

## St Mary's C of E Primary School

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### **Newsletter No. 12**

**Dear Parents and Carers** 

## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

As we reach the end of another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared. This year has been filled with learning, laughter, and growth — and we could not be prouder of our pupils and the progress they have made both in and out of the classroom.

From exciting trips and creative experiences, to sports day, performances, and celebrations, there have been so many memorable moments.

We are especially proud of our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATs with resilience and maturity — we wish them every success as they begin their next chapter in secondary school in September.

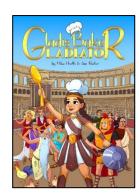
However, SATs do not measure the many talents, skills, and qualities that make children unique — such as creativity, kindness, resilience, or teamwork. At St. Mary's, we value every aspect of the children's development and are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.

# Year 5 and 6 families: End of Year production of 'Gladis Baker, Gladiator' by Mike Horth and Jan Porter

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm, all of the children in Y5 &Y6 will be performing in our end of year show.

The children have worked really hard to learn the songs and Y6 have enjoyed taking on acting parts. It's essential that all Y5 and Y6 pupils return to school that evening for the show. Children should be back at school no earlier than 6.45pm.

The first few rows of seats will be allocated to Y6 audience members; we thank you in advance for your cooperation.





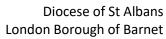
#### Football

This term, we have given children in Y6 an opportunity to create a St. Mary's football team.

Thank you to Joe Lyons and John Banson for volunteering their time to train with the team, and also for organising a friendly football game that took place against Livingstone School this week. The children played 4 games, and won 3 and lost 1.

Many thanks to Mrs Prados, our PE leader, for also assisting with the organisation of the match.

We are so glad we were able to give the children a chance to represent St. Mary's School before they move on ☺





#### Food Bank Donations: Monday 14th July

- We would like to invite anyone who feels able to, to bring in food bank donations to help ensure that families have enough to eat over the summer break. All donations will go to the Chipping Barnet Food Bank.
- With the holidays being a tough time for some families, the food bank is also giving out an extra packed lunch to every child visiting them this summer.
- If you know someone who might be in need of the food bank, please do share this link with them.
- The collection in school will take place on Monday 14th July. Please help us support this charity by bringing your donations to school on these days. Children will need to take any donations to their classrooms.

#### **URGENTLY NEEDED:**

Tinned Meat Pasta Sauces Tinned fish Coffee Toilet rolls Packed lunch items: Small long-life juices Chocolate bars Bags of crisps

Small boxed of dried fruit

#### **Staffing updates:**



Mewill As you know, we are saying goodbye to a few staff members. We are also saying ciao to Mrs Santangelo who was employed to cover Mrs Georgiou's maternity leave. Mrs Santangelo will be teaching in another local school and wish her every success there.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Sturgess and Mrs Colletta to our school family. Mr Sturgess will be class sharing with Mrs Georgiou and Mrs Colletta will be covering teacher PPA sessions in Y2, Y4 and Y6 in the new academic year.

#### Visit from the new Diocesan Director of Education:



Earlier this week, we welcomed the new Director of Education for St Albans Diocese. Duncan Gauld is newly appointed and was very keen to visit St. Mary's. We are the first school that Duncan has visited in the whole diocese! Here are a few words to describe his thoughts about St. Mary's. 'It's great to see the excellent work going on at St. Mary's and to experience the powerful Christian ethos. It's clear that this school is a place of love, care and compassion with inclusive practice at its heart.'

We look forward to our continued work with Duncan and the Diocesan team.

#### A message from Carina Tilson – a member of our Governing Body:

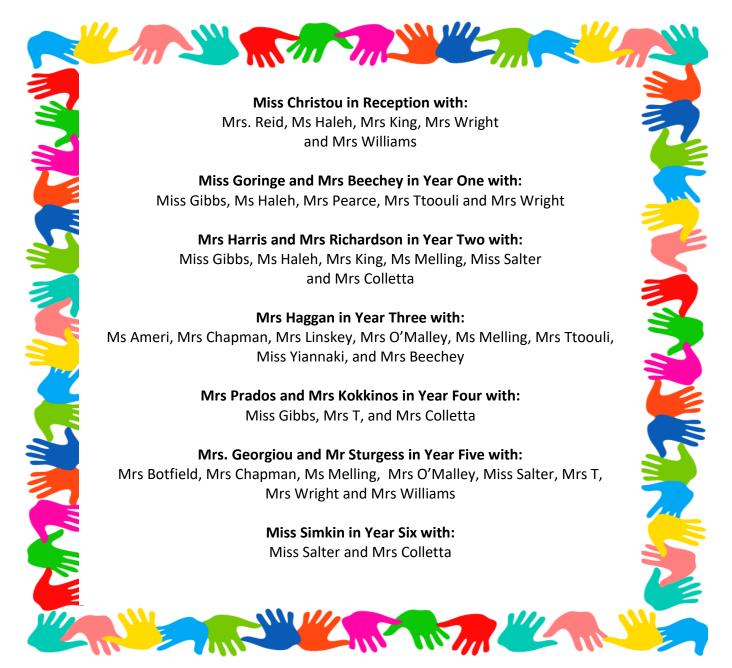
We had our final governor meeting of the academic year last Wednesday. In Mrs. Constantinou's update, we looked back at all the fantastic trips and events the children have involved in this term – I personally enjoyed accompanying Year 5 to the Natural History Museum recently.

In the meeting, we also talked about the school premises, reflecting on the benefits of improvement works over the last couple of years, and looking forward to future developments. There are plans for new canopies over some of the KS1 outdoor spaces, to extend the use of those spaces year-round, and some ideas to add to the Alexander Garden as a sensory space, and for the garden to be used for prayer and reflection.

Turning to the upcoming year, we discussed the Whole School Development Plan, and the senior leadership team's plans to support all children and staff to grow and flourish, and how we as governors can support that important work. There was also an update on the new after school provision from September, which seems to have been very well received; we look forward to hearing more about that in our next meeting in October. As we break for the summer holidays, I want to express our appreciation for all the staff at St Mary's for your continued hard work and dedication – your care for the children is so evident. Thank you. Have a joyful summer!

#### Class teams for the new academic year:

We have now confirmed class teams comprising of teachers and teaching assistants for the coming year:



#### Building works over the summer holiday:

There will soon be scaffolding going up in order for another area of the roof on the junior side of the building to be replaced over the summer. We have been able to secure a grant from the diocese of St. Albans to make this possible. We are also erecting a canopy over the Y1 outdoor area too. The parental voluntary donations that we collect as a Voluntary Aided School will also go towards this work. Thank you for your help with helping to fund these projects.

#### **Summer Fayre and our fundraising:**

The Summer Fayre was a huge success and has enabled us to further develop the outdoor spaces and enrichment opportunities for all children. We raised an amazing £3,500! **Thank you!** 

#### **Summer Music Concert:**

Last Friday evening, we gathered together to enjoy the array of musical talent at St. Mary's School. We heard performances from 3 choirs (including a pupil led choir), 3 soloists and from children playing guitar (both acoustic and electric), drums, keyboard, piano, violin and flute. We were SO impressed at the levels of skill, confidence and dedication. Take a look at <a href="this post">this post</a> to find out more.

#### **Barnet Book Detectives:**

This year, Barnet Libraries introduce <u>'Barnet Book Detectives'</u>, a great way to keep children reading over the summer holidays from Saturday 5 July to Saturday 6 September 2025 for children aged 4-11.

Something strange is happening around Barnet! Books are disappearing and a mysterious Book Crook is on

the loose. They love to read but want all the books for themselves and won't share! Join the 'Barnet Book Detectives' and help Detective Woof pick up the scent.



#### Books in school:

You may recall that a few years ago, we invited parents to donate books to our class libraries in a couple of different ways.

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: <a href="https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists">https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists</a> 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.

#### **Outdoor equipment donations:**

We have also set up a <u>playground wish list</u> on Amazon which includes activities like chess, and card games as well as sporty equipment. The children loved the recent skipping workshops, and we can't keep up with buying skipping ropes! Please give what you can.

#### The Grove After School Club:

As you know, we have set up a new after school provision from September that will operate until 5.45pm. Take a look <a href="here">here</a> for information on how to book. Following feedback from parents, we have now revised the booking system, enabling parents to book through to the end of the academic year 25/26.



#### Dates for your diaries:

- Food bank donations to school: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July
- Y5 and 6 end of year production: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm
- Fun day in school: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July (children come in sporty non-uniform)
- Leavers' service at Church: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 9.30am
- School closes for summer: 3pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July
- All Age Messy Eucharist Service at St. Mary's Church 10am on 3<sup>rd</sup> August
- INSET Day: 1st September children back in school 2nd September
- All Age Messy Eucharist at St. Mary's Church 10am on 7<sup>th</sup> September which will be a special service to bless school equipment at the start of term.





A final message from me before the busyness of the final days of term...

As we come toward the end of another academic year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect with gratitude and pride on all that we have shared together as a school community.

This year has been filled with moments of joy, learning, challenge, and growth. Our children have worked hard, shown resilience, and embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm. It has been a privilege to watch them flourish not only academically, but also in character and faith.

At St. Mary's School, our Christian values continue to be the heartbeat of all we do. We have seen those values—compassion, respect, forgiveness, courage, and hope—lived out daily in classrooms, on the playground, and in our wider community. I am incredibly proud of the kindness and integrity our pupils show.

To our wonderful Year 6 pupils and staff who are leaving us: we send you off with our prayers and blessings as you take your next steps. Remember the light within you, and let it shine brightly wherever you go.

To our staff and governors: thank you for your tireless dedication, passion, and care. Your commitment makes all the difference in the lives of our children.

To our families: thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership. It is through working together that we create such a nurturing and inspiring environment for our pupils.

And to every child: You are a gift. God has a purpose for each of you, and we pray you continue to grow in wisdom, confidence, and love.

When it arrives, may the summer break bring rest, renewal, and joyful time with family and friends.

May God bless you all and keep you safe until we gather again.

Maria Constantinou Headteacher

