



Care, Grow and Flourish
in God's Loving Hands

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 7

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

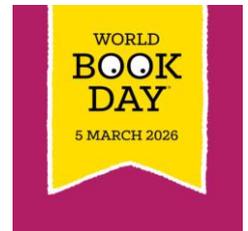
I hope this newsletter finds you all well. It's been lovely to welcome the children back after half term. Whilst this is a short half term – just 5 weeks, we have SO much happening to enrich the children's learning and experiences at school.

World Book Day 2026

We are really looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**. Your child might like to come dressed as their favourite book character – please note that this is **optional**.

Alternative ideas to dressing up include:

- children bringing in a shoe box decorated inside to depict their favourite story
- bringing in a potato, spoon or kitchen roll that has been transformed into a book character
- your child might like to wear their comfiest clothes for reading or pyjamas! (For practical reasons, we suggest no onesies please).



Reading for pleasure is incredibly important. You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly. Reading stories together for just ten minutes a day will encourage a love of reading and it is fun for everyone! Reading and sharing stories can happen anywhere at any time.

If your child would like to bring in their favourite book from home on Thursday 5th March, they are very welcome to do so (please name and label). Children love hearing recommendations from their friends. Staff are also looking forward to sharing some of their favourite stories with the children on the day!

Science Week

We are really looking to celebrating British Science Week in the week commencing 9th March. The theme this year is 'Curiosity: What's your question?' Curiosity is at the heart of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), driving research and innovation, and anyone can get started this year by simply asking a question. This could relate to a traditional science topic, or it might be about music, sport or architecture – any interest in fact! We will look forward to exploring this theme in class.



As always, the children will also have the opportunity to plant seeds in their class garden so that we can watch them grow and attract wildlife throughout Spring and Summer.

If you like the idea of trying out some science-based activities at home, there are a range of activities requiring few resources in the CREST Home learning collection: <https://www.crestawards.org/media/5yhck1jc/superstar-home-learning-collection.pdf>



Parent Surveys:

Later this half term, we will be inviting you to share your thoughts with us about our school. As always, your engagement with surveys is really valuable. Watch out for a text alert about this.

Consultations and Reports:

In the week commencing 16th March, class teachers will be offering consultation slots for you to book an appointment with them. Y4 consultations will be held on 23rd and 25th March given the Y4 residential in the previous week.

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 ahead of consultations.

Reception reports will be shared in July.

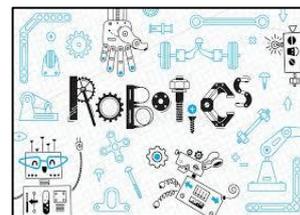
Playground equipment:

Thank you SO much for the donations of playground equipment. The children have LOVED the new skipping ropes in particular. It's a delight to see groups of children skipping together and challenging themselves. What a great way to have fun and keep fit and healthy! Here is [the link to our equipment wish list](#) if any parents might like to offer any more donations; they'd be gratefully received.

Robotics Workshop

On Tuesday 24th March, we have organised for the company, HETT Education, to deliver 'STEMbotics' workshops to every class in the school.

It will be an exciting introduction to robotics and early coding, where the children will build robots from instructions or design their own creations. They will learn to program them to move and will modify their robot's behaviour using distance, tilt or colour sensors.

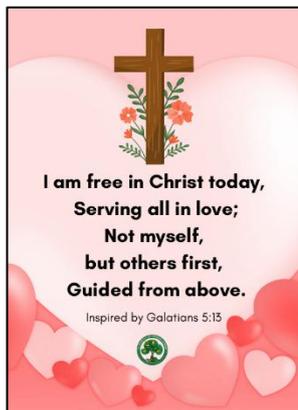


Church Service in School: Sunday 8th March at 4pm

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

Our choir will be singing some hymns at the service to show case their beautiful voices. Please come along. The service will be around an hour long, and the Friends of St. Mary's will be serving refreshments after the service, so please stay and chat!

Collective Worship this half term:



This half term, we are focusing on the value of 'Service'. Our memory verse is inspired by Galatians chapter 5 verse 13: '*Serve One Another in Love*'. The children have learned British Sign Language signs to match the verse – please do ask your child to show you. As part of our focus on 'Service', we are reflecting on things we can do for others. Whilst we usually think about giving **things up** during Lent, we are concentrating on **giving** instead. We are thinking about giving our time, our care, our love and our efforts to those around us as acts of service – all of these things are free of course!

This week, we have reflected on the talents and skills that we have which could be used to serve others. Next week, we will be launching 'secret service' in school. Demonstrating acts of service for others is a wonderful way to 'live' the words of our school vision 'care, grow and flourish in God's loving hands'.



When I Think About the Cross:

We have been so amazed at the sheer number of creative responses from the children following the optional activity over half term. We sing the hymn When I Think About the Cross, in school during Lent, and it's clearly been a source of inspiration. The children's creation will go on display around school.

Easter Camp at St. Mary's: Come and join Mr Kerr and the team for 2 weeks of fun, sports, arts and more. St. Mary's School is once again hosting an All for Sport camp during the Easter holiday. We will be sharing information regarding how to book very soon.

Week 1: Monday 30th March-Thursday 3rd April

Week 2: Tuesday 7th April-Friday 10th April



Year 5 Maths Challenge

Next Tuesday, a small group of our Year 5 children will be participating in a friendly inter-school competition where they will apply their mathematical knowledge and teamwork skills to solve problems and answer challenging questions. They will use a wide range of skills, including problem-solving, reasoning, estimation, visualisation and arithmetic, drawn from across the mathematics curriculum. We know they are up for the challenge and wish them every success!



Inter-School Debating Opportunity

Next term, we are hoping to take part in an inter-school debating opportunity, where the aim will be to give young people a chance to grow in confidence with public speaking and gain debating skills.

The focus will be on the quality of their argument and use of good explanation and reasoning skills.

St. Mary's Church Dates: More information [online](#)

All Age Messy Eucharist: Sunday 1st March at 10am

EAST BARNET 
PARISH CHURCH
St Mary the Virgin

Dates for your diary:

- World Book Day: Thursday 5th March
- Y4,5,6 Disco: Friday 6th March
- Pupil reports sent home: w/c 9th March
- British Science Week in school: w/c 9th March
- Parent Consultations: w/c 16th March
- Y4 Residential visit: 19th and 20th March
- **Donations to Chipping Barnet Foodbank as commitment to others in Lent: w/c 23rd March**
- Robotics Workshops in school for all classes: 24th March
- Holy Communion in school: Thursday 26th March
- School closing for Easter: **3pm** on Friday 27th March



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

