

# St Mary's C.E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Calvin Henry



13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

I hope this letter finds you and your families healthy, well rested and managing to remain positive despite the challenging start to the year. Normally at this time of year, I would have started this letter reminiscing about the festive period and looking forward to the year ahead. Additionally, it would have been lovely to have been able to put the trials and tribulations of 2020 behind us for good. Sadly, that wasn't to be.

St Mary's has again had to grapple with uncertainty and ever changing directives and guidance from the government over the Christmas holidays and at the start of this term. In the space of four short days towards the end of the holiday, we went from opening as planned, to being closed for two weeks, to being closed for the entirety of this half of term. Thank you for your patience as Mr Henry and his team worked so hard to deal with each dramatic change - both their New Years' Eve and New Year's Day were almost entirely consumed with managing the situation that saw Haringey even threaten to challenge the Government's advice in court before the eventual U-turn that saw all London schools close.

Throughout this period, I and the other governors have been kept apprised of the situation and we continue to meet with the Mr Henry remotely on a regular basis. We recently approved the updated Remote Learning Policy and this, along with the Remote Learning Approach document sent out to you last week, are now on the school's website ([www.stmarysn8.co.uk](http://www.stmarysn8.co.uk)). We are confident that the remote learning offer is more robust and effective than last year's offer and we hope that your children are managing to engage fully with what has been asked of them.

In terms of the remote learning offer, you will no doubt be aware that schools are given the flexibility to devise their own remote learning strategy that is appropriate to their own school's context. We are aware that there is no 'one model fits all' approach so children in every school will likely have a different remote learning experience. Please be assured, however, that the senior leadership team and teachers have worked very hard to develop a remote learning strategy which is both appropriate and manageable for the children at St Mary's as well as their families. As always, the focus for staff and governors at St Mary's continues to be ensuring the best possible provision, educational experiences and outcomes for your children during these difficult times.

The governors have been delighted with some of the kind and supportive feedback that the school has already received. We continue to welcome all of your views, favourable or otherwise because your voice is hugely important to us as we navigate through this difficult time. You will shortly be receiving a parent survey from the school to complete which will help inform staff how they can further improve the remote learning offer currently being provided. As a reminder, the governors can be contacted on [governors@stmarysn8.co.uk](mailto:governors@stmarysn8.co.uk) and the school on [office@stmarysn8.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarysn8.co.uk).

I would also like to let you know that a number of governors and I joined the INSET day on 4<sup>th</sup> January to hear more about the school's plans to further enhance its anti-racist and diversity curriculum. Mr Baptiste and Ms Fennell are leading this valuable initiative and you will no doubt be hearing more about the ongoing development of this. The Governors are very committed to this initiative and have also very recently joined all staff to undertake "Unconscious Bias" training.

Lastly, we have said goodbye to some governors and welcomed others. A huge thank you and good luck goes to Ms Jenkins who has moved on to different educational pastures. She has proved invaluable to the governing body in her role as Staff Governor for the last 2 ½ years and will be sorely missed. However, we are delighted to welcome our newly elected Staff Governor, Ms Frohock, who will no doubt bring her huge skills and experience to the role and be an equally very valuable governor in the coming years.

Additionally, I am delighted to welcome our newly elected Parent Governor, Pamela Shor, and new Associate Member of the Governing Body, Becky Wildish - both of whom will no doubt already be familiar to many of you. Welcome to you both and I, along with the rest of the Governing Body, look forward to working closely with you always in the best interests of the St Mary's children and community. Photos of all three new governors are at the end of this letter.

To conclude, I trust that there will be a renewed sense of hope and optimism for the coming year for staff, governors, children and families alike and that better times are not far ahead.

Wishing you all the very best for a healthy, happy and hopeful 2021.

Stuart Goldberg



Chair of Governors



Pamela Shor

Parent Governor



Becky Wildish

Associate Member



Harriet Frohock

Staff Governor