



# St Mary & St Pancras C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher **Jules Belton**, Deputy Headteacher: **Lucy Heard**  
Assistant Headteacher: **Lesley Carneiro**

29<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Curriculum Update



### STARS Award

We are delighted to have been accredited with our Silver STARS award by Transport for London. This means our school works hard to educate our children about *safe* and *sustainable* travel.

We organise a variety of educational and fun activities for the children such as such as Bikeability training, 'Road Safety' theatre workshops, Pedestrian Skills training, bike maintenance and 'Happy Shoes Day'. Congratulations to all of the staff and children and especially to Miss Sheehan, who leads on this work (she is on Maternity leave but I have been in touch to thank her!).

### Philosophy for Children (P4C)



We are one of only a few schools in Camden who teach Philosophy to our children. The children have weekly P4C lessons across the school and think of some really 'big' questions such as 'Should animals be treated the same as humans?' (Y3) and 'Does belonging to a group mean that they can control you?' (Y2). The children are so skilled at looking at pictures or film clips and generating their own questions. Their teachers and visitors are impressed with how clearly our children are able to speak, what fantastic questions they generate, and the maturity and insight they demonstrate in Philosophy lessons.

Our Ofsted Report March 2019 said:

'Pupils work and play together harmoniously because they are taught to show tolerance of diversity as well as compassion for others. Through an approach looking at philosophical situations, pupils are also taught to work hard and to demonstrate resilience when they encounter problems.'

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The school has worked very hard throughout 2018-19 on developing its P4C practice and we are very excited to be applying to be a SILVER P4C school. It is our aim to be a 'community of enquiry', a school in which our children are able to question, think critically and respond rationally. We know our children are more than capable and will keep you posted about their progress.

We have other exciting curriculum projects this year such as Growing Spaces with HS2, which will mean that the school has a green growing wall and Lifting Limits, a project that aims to teach our children to challenge gender stereotypes and have high aspirations for their future. More about those after Christmas.

### Important E-safety alert: Tik Tok (formerly musical.ly)

TikTok is an iOS and Android social media video app for creating and sharing short lip-sync, comedy, and talent videos. This site is very popular with children of all ages. The recommended age for use is 13+ but children do not have to prove their age when setting up an account, so children of Primary School age use it, including children in our school.

There is currently a popular song on TikTok with highly inappropriate lyrics. The UK's data watchdog is investigating TikTok over its potential mishandling of children's data and whether it does enough to ensure child safety on its platform. We advise that children of Primary School age do not use this website.

### Important Dates for your diary:

Christmas Fair: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 3:15-5pm

Nativity/Christingle service: 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, St Mary's Church.

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December: children can wear a Christmas Jumper/their own clothes on that day - we ask for a voluntary contribution of £1, which we will donate to charity

End of term: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - School finishes at 2pm

I hope the run-up to Christmas is treating you well. It can be a stressful time for all sorts of reasons. Staff at the school are always here to talk should you need to.

Kind regards,

Ms J Belton  
Headteacher