

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



Newsletter  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2022



## St Mary's CE Primary School, N8

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022!

As ever, it is packed full of useful information and great images of all that we have been up to at St Mary's since returning to school after Christmas. Despite continuing to live through these uncertain times, we are doing all we can to keep life at school as calm, purposeful and enjoyable as possible.

### Covid

Unfortunately, and given a rise in Covid infections across the school, we have had a number of classes that have had to be 'bubbled'. However, aside from not being able to mix with the wider school community, children have missed out on very little at school. Also, we know that in time, the government will be easing the existing Covid restrictions and measures. This will mean that our school will hopefully return to what it was pre-pandemic. In the meantime, we will continue to sensibly follow the main safety measures to keep everyone safe, including the regular washing and sanitising of hands and the wearing of face masks by adults when in communal spaces inside the school building.

### New school website

As reported to you last week, we now have a new school website. Do take a look: <http://www.stmarysn8.co.uk>. Hopefully, you will find it easy to navigate and very attractive and informative. We will continually add content to the website week by week relating to all areas of the school, the curriculum and the activities your children are involved in, so do keep track of its progress. Families should note that there is a 'Translate' button which appears on every page of the website. This allows you to translate the key information (not pdf attachments) on the website into over 100 languages. Thank you to all of you who have passed on your kind comments about this new development at our school.

Best wishes

Calvin Henry  
Headteacher

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## French penfriends

We are keeping up our long tradition of Y5 children having French penfriends from our partner school, La Villette, in Paris. So far they have written letters introducing themselves and stating their likes and dislikes. They have also written Christmas cards. Here are some pictures of their letters and of Topaz class reading letters received from France. We are eagerly awaiting New Year cards from France! Next, we will be exchanging letters about what the children like to do after school and at weekends.



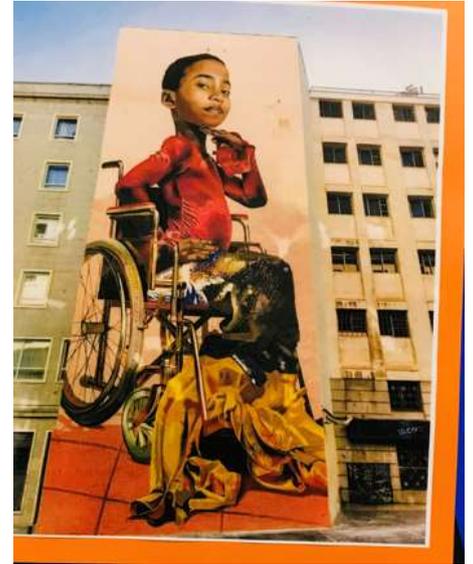
## Y2 and the Fabulous Tale of Being Different

In their current literacy unit, the Year 2 children created their own fairy tale character, celebrating difference.

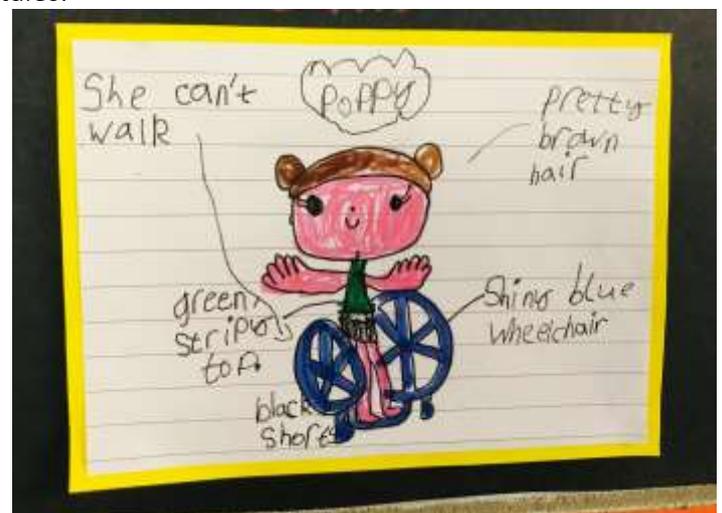
Inspired by street artist Case Maclaim's mural in Madrid, 'The Unknown Fairy Tale Character', Year 2 children created their own unique character and story, celebrating difference.

"I believe the actual beauty of fairy tales is that it is up to our imagination how the character looks and moves and that version is not really up to debate, as it is just like a fingerprint, very unique and personal. With this mural in the old, historical city centre of Madrid I wanted to try a different approach. So I gave the viewer a new character of a yet unknown fairy tale. I have high hopes that it will encourage specially the young audience to come up with their very own story, in which the lead is a confident, black child in a golden wheelchair and in a self-made mermaid costume."

- Case Maclaim.



The children shared ideas around diversity, acceptance and difference before drawing their own character and labelling with adjectives. Next, they wrote about their characters setting, the problem they were faced with and a resolution to their problem. This culminated in a final writing task, showcasing the children's creative ideas and understanding of the structure of fairy tales.



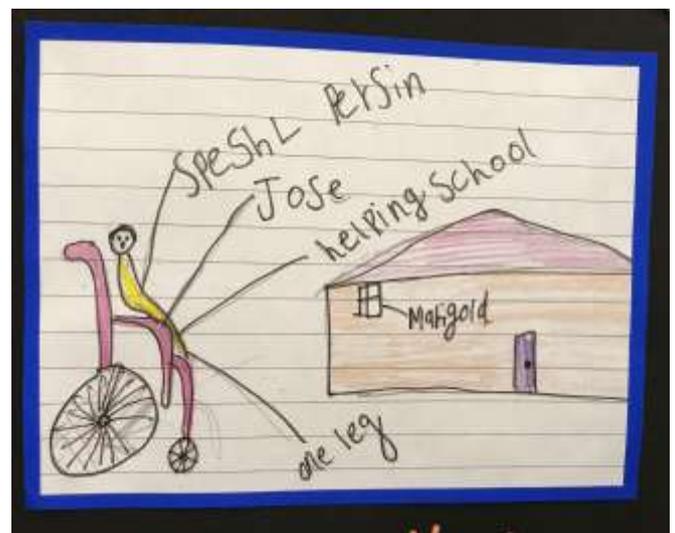
Here are some quotes from the children about being different:

"It's cool to be different" - Alfie

"It would be boring if everybody was the same" - Nicole

"It doesn't matter what you look like, you can do anything" - Bruce

"It's not OK to be unkind to people" - Robyn





## Music at St Mary's

Year 6 have been continuing with their song-writing project and are nearly ready to share their new songs in class. They have found it a difficult process but are coming up with some fantastic ideas and are working really well.

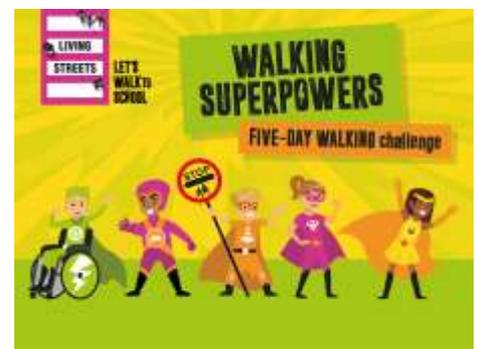
Year 1 have been moving to the music of Saint-Saens by listening to the 'Carnival of the Animals' and responding to the music. They particularly enjoy being lions and are very good at hopping like kangaroos! Well done Year 1!



## Walk/Cycle to School Day translates into Trees!

The children's sponsorship efforts during Walk/Cycle to school week last year has meant that we have been able to buy trees to plant at school.

We plan to hold a tree planting event next Tuesday 25th January where each year group at, Rectory Gardens, will plant their chosen tree. Watch this space and on the school website for photos of the event on 25<sup>th</sup> January.



A collage of photos and text announcing a tree planting event. The central text reads: 'COMING SOON... TREE PLANTING EVENT. The RRS Ambassadors would like to thank everyone for taking part in the sponsored Walk-to-School/Cycle-to-School Week event last Summer term. You helped us to raise £400 to buy trees to plant in our playground! Mr Bruce has ordered some lovely fruit trees which have now arrived and are awaiting planting. Watch this space for details of our special Tree Planting Event!'. The collage includes photos of children in school uniforms, hands planting a tree, and packages of 'Plant Care' products.

## The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)

We are also excited to announce that St Mary's is taking part in The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) which is a unique tree-planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". We will soon be receiving some saplings to plant as part of the initiative and will send out information and photos once they are planted.



Nursery	Welcome to all our new children in Nursery who have started in the last few weeks. This week, the children have been exploring the seasonal changes and have had great fun discovering ice and frost in our outside areas, whilst we learn about the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) inside. The children have been reading <i>Peculiar Pets</i> by Victoria Roberts and have enjoyed making their own pets out of rocks, socks and sweet wrappers! They are looking forward to finding out more about the season of winter and animals in the coming weeks.
Reception	In English, the children have been innovating their own versions of the story <i>Owl Babies</i> by Martin Waddell. They enjoyed choosing different nocturnal animals and habitats to create new versions of the story. In topic, they have been learning about nocturnal animals, finding out why some animals are awake at night and how they use their heightened senses to help them find food. In maths, they have been learning about the number zero and making the number 5 in different ways as recapping how to form simple addition number sentences within 5. In R.E. they have started their new unit 'Why do Christians believe Jesus is special?' The children thought up some lovely ideas, including Jesus' compassion, care and love towards others.
Year 1	The children are enjoying their new science topic, 'Our Body', labelling their body parts and looking at the vital organs and how they function. Their new history topic is called 'Where our family are from and childhood' and they have learned about the continents and labelled on a map where their family comes from. In RE, the children are learning about Hinduism, focusing on the Hindu Gods and important artefacts. <i>Not Now Bernard!</i> by David McKee has been their book of the fortnight and the children have enjoyed making predictions about the story, writing character descriptions and using dialogue and varied punctuation in their writing.
Year 2	'Great Explorers and Achievers of the World' is the new topic with the children learning about the Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott. Next, they will learn about Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman and first Native American to hold a pilot license. In English, the children have created their own unique fairy tale character, celebrating difference and diversity. This culminated in a final writing task, with the character brought to life within a traditional fairy tale structure. In maths, they are learning about tally charts and pictograms and revisited place value. In RE, the focus is on the stories Jesus told and why they are important to Christians.
Year 3	In English, the children have read a story, called <i>The Dark</i> , about a boy who overcomes his fears of the dark, then they developed their creative writing, exploring tension and suspense as well as dialogue and script writing. In maths, they are revisiting place value, looking at comparing and ordering numbers, which are 100, 10 and 1 more/ less than a given 3 digit number. The children then apply their knowledge to solving word problems. In RE, the focus is on the Jewish religion and its links to Christianity and the significant part that Abraham played. In history, the focus is on how the people lived in Mesopotamia, the land of two rivers, trade building and writing and the epic of Gilgamesh which was the first story which has links to Noah's Ark and the flood.
Year 4	In English, the children are reading Anthony Browne's <i>Gorilla</i> and then writing their own contemporary narrative. The focus on this book has helped them to understand how emotive language and the dynamics of relationships works within a contemporary text. In maths, the focus in on the concept of perimeter and area and the children have enjoyed undertaking class investigations on the perimeter of different shapes and objects. In science, they have started their new unit on 'Sound and Hearing' and have begun to conduct investigations using different sounds and assessing how these affect their hearing.
Year 5	In English, children have been learning how to write an adventure story and as a part of their homework related to the subject they created fantastic treasure island maps. In maths, they have been learning how to interpret graphs and create tables. In history, the focus continues to be on Arabia and Islam, with links to our RE topic of Islam. In geography, they continue to explore earthquakes and their impact on our planet. In science, the topic of Forces was concluded with the lesson on water resistance, where children designed their own paper boats and tested them in a race. They then put their learning into real life practice by going swimming! In PSHE, the focus is on thinking about goals and dreams, reflecting on whether one needs money to achieve their goals.
Year 6	In English, the children have completed their non-chronological report on the Tudors. They are now exploring two texts about Bear Grylls the adventure, explorer and writer and writing their own persuasive letters. In maths, the children are working on fractions and decimals and in science, they have finished the topic on Light and will be moving on to work on Electricity and Circuits.



Nursery fun



Y6 song writing



Nursery arts

# Parent School Association (PSA) News

Dear Families,

Happy New Year to you all!

If you're up for a New Year's Resolution, how about becoming an active member of the PSA? It's a great way to support your child and the school, while making friends with other parents.

We are currently looking for a **new secretary** to join the committee. This is a key role where you will assist the chair with planning and organising the committee, as well as assisting at meetings. No experience is necessary, you just need enthusiasm and a desire to do good things for our children.

Please contact [Stmarysn8psa@gmail.com](mailto:Stmarysn8psa@gmail.com) if you think you can help or would like to know more.

You can be part of a team that raised an incredible £5,000 in the last month alone. Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair, Luna's Quest and the sponsored Santa Run.

**PSA meeting - If you would like to get a say in how that money is spent, please do come along to our next meeting on: 27<sup>th</sup> January after morning drop off at Rectory Gardens (Breakfast Club Room). Please remember to wear a mask, sanitise your hands and do a lateral flow test before attending.**

**Other dates for the diary include:**

**Rectory Gardens cake sale – 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at afternoon pick up - please hand in donations to the school office on the day.  
Church Lane cake sale – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb at afternoon pick up - please hand in donations to the school office on the day.**

Finally, 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) for more information.

St Mary's PSA



Children getting ready to do the Santa Run before Christmas. Please see the school website homepage and PSA pages for more photos!

<https://stmarysn8.co.uk/santa-run/>