



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

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 1

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this first newsletter of the academic year finds you all well and that you had a restful and enjoyable summer. We have had four wonderful days in school and it has been a real joy to welcome the children back.

Staff news:

- We have welcomed Mr. Sturgess back to St. Mary's School – he was once a pupil here many years ago, hence welcoming him back, although he's much taller now! Mr. Sturgess will be teaching Y5 part time with Mrs. Georgiou.
- Mrs. Colletta has joined our team as a PPA cover teacher. She will be working with Y2 on a Tuesday, Y4 on a Wednesday and Y6 on a Thursday afternoon.
- Mrs. Griselda Lleshi who some of you might know as a parent in the school is now one of our meal time supervisors at lunchtime.



Reception 2025:

It has been wonderful to welcome Reception to our St. Mary's family this week. Their classroom has been brimming with enthusiasm and fun learning! We look forward to the children being with us full time with us next week.

Meet the team:

Next week, we'd like to invite parents and carers to pop into classrooms **straight after home time** to meet your child's teaching team and see the learning environment. Please see two different dates below. **Teachers will dismiss the children at the usual time and children must be supervised by a parent/carer at all times after home time.**

Y1, Y2 and Y4: Monday 8th September

YR, Y3, Y5 and Y6: Friday 12th September

Please note that this is a casual, brief look around rather than an opportunity to look at your children's books or speak to the staff about your child's learning. Please don't worry if you can't make it; it's a very informal hello! We will have consultations later this term for more formal conversations about your child's learning.



Curriculum letters:

We have uploaded curriculum letters to the website and emailed these out to you. Please take a look at the learning that's coming up over this half term. Letters contain essential information about home learning and PE days too.

Premises work over the summer holiday and parental contributions:

The flat roof above Year 5 and Year 6 was replaced over the holiday. We were also able to build a canopy outside Y1 to enable us to extend learning provision outside in all weathers! We were able to secure a grant from the diocese to make the roof replacement and canopy project possible, additionally, the parental donations that we collect as a Voluntary Aided (VA) School have also gone towards this work.

Thank you for your financial support with helping to fund these essential projects.

To ensure that we can continue to keep making necessary future improvements to school, we ask parents/carers to make the following contribution via School Money for the school year:

- £75 for one child
- £110 for two children
- £140 for three or more children

You can find out more about why our school requests these contributions as a VA school [here](#).

Our next building project that we are planning is to replace the final section of roofing above the hall and the Reception classroom, and to also build a canopy outside the Y2 classroom.

Breakfast Club and After School Club:

We have a new doorbell on the office door that we ask parents and carers to use to alert staff before or after school if their children are accessing the wraparound care in school.

The Grove, our new after school club, has started this week which is very exciting! We have had a great response from parents with many children already in attendance. The Grove runs on site with our own staff from 3.25-5.45pm. We still have availability on most days, and sessions can be booked for the whole year or just ad hoc when needed. You can [find out more here](#). Call the office if you have any specific questions. Additionally, we are hoping to run a sports club at school in the October half term holiday. More information to follow shortly...

Collective Worship:

Our focus this half term will be centred around *knowing and trusting in God who helps us to be wise*.

We began our first week back by reflecting on the parable of the mustard seed. This parable is the theological underpinning of our school vision and ethos, and is also captured in our school logo.

It encouraged our thinking about 'starting small' and achieving great things in our learning and in wider life, which could include providing for others in time, just like the birds who nested in the mustard tree's branches. Years 1 to 6 have written beautiful 'start the year' class prayers inspired by the parable. Their prayers are rooted in love and care, which is wonderful.

Dear God,


Thank you God for our school and for helping us to grow and flourish like the mustard seeds. We are mustard seeds ourselves because every time we are learning we keep on growing and flourishing. Thank you for caring for us as your children and turning us into good people. We pray that you guide us through our next year of school and help us to be kind and helpful to others as we develop our knowledge. As we grow we will become more responsible and help other people to shine their light.

We would like to be like mustard seeds by protecting our buddies. We will demonstrate the meaning of this parable by helping our buddies grow and flourish like we all did.

We want our school to be as nice as it can be when new people join us. We will treat them how we were treated when we were young.

Amen

Y6



Dear God,

As we start the new school year, let us be excited about our learning.


Help us to have a nice time in school, by being kind and caring to each other.

In God's loving hands, let us continue to grow stronger and wiser each day.

Please keep us safe and happy, so we can flourish, just like the mustard seed.

Amen

Y2



Dear God,

Now that we are in Year 4, help us to grow and flourish in our learning and to work hard so that we can be the best that we can be. Help us to encourage our friends.

Just like Jesus and the disciples, help us to spread your word by being kind, helpful and caring, not only to people but to animals, plants and the whole world.

Amen

Y4





The Good Samaritan School for the Deaf:

As you may recall from last year, we have established a relationship with The Good Samaritan School for the Deaf in Uganda. We have exchanged a number of letters and emails to learn more about our schools and the Christian ethos in both settings. This has helped the children to further appreciate how Christianity is a global faith. We have plans for a shared collective worship this term using the wonders of technology which is very exciting!



Attendance and punctuality: We are very proud of our 2024/25 average attendance of 96%.

It's essential that children are in school every day and that they arrive on time, **by 8.55am**. This is so that children can achieve well at school.

Term time holidays **should not** be taken as this is highly disruptive to the children's education.

The school can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

Please note that the fine for a fixed penalty notice for 5 or more unauthorised absences within 10 weeks is £80 per child, per parent. This money is paid to local authorities.

Flu Vaccinations:

Flu vaccinations will be happening on the afternoon of 8th October in school for children **whose parents have provided consent** via the link that was sent out before the summer. Here's the link again so you can register [Vaccination UK Immunisation](https://www.vaccinationuk.com/immunisation).

If you would like to find out more about the flu vaccine, Vaccination UK are offering 2 free parent webinars.

If you would like to access either of the 2 webinars, please just click on the links in the yellow box on Wednesday 17th September or Thursday 18th September.

Vaccination UK
Immunisation Provider for
NHS

FREE PARENT WEBINAR: THE FLU VACCINE IN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Join us for a presentation discussing the flu vaccine in children and young people.

Topics covered:

- ✓ Why does my child need the vaccine
- 💡 Side-effects and safety
- 👃 Nasal vs injection (pork gelatine content)
- 📊 Flu data from previous years
- 💬 Q&A session

Wednesday 17th Sept	Thursday 18th Sept
🕒 8:00 - 9:00pm	🕒 6:00 - 7:00pm
📍 Click to join	📍 Click to join
📞 363 003 291 454	📞 310 543 675 2095
🔑 jc3J83z5	🔑 gT7P9ci3

Supporting our pupils' independence:

To help the children in Y2 and the junior classes with settling at the start of everyday, please try to say goodbye to them at the gate rather than coming into the main playground. It really does make a huge difference. As an exception, we understand that children in YR and Y1 may still feel that they need an adult to come to the door with them.

Parents are discouraged from coming into the building unless they need to speak to a member of office staff or if they have an appointment.

We appreciate your cooperation and support.



News from St. Mary's Church:

On Sunday 7th September St. Mary's will be having a service for 'Back to School Sunday'.

That will be an All Age Messy Eucharist, and everyone connected with education is invited to bring their school bags, pencil cases, coffee cups ... to receive a special blessing! All are welcome.



On **Wednesday 10th September** Young Voices will start rehearsals for the new term. Young Voices is the youth choir of St Mary's Church, and it offers a free musical education to children in the parish. Children in year 2 and above are invited to come along to sing, make friends, learn to read music, perform and lead services.

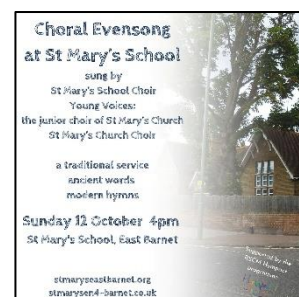
St. Mary's Church is holding Messy Churches again at Brookside Methodist Church and now also at St Mary's, and the first session of the year is on **Sunday 14th September** at 3pm.

Messy Church is a fun way of being church, which works especially well with children and families. It involves crafts and activities; a story and a song; and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to come along.



On **Sunday 5th October** St Mary's church will hold their Harvest Festival, with an All Age Messy Eucharist at 10am.

They will also be collecting donations for Chipping Barnet Foodbank at this service, and also at Evensong the same evening. All are welcome.



On **Sunday 12th October at 4pm** we're sharing in a very special service at St Mary's School: Choral Evensong sung by the school and church choirs together.

A message from Rev. Alec Corio:

Do you have a child who might want to be prepared for baptism or to begin receiving communion? If so, please let us know. Previously, we have met at school with groups or individuals who would like to explore this step in their faith. You can reach me at St. Mary's Church to find out more by sending an email to

administrator@stmaryseastbarnet.org

Key dates in school:



- Monday 8th September: meet the team straight after school for children in Y1, Y2 and Y4.
- Friday 12th September: meet the team straight after school for children in YR, Y3, Y5 and Y6.
- Thursday 2nd October: Harvest festival – food bank donations welcome. More details to come...
- Sunday 12th October: Evensong service in school at 4pm.
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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

