



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

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 2

Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

There's lots to tell you and some important dates to share, so please read carefully.

Harvest Festival:

On **Thursday 2nd October**, we will be celebrating Harvest festival in school. Please give what you can – all donations will be split between the Chipping Barnet Food Bank and Homeless Action in Barnet.

We ask for donations to be **brought to the school hall as the children arrive for school on Thursday morning**. Please bring donations in a strong plastic bag as we will donate these too.

Urgently needed food items

Tinned Meat
Pasta Sauces
Tinned fish
Coffee
Toilet rolls



Please don't include any fresh fruit and vegetables in your donations.

Here is a [link to Homeless Action in Barnet's online wish list](#) which includes bigger items like bedding should you wish to donate to HAB directly.

Show Racism the Red Card:

on Friday 17th October we will once again participate in 'wear red day', in support of the organisation 'Show Racism the Red Card'. The children should wear uniform or PE kit (as usual or a Friday) **and a red item** e.g. a red t shirt, red socks, red hair band etc. Any donations towards the cause can be made directly [via their website](#).

Evensong Service at School: Sunday 12th October 4pm

We are really looking forward to a special Evensong service that will bring the church congregation and the school community together at St. Mary's School.

Our school choir will be singing some modern hymns at the service to show case their beautiful voices too. If your child is in the school choir, please reserve this date and time!

Please do come along and join us for the service.



Smartwatches:

Please note that children shouldn't wear a smartwatch that allows photographs to be taken. This is an important safeguarding measure.

Diocese of St Albans
London Borough of Barnet



Speaking to teachers:

If you have an urgent message that you need to relay to your child's teacher in the morning, please either **call and speak to someone in the office, or tell the senior member of staff on the gate** and we will speak to the relevant person. **Please don't come into classrooms** at the start of the day as this is a very busy time and teachers will be focused on settling the children. Thank you for your cooperation.



Friends of St. Mary's (FOSM):

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. Our next fundraising focus will be on the ongoing development of outdoor spaces at school. Money raised at every cake sale, event and fayre will go directly towards improving facilities for the children.



Here are a few dates to keep in mind:

- **Friday 3rd October at 9am:** Coffee morning for parents and carers of children in Reception. Please come along at school drop off time and have a cuppa in the school library. Pre-schoolers welcome. This will be a chance to meet other Reception parents and to meet some of our FOSM members too.
- **FOSM non-uniform day: Friday 24th October. Wear something green!**
- **Friday 24th October:** Y6 cake and fruit sale - pick up your treats on the playground at home time. Bring some cash and a bag or container to take goodies home.
- **Wednesday 3rd December at 6.30pm:** FOSM Annual General Meeting followed by committee meeting. This will be in the school hall – glass of wine and nibbles on offer as well as opportunities to hear about the FOSM's success last year and plans looking ahead. **Everybody is welcome to come along** – this meeting is open to all parents and carers at St. Mary's. There is no expectation to stay to the committee meeting after the AGM.

Just One Tree Day: Friday 24th October: **Wear Something Green for One Tree Non-Uniform Day**

As part of our commitment to climate change, we will be supporting the organisation Just One Tree again this year.



[Just One Tree is a non-profit organisation](#) whose mission is removing CO2 from the atmosphere through global reforestation.

In the last 2 years, we have planted an amazing 350 trees in Madagascar. This supported local communities, encouraged biodiversity and is contributing toward the reduction of effects caused by climate change.

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 which we will share with you soon. For **every** pound donated, **one** tree will be planted.



Black History Month:

Black History Month is celebrated throughout October. While this is an important time to highlight and celebrate Black history, we want to remind our children and families that Black history is not confined to just one month and is intrinsic in our curriculum. We are immensely proud of our curriculum which features diverse authors, scientists, artists, musicians, history units, and so much more.

Proverbs:

We have been learning about words of wisdom in the book of Proverbs this half term. With so much division and conflict in the world right now, we have taken a lot of time to think about ways we can be wise, kind and caring. The word 'care' is at the start of our vision statement 'Care, Grow and Flourish in God's Loving Hands' as we believe that we should always start with caring.

In class-based worship this week, the children have written their own words of wisdom. Here are just a few examples from across the school:

*Caring is giving a hug
A kind word can help us all feel good together
A smile a day brings friendships your way
When you lift others, you lift God
Sharing a smile costs nothing but it could be the thing that brightens your day
No matter how small your acts of kindness are you'll be always noticed
Kindness brings peace*

Barnet Lighthouses: Love, Light and Hope

Preparations are being made for the Barnet Lighthouses Window Trail linked to East Barnet Baptist Church. It's a free community event which is taking place from 26th October – 1st November. The idea behind it is to encourage people to decorate a window in their home using the themes of love, light and hope. They would then leave a light on from 5.30-9.00pm each evening during the trail week, so that people passing by can admire their display. Register for this free event by 15th October to be included in the trail map. Contact barnetlighthouses@gmail.com to register or for any questions.



Useful meetings for parents

Peaceful School Run: We know that arriving to school on time can be challenging for some parents. A hectic morning at home has an impact on how children feel when they arrive. With this in mind, we are offering a free one-hour ZOOM workshop for parents called "A Peaceful School Run" on Monday 6th October 8-9pm. [Follow this link to register.](#)

This free ZOOM workshop will give parents tools to set up their children for a good day by:

- Helping their children manage the emotions that might come up
- Enabling their children to take more responsibility for getting ready in the mornings (which also enables them to be more organised at school)
- Creating moments of connection while getting things done

SEND information evening: Wednesday 15th October 6-7pm at school

Would you like to find out more about the support that is out there for families when there is more than one child with SEND? This information evening will be full of advice and signposting.

The Grove – updates:

Thank you to everyone who responded to this week's survey about our after-school club, The Grove. Following the feedback, please note:

- Parents can now book and reserve a place without needing to pay in advance. We understand that paying in advance is a big financial commitment to make. Ideally, payment should be made in advance if possible, but can now be done on a pay as you go basis.
- Bookings can continue to be made in advance – even until the end of the school year.
- We ask that if parents want to cancel an advance booking, that they do so via the app or by calling the office.
- If you would like a same day booking, please call the office as the app doesn't accommodate this request.



We've had lots of compliments about the fun that children have had, mixing with pupils from other classes, and really enjoying the snacks and food on offer!

We have had some questions about what the children do in The Grove – they play board games, listen to music, draw, complete puzzles, and play with construction too. We continue to develop the resources in the club.

Other key dates:

- Thursday 2nd October: Harvest festival – food bank donations welcome.
- Friday 3rd October: YR parent coffee morning in school
- Monday 6th October 8-9pm on Zoom: Peaceful School Run workshop
- Wednesday 8th October: flu vaccinations in school
- Sunday 12th October at 4pm: Evensong service at school – all welcome!
- Wednesday 15th October: SEND information evening 6-7pm at school
- Wednesday 15th October: Y6 WW2 Trip
- Friday 17th October: Wear something red for Show Racism the Red Card
- Friday 24th October: FOSM non-uniform day and wear something green for One Tree Day
- Friday 24th October: Y6 cake and fruit sale at home time



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

Maria Constantinou

Headteacher

