist for Christians.

It has been wonderful that Rev Alec Corio has supported the children's learning by coming into class and hosting visits at St. Mary's Church.



We have also had a visit from Marc Shoffren, a local Jewish Headteacher who leads Alma Primary School who came to enrich Y1's learning about Judaism.

Ms Ameri who joined our staff team earlier this term led a wonderful session for Y2 who were learning about Islam last half term – as it's currently Ramadan, she spoke to the children about her faith experience and brought in lots of religious artefacts too.



All of our visitors were very impressed with the children's knowledge, questions and engagement.



### Reminder - Bishop visit to St. Mary's:

We are very excited to welcome the Rt Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring, Bishop of Hertford, to St. Mary's next Thursday. It will be a wonderful opportunity to hear about the job of a Bishop! We are also hoping that the Bishop will help to share communion on this day as we have a Eucharist service planned for that morning – it will be a very special day in school.

## British Science Week

We have really enjoyed celebrating British Science Week '25, which had the theme of 'Change and Adapt'. The children have taken part in a number of activities, including 'Our Diverse Planet' workshops, planting seeds in their class garden;



various classroom activities and a brilliant visit from Helen and Matt Green, who taught us science through fun experiments and rapping! Year 5 and 6 also took part in a fascinating live lesson about the ocean and climate, which helped to answer the question, 'Can whales change the climate?'

The children have loved celebrating science, with some saying that they want to be a scientist when they grow up!



## Police Visits:

We are looking forward to a visit from PC Lee Redworth from the Safer Schools team on Monday. Here is an overview of each class visit.

- Reception and Year 1 - Stranger Awareness and Police Uniform Show and Tell
- Year 2 and Year 3 - Road Safety and Stranger Danger
- Year 4 - Online Safety, police and the Criminal Justice Process (at Year 4 level)
- Year 5 - Stranger Awareness (at Y5 level) and gang grooming
- Year 6 have already had similar workshops in recent years and also had a session with Growing Against Violence on similar themes.

## Reminder - Consultations and Reports:

In the week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> 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 next week. Reception reports will be shared in July.

## Reminder - Safeguarding session for parents: Monday 24th March, 6:30-7:30pm

We have organised for Perryn Jasper, Barnet's Prevent Coordinator and Hate Crime Lead, to lead a virtual session for parents. He will be covering these important topics to help you safeguard your child and support their wellbeing: general advice about risk; gaming; sleep; social media; predators; cyberbullying; where to seek help and advice. The whole staff at St. Mary's have recently had similar Prevent training, led by Perryn, which we all found very useful. Here is the [online Teams meeting link](#) which we will also send again nearer the time. We hope you can attend this valuable training that will be of benefit to all parents, regardless of the age of your children.

## Clubs:

As explained in the last newsletter, we are always looking at bringing more enrichment opportunities to St. Mary's. We are currently exploring a coding club and a Mad Science club next term – more information to follow. Please note that whilst we would love to offer all clubs to all children, we are SO limited with space in our building.

Quick reminder that school closes for Easter at **3pm** on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

*Thank you as always for your support.*

*Remember that even with faith as small as a mustard seed; we can do anything!*

**Maria Constantinou**  
**Headteacher**

