



Update Friday 12th March
Head Teacher Mrs Lynne Osborne

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a fabulous first week back at school, it is with great pleasure that I am writing to say 'have a relaxing weekend'. The children and staff have all worked incredibly hard this week and thrown themselves back into school life with vigour. However, as a staff team we are not underestimating the impact that Covid and national lockdowns and remote learning has had on the children's emotional well-being and this is something we will continue to focus on in the coming months.



Thank you to Mrs Archbold and our critical worker children who produced this lovely banner to celebrate school reopening.

World Book Day:

Yesterday we celebrated our own very special St Mary's Book Day. The children focused on specific stories and the highlight of the day was a book day assembly where we discovered who the masked readers actually were! Thank you Mrs Zimet for a very enjoyable day that highlighted the importance and enjoyment of reading.

Parent Consultations:

We will be holding telephone parent consultations on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March. These will focus on your child's well-being, lockdown and learning and suggestions to help them get 'back on track' in their maths and English learning. The booking system will go live next week, further details will be sent on Monday.

Safe parking:

I received this message from a concerned resident on Tuesday this week.

I know there is not much you can do about this but I have reported the parking outside the school today to Herts Police and they have passed it onto local officers and they also said it might be an idea to contact you as well, which I have now done. Please if possible inform the parents about the parking on the zig zag lines and yellow lines before someone gets hurt.

Please do think about the safety of all members of the local community when you park. I'm sure we'd all prefer children to arrive safely (if a few minutes late) rather than being put in danger.

Brilliant Behaviour:

The children at St Mary's are incredibly well-behaved and extremely motivated and we want our Positive Behaviour Policy to reflect this. Going forwards we will not be using the 'peg' behaviour system. Instead we will focus on: encouraging self-motivation, whole class rewards and immediate recognition. We will still continue to recognise exceptional effort with phone calls home and Head Teacher awards. Individual classes will also be working with their teacher to agree what motivates them and to ensure that all children are acknowledged for their efforts. After we have consulted the children, our next step will be to ask parents and carers their views. I am sure we are all in agreement that a Positive Behaviour Policy should be just that and be all about encouraging and recognising efforts.

Meet Mrs Bishop:

Many of you will have already met the latest addition to the St Mary's team. However, if you haven't Mrs Bishop is our new Nursery teacher.



Hobbies: running and going on adventures with her two boys and husband.

Background: Lived and worked in London but more recently moved locally.

History: has been teaching since 2002.

Likes: anything fun and creative.

Roles: Nursery teacher, PPA teacher and History Lead.

How does your garden grow?

Several weeks ago we invited the children and their families to grow herbs for our 'pandemic plot'. We're now ready to start planting and to choose a more appealing name for this area. We really want to create something positive and to help all our children connect with nature. Please can the children bring their seedlings, big and small, back to school next week ready to start planting?



Supporting
The Hospice
of st francis

Thank you:

I am delighted to be able to let you know that St Mary's raised £159.50 for 'The Hospice of St Francis' with our recent 'wear something that makes you happy' day. Our next planned charity fundraising day is 'Wear a Hat' for Brain Tumour research on Friday 26th March.

A final feel good message:



Diary dates:

Monday 15th March – SCIENCE WEEK

Friday 19th March – St Mary's School Association Movie Night

Tuesday 23rd March – Our Wonderful World Day – I wonder which country your child's class will focus on?

Wednesday 24th March – Parent Consultations (telephone)

Thursday 25th March – Parent Consultations (telephone)

Friday 26th March – Wear a Hat Day Non-uniform day in aid of Brain Tumour Research

School finishes at 1.30 pm.

EASTER HOLIDAY

MONDAY 12th April –STAFF INSET DAY

Tuesday 13th April – School reopens to children

Friday 14th May Year 5 Trip to Woodrow

Thursday 20th May –Year 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony

Friday 21st May Skip-2.be-Fit Workshops

Friday 11th June Parent Forum Meeting

Monday 28th June –Wednesday 30th June Year 6 residential trip to Hudnall Park

Friday 9th July –Reports to parents

Thursday 15th July – Open classrooms/evening – Government guidance permitting

Friday 16th July – St Mary's School Association Pop-up Cinema