

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



Newsletter
22nd October 2021



St Mary's CE Primary School, N8

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy half-term it has been! The last 7 weeks of this half-term have flown by and suddenly we find ourselves mid-way through the autumn term in the run up to Christmas! It has also been a wonderful half-term, one which felt like St Mary's pre-pandemic. We hope that in the foreseeable future, we can fully return to what our school should be, particularly in terms of being able to better engage face to face with parents and our wider school community.

However, we know that rates of infections are once again on the increase. At school, we will continue with our Covid-secure hygiene measures as well as other safe and appropriate practices to keep our school as safe as we can. As ever, we will be guided by local authority advice as it emerges and we will impart any information we receive to you as soon as possible.

Harvest Festival Assembly

We had a wonderful Harvest celebration assembly last week where the whole school, including all the children and staff from Church Lane were together at Rectory Gardens for the first time in 18 months! The stage was laden with donations and decorated with our home grown apples, courgettes, carrots and potatoes! We were joined by some parents and carers too as well as representatives from the local foodbanks who were delighted with your generosity. Thank you.



Pupil voice - Head Girl and Head Boy

We are pleased to announce that Yemisi and Milo have been nominated as Head Girl and Head Boy for 2021-2022. Congratulations to you both on being chosen to be role models to all children in the school and lead St Mary's through another successful year. The house captains and the School Council will be profiled in the newsletter after half term.

Anti-racism focus

We have been supporting the UK's largest anti-racism educational charity **Show Racism the Red Card** by wearing something red today. In our assembly today, Rectory Gardens was a sea of red as all the children and staff wore red to say 'no' to racism. The children have been learning about tolerance, respect, anti-bullying and anti-racism in recent weeks and it was a wonderful celebration of diversity and inclusion – see below. Further Black History Month learning activities will be profiled in the next newsletter. The children also celebrated the many, many languages spoken in school – thank you Mme Baker for organising such an interesting assembly!



Parent / teacher consultations

These will take place in w/c 15th November and will be online again due to the continued cautious approach to Covid management in the school. A letter with dates and more details about how to book your meeting has been sent out this week. Please contact the school office if you have any issues in using the booking system. Each meeting will be 10 mins long and **bookings will open after half term on Tuesday 2nd November.**

Mayoral Christmas Card Competition

The Mayor of Haringey, Cllr Adam Jogee, is again holding a Christmas Card Competition for local primary school children. The theme for this year's card is 'Christmas – food, family and fun'. The closing date to submit all entries is Friday 6th November 2021. If you would like to take part, design a picture, on an A4 piece of paper, Please ensure that your child's full name, age, year/class and school is written on the back of each entry and entries must be no bigger or smaller than A4. Please send your entry directly to Cllr Adam Jogee Mayor of Haringey George Meehan House 294 High Road London, N22 8JZ There will be prizes for those who place first, second and third in the competition. The winning design will be reproduced and used as his 2021 Christmas card.

And finally, a reminder that the Monday 1st November is a staff training day and the school is closed to children. **We look forward to welcoming all our children back to school on Tuesday 2nd November.** Have a safe and restful half term break.

Best wishes,

Calvin Henry
Headteacher

Reminders

Half term fun

Xplorer orienteering session in Priory Park on Wednesday 27 October

It is time to explore Haringey! Haringey is running a free Xplorer orienteering session for children in Priory Park on Wednesday 27th October (during half-term). Xplorer is a fun navigation challenge that gives children a sense of adventure as they explore the park to find set markers. It's a great opportunity for children to learn map skills and get some exercise by running around outside. This event is aimed at children aged 4-11 years. Parents and children just need to turn up. **It is entirely free.** Just head to the café where there will be Haringey Council officers waiting for you. They will provide you with maps and worksheets. The event will be running between 10am and 3pm. Please come along at any point within these times. The activity will take roughly an hour to complete. More info – <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/events/202110/park-xplorer-half-term-holiday-event>

Collecting your children at Rectory Gardens – reminder that when collecting your child/ren please make sure the class teacher is aware you have them, and then please promptly leave the playground. This is to safeguard all children at this busy time of the day.

Also, children must not play on the playground equipment before or after school. Thank you for your support.

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.
- **Phonics and Early Reading** with Mr Beardwell. Wednesday 9th November 8.55am - 9.45am at Church Lane
- **Meet Olive Dining** on Tuesday 23rd 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. Wednesday 1st December at 9am at Rectory Gardens

Year 6 applications to secondary school - Reminder to all Y6 parents and carers to complete your child's secondary school application **by 31st October.** More information can be found on the school website - <https://www.stmarysn8.co.uk/>.

Class Assemblies – are moving to Tuesday mornings at 9.30am after half term. Please make a note of the **NEW** dates below:

9th November – Y4 Crimson Class

16th November – Y4 Scarlet Class

23th November – Y6 Violet Class

30th November – Y6 Indigo Class

7th December – Y6 Amethyst Class



Celebrating Black History Month, anti-racism and diversity

At St Mary's, we are continuing on our journey of developing an inclusive, Anti-Racist curriculum, celebrating diversity and representing society in its glorious multi-culturalism. During the summer term, a review of our BME provision at school was conducted by Marva Rollins on behalf of Haringey Education Partnership (HEP). Marva has spent many years assisting schools with developing their BME provision and we were very happy to have her input. Although the review was favourable of the work we have done already, it highlighted areas where we need to continue to develop, notably in relation to engaging with our BME parents. We will be hosting parent coffee mornings later in the term to gain their views and insights into how we can further develop our curriculum offer. The school and governors are also currently a 3 year anti-racist action plan.

Our curriculum is now more representative of Britain's historical past, highlighting the contributions that Black and other ethnic groups have made and continue to make. Historian Robin Walker (below right) has written a book entitled Black History Matters, where he discusses the evidence of Black people in England and how they have contributed to British society. We continue to develop our use of text to highlight these contributions through English, where we are using culturally enriched texts by authors such as Malorie Blackman, Floella Benjamin and Sharna Jackson, to name a few. We have also been developing our art curriculum-this term; the whole school has produced art work inspired by Nigerian-British Artist, Yinka Ilori (below left).



Yinka Ilori - artist



Robin Walker – historian and author

In addition to our usual learning, for the second year running, we are celebrating the work of BME authors, in particular, through poetry looking at authors such as Benjamin Zephaniah, Kwame Alexander and Ysra Daley-Ward. Once again, each class will perform their poems in our celebration assemblies after the half term break.



Kwame Alexander



Ysra Daley-Ward



Benjamin Zephaniah

Year 2 visit Hornsey Fire Station

To complement their top of The Great Fire of London, Year 2 children have recently visited Hornsey Fire Station. They explored the equipment the firefighters use, learned about how the London Fire Brigade operate, as well as about fire safety, climbed on-board the engine and even took a slide down the pole!

"My favourite part was sliding down the pole" – Alfie. "I liked sitting in the fire engine and wearing the helmet" – Nicole



Animal adventures at Greig City Academy

The Herpetological Society at GCA very kindly invited some of our Year Six children to a workshop run by Safari Pete. They met a tarantula, an owl, a meerkat, a snake, various lizards and a crocodile and even saw them being fed! The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and learned so much about the creatures themselves, and also how necessary they are to the planet. Thank you GCA!



French Café

Year 2 have also recently enjoyed using their French to ask for a croissant, pain au chocolat, jus d'orange and jus de pomme at their French café. Merci Mme Baker!



News from the Touchline - Sport at St Mary's

We have had a few very busy and successful sporting weeks in addition to all the PE lessons and clubs. We would also like to introduce Mr Allison who is with St Mary's for 6 months on a government funded programme called Kickstart. His role is to support Mr Oakley in all aspects of sport and is very motivational to the children during competitions – Welcome Mr Allison!

St Marys Cross Country Runners Selected to Represent Haringey!

Dominic and Jack have been selected to represent Haringey at the London Youth Games Cross Country competition in November. Only 10 boys from all Haringey schools are selected so to have two from St Marys is excellent. The fact the boys are Y4 and Y5 running against mainly Y6's makes this achievement extra special. A huge well done to them both!



Football Festival

On 8th Oct we entered a boys and girls team into the Haringey Football Festival. It was a great day with some fantastic results. The girls team won 5 out of 6 games scoring freely with Kalisha as our star striker! The boys went the entire day without losing, winning 5 and drawing 1. The boys won their last two games 4-0 and 5-0 with Ade, Dylan and Lionel leading the way! Well done to all involved!

Boys Team: Fefe, Lionel, Alexis, Adanis, Reuben (c), Ade, Abu and Dylan

Girls Team: Ella, Kalisha, Karoline, Keilani, Lottie, Mariah, Amirah, Samantha and Julie (c)



HI-5 NETBALL

Netball Team start with a Bang!

Our mixed netball team entered the Hi-5 Netball cup at Highgate School last week. This was their first competition as a team and they won all 4 of their first 4 games, including a 7-0 and 5-1! At the quarter final stage they played a strong local team and drew 1-1 in thrilling tie! The game was decided with a single shot shoot off which we sadly lost. It was a really strong performance from a team that shows real talent! Hi-5 Netball tournaments are where you have a rotating team of 7 players with only 5 on the court at any one time, and every player gets to play every position throughout the whole tournament. It's fast and very exciting as it really challenges the children when they are playing out of their favourite positions!

Netball team: Leo, Preston, Dylan, Alexa, Lottie, Mariah, Kalisha, Keilani,



Haringey's First Ever Dodgeball Competition

In the first ever dodgeball tournament, St Mary's had an amazing run of games, but didn't win the competition overall. The event was held at Hornsey School for Girls and we were thrilled to see some St Mary's alumni there acting as dodgeball judges for the day – thank you Sydney, Ella and Jessica who are all now in Year 9! The children were excellent throughout the afternoon and well done to Mr Allison for leading his first sports trip!

Dodgeball team: Michelle, Juno, Leviah, Justin, Dominic, Euan, Reuben, Harry, Lottie, Rebecca, Alexa,



Nursery	The children have been developing their observational drawing skills, drawing some lovely pumpkins and pine cones. They have enjoyed being outside collecting, sorting and cutting up leaves to make name art and autumn fairies. In the kitchen, they have enjoyed making (and eating!) beetroot and strawberry muffins, carrot soup, rainbow toast and gluten free chocolate muffins.
Reception	In maths, the focus has been on the numbers 1, 2 and 3 and the children have had fun representing them in a number of different ways. They have also been learning about circles and triangles and have made fabulous circle and triangle art. In English, they have been listening to lots of Percy the Park Keeper stories, making predictions about them and learning about all Percy's animal friends. In RE they continue to think about the Creation story and about how we can all look after our special world, including our school. The children have also been enjoying their new junk modelling area and have made many wonderful creations.
Year 1	The children have been looking at a poem called <i>Someone</i> by Walter De La Mere. They have been investigating its language, how it makes them feel, who it might be about and where it is set. They then went on to paint pictures about what the poem means to them and constructed, out of Lego, who it might be about. In maths, the focus is on language of time. In RE, the Creation unit is coming to a close and the children been thinking about why their world is so amazing. They have discussed friendship, how and why they feel safe and have drawing pictures of their feelings. In ICT, the children are continuing to develop their coding skills and have learned to drag and drop whilst coding.
Year 2	In English, the children have been adapting the story <i>Oh no, George!</i> They have innovated the story, creating brand new characters and settings. In maths, they have been focussing on money. Having reached the end of the current topic of the Great Fire of London, Year 2 were very excited to visit Hornsey Fire Station and learn all about London's first black firefighter, Frank Bailey. In science, the children are investigating animals and their offspring.
Year 3	In a combined focus of English and Geography, the children have been learning about the water cycle and writing about the key stages: evaporation, condensation and precipitation. They have also been learning about rivers, their formation and the important part they play in human survival. In RE, the children have been learning about the Bible story of Jonah and the Whale. They discussed Jonah's decisions and how God reacted to them and what would they would do if God asked them to do a task? In maths, the focus is on multiplication and the children have looked at equal groups and repeated addition, as well as recapping their 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
Year 4	
Year 5	In maths, the children have been finding factors, common factors, multiples and prime numbers. In English, they have completed their unit on Greek myths and are now reading the text <i>The Midnight Fox</i> and have already produced some fantastic descriptive writing. All three Year 5 classes have had their assemblies in the last two weeks. It was fantastic to see the children express their knowledge gained through drama, singing, acting, and performing their athletic ability. We are super proud of each one of them and it was wonderful to welcome parents and carers back in to school to watch the assemblies.
Year 6	In English, the children are learning about the experiences of the Windrush generation and writing poems based on John Agard's <i>Windrush Child</i> . Many of the children were quite sad to hear about the challenges the Windrush generation have faced, but produced outstanding poems which ended with a message of hope which will be reproduced in the next newsletter. In maths, the focus has been on short division and long division with the children enjoying learning a new written method and are now beginning to divide 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. In RE, the children have continued to learn about Jesus' 'I am' statements, focusing on the meaning of Jesus' saying 'I am the true vine' and thinking about how our values, faith and role models root us. In science it has been assessment week, so the children have been showing us what they have learned about the circulatory system and keeping healthy.



The whole school together for Harvest Assembly



Y2 enjoying the fire station visit



Y4 children picking apples at school for Harvest Assembly

Parent School Association (PSA) News

Dear Families,

Bonfire Night – Saturday 6th November

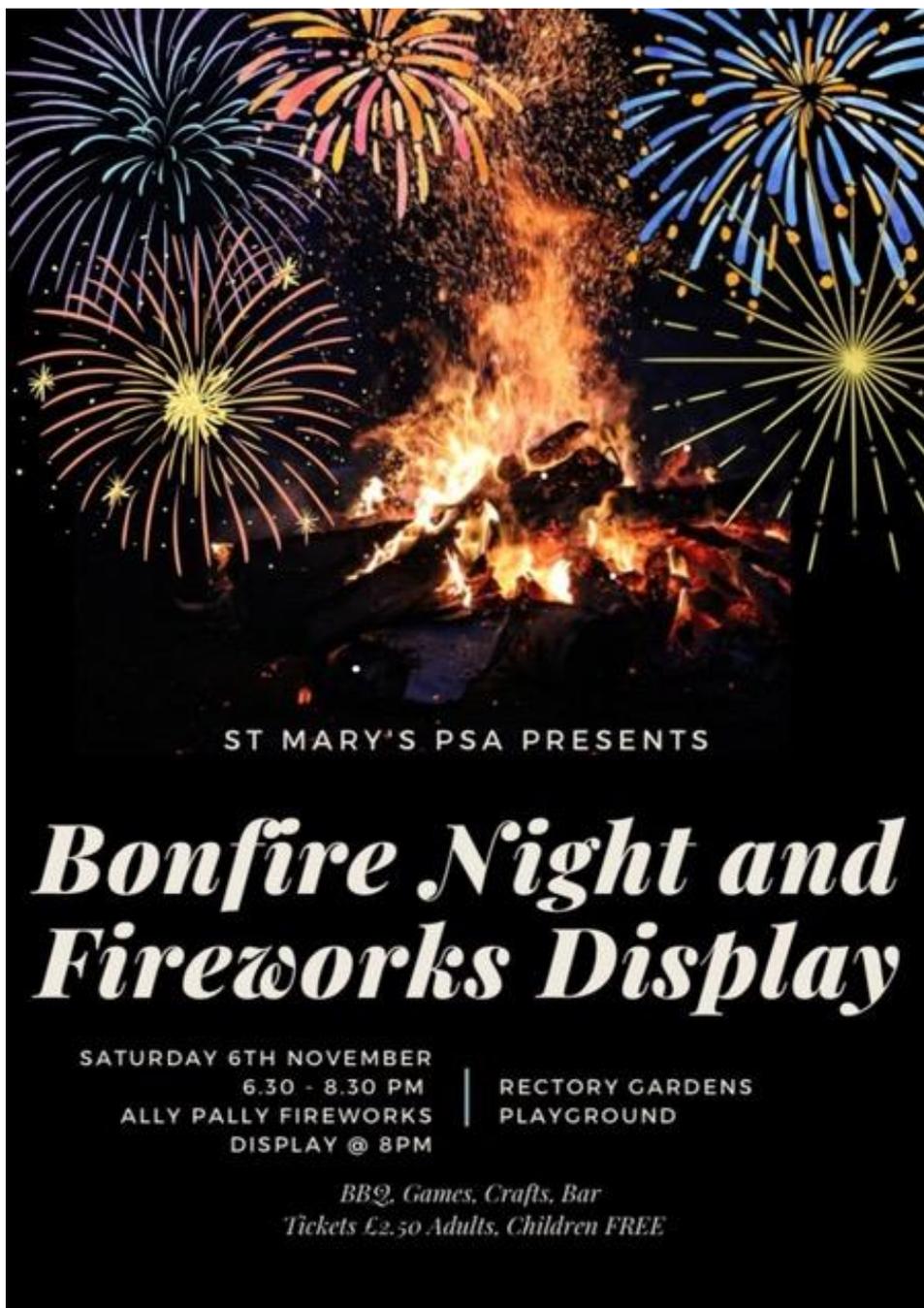
The PSA is excited to announce our bonfire night celebrations on Saturday 6th November. Watch the Ally Pally fireworks from Rectory Gardens playground and enjoy an evening of family fun!

Come and enjoy the fireworks, bar, BBQ, games and craft stall. Tickets are £2.50 Adults. Children are free. All welcome!

Please do consider lending a hand on the night as we cannot put on events such as these without volunteers on the night.

What we want to fundraise for:

Did you know we are raising money to help the school fund a trip to the Hackney Empire Christmas panto for children at Rectory Gardens and a Christmas show at school for Church Lane children. We would also like to buy new playground equipment for Church Lane. Your children need you! Please get in touch with Sara Thomson if you can help: samerchant@hotmail.com



ST MARY'S PSA PRESENTS

Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display

SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
6.30 - 8.30 PM | RECTORY GARDENS
ALLY PALLY FIREWORKS | PLAYGROUND
DISPLAY @ 8PM

*BBQ, Games, Crafts, Bar
Tickets £2.50 Adults, Children FREE*

How you can support the PSA?

- Volunteer to be a class rep – we aim to have two for each class. Please contact Charlotte Worth if you're interested: charlotte.al.worth@gmail.com
- Sign up to **Classlist** - We use ClassList to communicate, including advertising when PSA events and meetings are, so do make sure you join. Download the app and click this QR Code to join:
- Attend PSA meetings where we plan events and decide what to fund
- Come to our events - and do help out if you can



If you would like to know more about our work or how to get more involved, please contact Sara Thomson at: samerchant@hotmail.com

If you want to contact someone from the PSA at Church Lane, Hilary or Grace would love to hear from you: hilarygrierson@icloud.com and gracestaniland@gmail.com

St Mary's PSA