

As we love, we flourish  
As we flourish, we aspire  
As we aspire, we achieve  
Together, we are a family



Newsletter  
12<sup>th</sup> November 2021



## St Mary's CE Primary School, N8

*Jesus said: Love one another as I have loved you - John 15:12*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Rather belatedly, I do hope that you had a restful and enjoyable half-term break a couple of weeks ago.

The second half of the autumn term has started well and your children are fully absorbed into all that they are doing in school. As you know, next week you will have the chance to speak to your child's class teacher to discuss the progress that your child is making in their learning. We are sorry that this is again being undertaken remotely and we very much hope in time to come to revert to face to face parent meetings.

Thank you to those of you who came along to a very busy Bonfire evening last Saturday. Since Ally Pally were holding one night of fireworks, rather than the traditional two evenings, this meant that our school was somewhat overwhelmed with the number of people who showed up. We are sorry if this meant that you were not able to see the Ally Pally fireworks as clearly as you'd hope to or if you did not manage to get the food that you wanted. We have definitely learned from this year's experience and together with the Parent and School Association (PSA), we will ensure that next year's event will be somewhat calmer. My thanks however to the PSA for raising so much money from the evening event. It is events like this that go a long way to subsidising creative and fun events for your children such as the forthcoming Rectory Gardens Pantomime Trip and Mr Frostie's forthcoming visit to Church Lane.

**Remembrance Day** - The school once again marked Remembrance Day with a two minute silence at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. The children throughout the school were respectful during this silence and spent time thinking about what Remembrance Day meant to them and their families.

### Hornsey Food Bank Christmas Appeal

As mentioned in the letter sent out yesterday, the Hornsey Foodbank is appealing for Christmas donations. Please donate what you can and bring it to the school offices on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. Much needed items are listed below. Thank you for your support.

- Children's advent calendars
- crackers
- cranberry sauce
- packets of stuffing
- mince pies
- Christmas puddings
- Christmas cakes
- tins/cartons of custard
- boxes of biscuits
- tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, potatoes)
- selection boxes for children



### Christmas events

We are planning a range of Christmas events and will be writing to families next week with a full list of events, dates and times. In the meantime, see below for some events already planned:

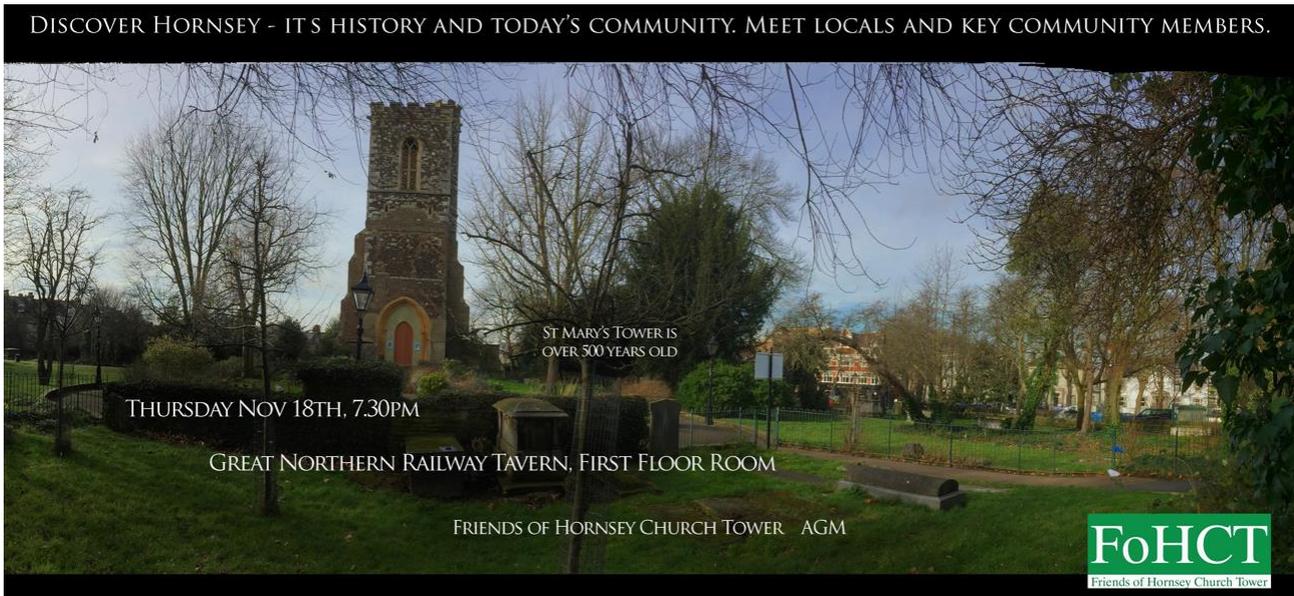
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov – Rectory Gardens children to the Pantomime at Hackney Empire
- Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Nov – Non-uniform day for the PSA Fair tombola – all children
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – PSA Christmas Fair. 5pm – 8pm at Rectory Gardens – all families
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Nursery/Reception Christmas show. 10am at CL – Nursery/Reception families only
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Nativity 1 – Buttercup/Tangerine families only. 1.45pm at CL
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Nativity 2 – Marigold/Saffron families only. 1.45pm at CL
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Jumper Day – all children
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Dinner Day
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Service with candles. 2pm at RG for Rectory Gardens families only.



Best wishes,  
Calvin Henry  
Headteacher

# Friends of Hornsey Church Tower

The Friends of Hornsey Church Tower are holding their AGM next week on Thursday 18th November at 7.30pm in the upstairs room of the Great Northern Pub, which is across the road from the Tower. They would like to an invitation to staff and parents and carers at St Mary's who might like to join us. The meeting is open to all in the community who would like to find out more about the history of Tower and the work of the Friends.



## Reminders

### Lost property and cases of mistaken identity....

Please remember to label your child's scooter, uniform and packed lunch bag etc. It's easy for children to pick up the wrong coat, scooter or bag, so we would ask you to return items taken home mistakenly as soon as possible, so we can reunite them with their owners.



### Voluntary Contributions

Those of you using SchoolMoney will have noticed a Voluntary Contributions payment appear. Some parents have been asking how they can contribute to this, following on from Mr Henry's letter last term. This is the place to make a donation. Although it's set at £1.00, you can put in any amount that you would like to contribute. If you haven't accessed SchoolMoney, and would like to make a donation, please ask either office for your log-in details to be sent to you.

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

### Coffee Mornings and Parent Workshops

- **Weekly ESOL classes for parents & carers** with Ms Fenton & Ms Fennell. Starting on Wednesday 3rd November. Every week, 9am-10am at Rectory Gardens.
- **NEW - Positive Behaviour Workshop with Mr Baptiste - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 9am at Rectory Gardens.** You will learn about strategies that we use in school relating to rewards and sanctions and help support you with positive behaviour at home – all welcome!
- **Meet Olive Dining** on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 9am- 10am at Rectory Gardens. Olive Dining would like to invite you to their coffee morning to talk about their food and service provided at lunchtime for your children.
- **Maths workshop** for Year 3-6 families with Mr Jenkins. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 9am at Rectory Gardens – **NEW DATE**



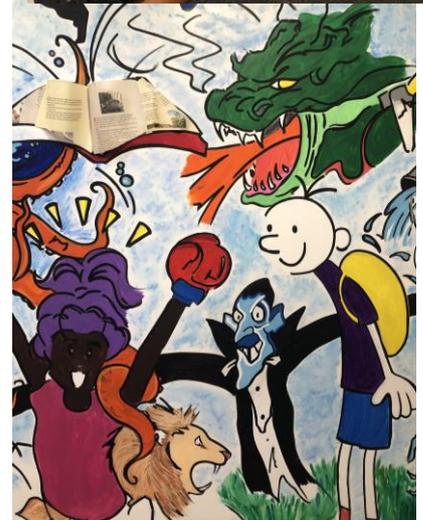
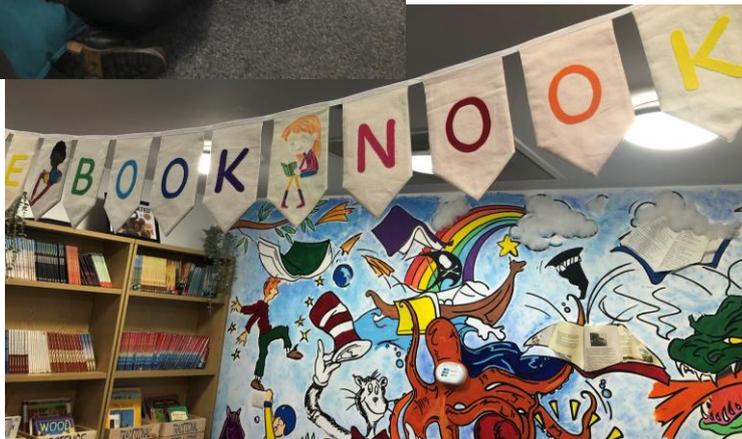
Class Assemblies – have been moved to Tuesday mornings at 9.30am. Please make a note of the **NEW** dates below:

- 16<sup>th</sup> November – Y4 Scarlet Class
- 23<sup>th</sup> November – Y6 Violet Class
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – Y6 Indigo Class
- 7<sup>th</sup> December – Y6 Amethyst Class



## Book Nook

The children have been enjoying the updated 'Book Nook' at Rectory Gardens, where comfy beanbags, cool art and amazing books all come together to create a wonderful reading experience.



## Celebrating Black History Month, anti-racism and diversity

Today we held the second annual Celebration of Black Authors Assembly at St Mary's. Each class selected a poem written by an author and performed it in the main hall. We were lucky enough to have a special visitor; the Mayor, Cllr Adam Jogee, who came with his own performance piece. The children have enthusiastically practiced their poems in class and did not disappoint. Poetry from the likes of Karl Nova, Joseph Coelho, Malorie Blackman and Benjamin Zephaniah were among those performed today. Cllr Jogee performed the poem 'Victoria Falls'. We were delighted that Hebron from Y5 read a poem she wrote herself entitled 'A Poem for BLM' (reprinted below) and Jaidah in Y6 also performed a reading entitled 'Racism' which she recently read in church.



Karl Nova



Benjamin Zephaniah



Joseph Coelho



Malorie Blackman

### POEM for Black\* HISTORY MONTH

How many more heart need to shatter  
Before we turn the page and start a new chapter  
Slavery was ABOLISHED  
They printed that on the news  
But the headlines I'm reading  
show that it's far from the truth  
Because people are still captive to their skin colour  
of which none of us can choose  
How much more blood needs to be spilled  
Will Smith said Racism is not getting worse  
it's just getting filmed  
so what is that saying  
This world is broken  
and it needs to change  
This has been happening since the beginning of the age  
If all of us stay silent then we all lose this fight. ♥

By Hebron

## Books have helped me

By Joseph Coelho

Read by Sapphire class

Books have more images between their words  
Than any smart phone could hold.  
More flavours than a thousand jelly beans.

More lives for you to live  
Than any computer games.

Books have helped me.

I've read about characters  
Who have laughed, cried and sighed like me

Characters who have battled  
Monsters larger than any I could imagine.

Characters who have travelled distances longer  
Than there are miles between me and the sun.

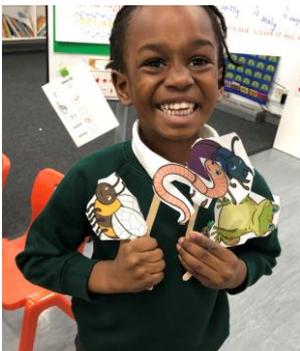
When I thumb through a book  
Their pages whisper to me  
That it'll be alright.

The other poems performed will be added to the school website in due course.

Cllr Jogie meeting some of our performance poets.



Nursery	Last week, Nursery enjoyed learning about Diwali and Bonfire Night. The children made diya lamps, rangoli patterns and created firework pictures using a variety of resources. They are now thinking about Remembrance and linking this to their understanding of Peace. The new autumn topic of 'Why are Leaves so Crispy?' sees the children learning more about Autumn and exploring their natural environment, sorting and classifying leaves and seeds. They have also enjoyed read and acting out their new focus books <i>The Leaf Thief</i> and <i>Stick Man</i> .
Reception	The children have been learning their first Talk 4 Writing text <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> . They have learnt to story map, sequence the story and then innovated it to make their very own new traditional tale. In phonics, the focus is on the letters 'C', 'K', 'E' and 'U'. In maths, the children have learnt simple addition, forming number sentences, focusing on the numbers 4 and 5. They have also enjoyed creating their own sparkly firework art and have begun to learn about the nativity story in RE.
Year 1	The children have enjoyed the start of their new topic of 'Superheroes', looking at fictional and real life heroes such as Martin Luther King, Walter Tull, Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks. In literacy, they have been reading the book <i>Superworm</i> and have used adjectives to describe the main characters, identify rhyming words and applying verbs in their writing. They made finger puppets to retell the story. In maths, the focus is on place value, identifying how many tens and ones are in a given number. The children have used various manipulatives such as Numicon, tens frame and dienes to represent numbers between 10-20. In RE, the focus is on the nativity and in science, this term the topic is 'Animals'. The children identified and named common animals and matched them to their name.
Year 2	In English, the children have been writing recounts of their half-term holidays, using time connectives and chronological order. In maths, they have been looking at arrays and exploring the relationship between addition and multiplication. Their new topic is Magnificent Monarchs and the children have been learning about King Henry VIII and his six wives. In science, they are investigating materials and their properties and in RE, they have been discovering what the light of Christmas means to Christians.
Year 3	In maths, the children have been learning how to divide in 2s, 5s and 10s and how to solve missing number questions by using the inverse operation. They are also gaining an understanding of grouping and sharing and applying this to solve word problems. In English, they are writing non-chronological reports using heading and sub-headings, which will help them to write newspaper style and chronological reports. The children have enjoyed learning about mountain ranges all over the world, discovering how some people live on steep mountain slopes and create terraces to build their settlements and to farm. In RE, the focus is on Advent and Epiphany learning about the meaning of the 5 candles and how they are related in the Bible.
Year 4	In maths, the focus has been on multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000. In English, the children are moving from diary writing and will now be starting to write play scripts. In science, the children have been enjoying the new topic of teeth and the digestive system. In RE, the children have had good discussions about what they understand to be inner peace and what it means to them. In geography they continue to learn about the rivers of the world and different biomes and their characteristics. In art, the children have been excited to be learning about Gustav Klimt and they are undertaking a year wide collaborative piece about his 'Tree of Life' which will be displayed in the school.
Year 5	In maths, the children are dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000, with a greater focus on problem solving and reasoning. In English, after writing stories about animals and exploring different story structures, they have written using descriptive language to create powerful images in the reader's mind, as well as a variety of poetic devices. In science, they explored forces, focussing on gravity, air and water resistance, friction, mechanisms, levers, pulleys and gears conducting experiences to test their theories. In RE, the children reflected on the meaning of Remembrance day, writing poems and creating some beautiful art work.
Year 6	In English, the children have enjoyed reading the beautiful story of <i>The Ice Bear</i> by Jackie Morris. They have written setting descriptions using personification and extended similes based on the harsh polar setting in this story. They will continue reading this powerful tale and write descriptive and meaningful stories. In maths, they have been learning about factors and multiples. The children have also had maths assessments this week. In science, they have enjoyed their topic on 'light'. In reading, the children have been reading the classic stories of Oscar Wilde, first <i>The Happy Prince</i> and now <i>The Selfish Giant</i> .



A Y1 fan of the book *Superworm*!



Welcome to our Book Nook!



We will never forget



The Haringey Schools Cycling League is an inter-school league for promoting cycle racing between primary schools in the borough. They hold monthly race events during the academic year, including grass-track racing, cyclocross, time trials and hill climbs. Children also take part in coaching sessions at specialist cycling facilities. Their website is <https://haringeycyclingleague.org/>

St Mary's children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Round 2 - Haringey Schools Cycle League Event last week. This took place in Finsbury Park and our cycle team was:

- Yr 6 – Ishaq, Dylan, Neilesha, Orlando, Fefe
- Yr 5 – Yousra, Isabella, Athena
- Yr 4 – Joseph, Adela

All our cyclists put in terrific effort and had to work hard on a tough course with very wet grass with some slippery, muddy patches and tight corners. We saw awesome team work, support and encouragement as well as tips and suggestions on how and when to change gear – as well as reminders of “don't look back!!” Well done all.



# Parent School Association (PSA) News

Dear Families,

## Bonfire Night

Thank you to everyone who attended our bonfire night event and particular thanks to all those who helped out on the night - none of our events are possible without your support. Every penny we made on the night will go towards fun and brilliant things for our children to do or experience. That includes helping to fund the Rectory Gardens panto trip and a Christmas show for Church Lane children.

## AGM and new members of the Committee

Thanks also to all those who came to our Annual General Meeting last term. We welcomed new members on to the committee. They are Montse Bofill Castella as chair, Sam Coote and Ed Brown as co-treasurers, Grace Staniland as events coordinator and Hilary Grierson as class rep coordinator. Roberta Borta also joined the committee and Angela Loulopoulou will stay on as secretary.

## THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the follow parents who have stepped down from the PSA at the AGM. Thank you to Sara Merchant, Vicky Thirkettle and Susie Holt for their incredible contribution over many years. They are stepping down as Chair, treasurer and event coordinator respectively but will stay on in the committee to ensure a smooth handover to the brilliant new team.

## Class Reps

We still have some class rep vacancies. If you're a parent of a child in Y1 Tangerine, Y2 Buttercup, Y3 Emerald, Y4 Crimson, Y5 Turquoise and Y6 Amethyst, please do consider volunteering. You can contact Hilary Grierson on [hilarygrierson@icloud.com](mailto:hilarygrierson@icloud.com)

## PSA meeting

There will be a PSA meeting at Rectory Gardens after morning drop off on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Do come along and say hello and **help us plan the Christmas fair which will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Rectory Gardens!**

## **Reminders:**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov – Non-uniform day for the PSA Fair tombola – please donate a bottle for the tombola and your child can wear non-uniform that day to say thank you.**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – PSA Christmas Fair. 5pm – 8pm. More information to follow!!**

St Mary's PSA