

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



Newsletter  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2021



## St Mary's CE Primary School, N8

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

Dear parents and carers,

The new term is now well underway and we are all now feeling well settled into the structures and routine of a new school year. We are so very pleased that the majority of what we have historically been able to provide, is once again in place at St Mary's. I am hopeful that in time to come and when it is safe to do so, we can fully reinstate our open door policy. Whilst Covid restrictions may have eased nationally and we are able to do most of the things in school that we were able to do pre-pandemic, we will however continue with Covid secure measures, particularly relating to hygiene and air-circulation. We continue to be kept up to date with any government and/or local changes from advice received from the local authority and from the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS).

### Year 6 Transition meeting

On Thursday evening we held an informative session for Y6 parents and carers to learn more about the secondary school application process. We had representatives from five local secondary schools in to talk about their schools and we hope that for those who could attend, you found it useful. The slides from the talk will be circulated to Year 6 parents and carers today. Please remember that you must complete your child's secondary school application **by 31<sup>st</sup> October**, but as this is during half term, we would recommend that you complete it **no later than 18<sup>th</sup> October** so if there are any issues, we can support you with the application process in the last week of school before half term. More information can be found on the school website - <https://www.stmarysn8.co.uk/>

### Bag blessing at The Church Tower



The Church Team held a wonderful 'Bag Blessing' service to start this academic year. It was held at the Church Tower last Sunday afternoon. During the Bag Blessing Service, Fr Bruce went to the top of the church tower and sprinkled water (from a water pistol!) over our bags (and us!) and Mthr Mitzi was on her scooter with her water pistol! It was indeed a blessing quite like no other.

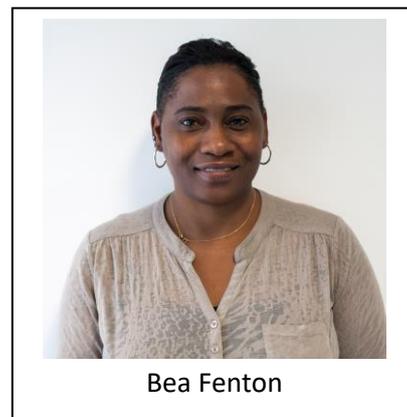
It is been such a delight to have the term fully underway in recent weeks and to see all the children engage so well and enthusiastically in their learning. I would like to thank each and every one of you for continuing to play a part in helping us to run as smoothly as we are able to. Our relationship with parents and carers is so important to us and being able to interact with you more this term, especially at the beginning and end of the day is wonderful.

With best wishes,  
Calvin Henry  
Headteacher

## School Home Support

My name is Bea Fenton and I am the School Home Support Practitioner at St Mary's. My role within the school is to offer my support and to help families with a wide range of issues by providing advice and information on:

- School attendance and punctuality
- Benefits or housing issues and referrals to Foodbanks
- Helping families make applications to EU settlement programmes and other government support which requires applications
- Dealing with family difficulties and trauma
- Adult and parenting courses, training & volunteering opportunities



I am available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and you will find me in the school playground in the mornings and at the end of the school day. You can find my leaflet 'Here to Help' with more information and contact details on in the School Office by the sign-in screens, both at Church Lane and Rectory Gardens. I look forward to meeting you when help is needed.

Please come to my first Coffee Morning of the year on **Tuesday 5th October at 9am at Rectory Gardens**. All parents and carers are welcome throughout the school. I look forward to seeing you then.



## Reminders

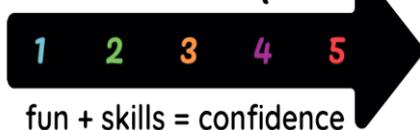
### Attendance and Punctuality

We all know that good attendance and punctuality supports children's learning outcomes at all stages of their school life. Good attendance and punctuality is also an important life skill. Therefore, please make every effort to get your child **into school, on time, every day**. If they come to school by themselves, please impress upon them the importance of arriving on time and how it will help their own and the learning of others.

### School payment system

Our new payment system, SchoolMoney, is up and running. Most parents and carers have reported that they find the new system quite straightforward and that using the App makes payments even easier. Any credits and debts that were on our old system, Tucasi, have now been transferred over to SchoolMoney. Please make sure that you log in and check the status of your child's account. If you need any clarification on this please contact the office. If you would like the link to download the app please also get in touch.

### Number Champions



### Number Champions

Could you spare 1½ hours a week to help children learn maths? We're looking for volunteers to come in via the charity Number Champions to help 6-8 year olds get more confidence with, and enjoyment of maths. All parents and carers have received a letter about this via email this week. If you are interested please reply to that email with your name and your child's name and we will be in touch.

### Flu Nasal Spray Immunisation

All children from Reception to Year 6 are offered flu immunisation via a nasal spray every year. Haringey's Immunisation Team will be visiting our school on the 4th November 2021. They have asked us to pass on the following message, as well as the details of how to register to attend their Zoom meeting. The school will send out more details, including the permission form closer to the time.



*Dear Parent/ Carer*

*The Haringey and Islington Immunisation Team will be offering the Nasal Flu Spray to primary school children again this year. We would like to invite you to join their online parents meeting on Thursday 30th September, to inform and answer any questions you may have about the immunisation. If you would like to attend, please email [haringey@v-uk.co.uk](mailto:haringey@v-uk.co.uk) stating your child's name and school they attend. Your school has already distributed information to you regarding the nasal flu spray, but please do join the session on 30<sup>th</sup> September and ask any questions you may have. You can also find more information on NHS link below. Child flu vaccine - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)).*

Nursery	It has been a fantastic start to the year in Nursery. It has been a delight to see all the children settling into their routines and joining in with a range of activities. This week they have been learning about their emotions using the book <i>The Colour Monster</i> by Anna Llenas. The children have developed a strong understanding of the story, linking different emotions to colours and have particularly loved incorporating the 'mini' colour monsters into their play and using the language of the book.
Reception	The Reception children have been settling in well, making new friends and learning lots of new skills. In phonics they have learned the letters 's' and 'a' through lots of singing and actions. In maths, they have begun to learn about pairs, identifying them in different contexts. The children have really enjoyed their first focus story in English called <i>Would You Rather?</i> In RE they are learning about The Creation Story focusing on the wonderful world we live in and how best to look after it.
Year 1	In English, the children have enjoyed reading <i>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</i> by Michael Rosen and have created story maps to help them act out the story. Using adjectives, they have developed their descriptive skills, innovating characters and the story setting. They also went on their own 'bear hunt' using their senses to investigate plants in the local environment which linked in with their Geography topic of 'Our local area' and their Science topic of 'Plants'. In maths, the focus has been on place value, recognising and finding missing numbers to 20 on a number line and recognising and applying one more and one less to a given number.
Year 2	In English, the children have been learning about an African folk tale, <i>How Tortoise Got His Shell</i> and have innovated the story, creating new characters and settings. In maths, they have partitioned numbers into tens and ones. In topic, the focus is all about The Great Fire of London, looking at key dates and historical figures associated with the event. In RE, the focus this half-term is Christian celebrations. Last week the children walked to Holy Innocents Church to see how a baptism is performed. In science, they are investigating human growth and what is needed to survive.
Year 3	In English, the children are reading creation stories and applying similes and adjectives to create their own descriptive characters. In maths, they are building on their understanding of place value using numbers to 1,000 including adding and subtracting. In science, they have explored the pollination and fertilisation process in plants and enjoyed a visit to the school allotment with Mrs Plimley to get a first-hand experience of how plants grow. They enjoyed digging up the potatoes and were able to take them home and cook and eat them! In RE, the focus is on the Old Testament reading the Creation story and the Fall.
Year 4	In English, Year 4 have been writing list poems, exploring different imperative verbs, which were used to innovate their own poem titled, 'Things I'd do if it weren't for my parents'. In maths, they have developed their knowledge of place value, focusing more closely on partitioning using the part whole model. In RE, they have been learning about the different traditional values within the Hindu religion and making comparisons to other religions. In science, they have been investigating the three states of matter, focusing closely on the structure of each states particles.
Year 5	In maths, the children have focused on numbers up to 100,000, understanding place value and how to order, compare and round them. In English, after exploring several creation myths from different cultures, the children have been writing their own creation myths. In science, they continue to explore properties and changes of materials, creating 'Carroll diagrams' (which are a way to sort data). In RE, the children are learning about God's relationship with his people and the promise that he made to humankind. In history, the children have been learning about the Roman Empire, including about the lives of Christians at that time.
Year 6	In English, the children have been writing mystery stories, producing their own descriptions of ominous settings and of mysterious objects which could be found in them. In maths, they have been practising addition and subtraction using the column method, before applying these skills to word problems. In RE, the children have looked at Jesus' 'I Am' sayings by discussing the meaning of the phrase 'I am the Bread of Life' and looked at out how faith provides spiritual nourishment for many people. Their science lessons have been all about the circulatory system and the children enjoyed learning about the role of the heart, blood and blood vessels, and produced their own scientific diagrams showing these different parts of the body.



Nursery children building and exploring



Reception children having fun doing a pairing activity



Making new friends

## Outdoor Learning Area and Allotment at Rectory Gardens

Year 3 have enjoyed learning and working in the newly upgraded Outdoor Learning Area at Rectory Gardens. They hunted for mini-beasts and discussed how insects are vital in the ecosystem, created beautiful leaf drawings and made interesting 'leaf and stick' art. The children were also able to learn about all the plants currently growing in the allotment beds (potatoes, Brussel sprouts, raspberries, strawberries and courgettes currently) and were all able to dig up potatoes that had been planted in June, take them home and eat them with their families! Thank you to Mrs Plimley for running such an interesting session for all the children in Year 3! Thank you (again!) to the PSA for helping to upgrade our outdoor learning area and allotment beds for all the children at Rectory Gardens to enjoy learning in. Watch this space for more planting, growing, weeding, digging, picking and eating news!



The courgettes are growing well and will be harvested for Harvest Festival. Everyone was thrilled when Charlie dug up a potato in the shape of a snowman!



## Music at St Mary's

We have all been enjoying singing in assemblies, preparing for the harvest festival in a few weeks, and getting to grips with musical learning in our music classes again. Here are some photos of Emerald Class playing their rhythms on the instruments and making a joyful noise.



The children in Y4 have also met their new instrumental teachers, Kath, Mary, Will and Clara this week and they have introduced the children to a range of new instruments. Overall, a very musical start to the year!

Don't forget to book your child in for extra music at Band on a Monday after school, and choir on a Tuesday after school at RG. These clubs start next week, but there may be some spaces left. Details have already been circulated in a letter to parents and carers, but please contact the office if you need more information.



# Parent School Association (PSA) News

A warm welcome to all our new and existing St Mary's families. We hope your children are enjoying their first few weeks at school and those that could attend today's Teddy Bears Picnic at Church Lane enjoyed it! Pictures to follow in the next newsletter.

## What is the PSA?

- You are the PSA – all parents and carers become part of the Parent School Association when you join St Mary's
- The PSA is here to ensure all our children have the best experience possible while part of the St Mary's community
- The PSA organises events for families to bring the community together and to fundraise, including our fun-packed summer and Christmas fairs, children's discos, Easter egg hunt, quiz nights and much more.

## We need you

All the events are planned and run by volunteers. Being an active part of the PSA is a great way to feel more connected to the school and other families. Your children will also feel a great sense of pride and belonging and this is proven to impact their wellbeing – not to mention their academic success!

## How you can help?

- 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](mailto: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



The PSA has made a real impact at St Mary's and we have had wonderful feedback from children and teachers. Let's continue to make a difference!

## Projects the PSA has funded in the last few years include:

- Church Lane climbing frame and a trim trail at Rectory Gardens
- Whole school trip to a Christmas panto
- Trips to exciting places like Kidzania and Go Ape
- Magic shows for Church Lane
- The redevelopment of the outdoor learning area and allotment beds at Rectory Gardens.

If you would like to know more about our work or how to get more involved, please contact Sara Thomson at: [saramerchant@hotmail.com](mailto:saramerchant@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](mailto:hilarygrierson@icloud.com)  
[gracestaniland@gmail.com](mailto:gracestaniland@gmail.com)