



## St Mary's Church of England School

### Infants:

Amyand Park Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 3HE

T: 0208 892 5840

### Middle:

Strafford Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 3AD

T: 0208 249 6836

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### Juniors:

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[www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents,

This is another bumper edition of our newsletter, please stick with it until the end as there's lots of important information to share with you.

I am looking forward to letting you know about another development taking place at St Mary's.

One of our School improvement priorities this year is to develop *St Mary's - the caring school*. This is not to say that we currently aren't a caring school, but it means that we are looking into all sorts of ways to develop the values of kindness, caring, compassion and empathy. Included in this target is also the development of our provision for and support of children's mental health.

You will have seen so much in the news about the importance of addressing mental health difficulties at an age young enough to prevent long term mental health illness. Here are some facts for you:

- 16 million people in the UK experience a mental illness
- Three in four mental illnesses start in childhood
- 75% of mental illnesses start before a child reaches their 18th birthday, while 50% of mental health problems in adult life (excluding dementia) take root before the age of 15.
- 10% of school children have a diagnosable mental illness
- In an average class of 30 young people, three will have a mental health problem. Figures show 10% of children aged 5-16 have been diagnosed with a mental health problem.
- 75% of young people with a mental health problem are not receiving treatment
- There's been a rise in the time children are having to wait to receive treatment for complex mental health conditions, and children with depression and anxiety are often not being identified or given help

We believe part of our important role is to provide much needed support for the children and families right here at St Mary's.

Here are just some of the things we have put in place already:

- Appointed a learning mentor to support children, families and teachers
- We bought in to a service level agreement with the Anna Freud Outreach Service, providing Systemic Family Psychotherapy weekly. This includes training and support for staff in certain related areas
- These two services have proved invaluable since they began in September. So far, over 30 families have benefitted from their work and the outcomes for the children involved are greatly improved socially and emotionally as well as academically



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- The fish tank on the junior site has also had an impact already. Particular children spend time there, most often choosing to do this when they need to calm down, which has been fantastic in learning all about ways to self-regulate

To follow:

- Each site will have a reflection room established. These rooms will be spaces which look less like a school room and more like a relaxing sitting room, places where families and children, in often challenging circumstances, can meet with staff or external professionals to get much needed support. They will be a place where children can go when they are experiencing difficult times, such as bereavement or family separation. The school environment can often lack that personal touch which helps to reduce anxiety and assists in creating a supportive atmosphere.
- Over the coming terms I will be keeping you up to date with how our target is progressing and whilst, of course, we hope your circumstances don't mean you require these rooms and our services, we want you to know they are there if and when you ever need them.
- Children tell us that one of the most important elements of the school day is their playtime. As such we are making sure the equipment they are provided with is plentiful, appropriate and most importantly fun! Happy children aid learning!

My thanks go to FoSM for their support for a number of these projects, without your donations to their fund raising we can't "think big".

### Still on Mental Health:

You are invited to attend a mental health symposium organised by Lib Dem Councillor Penny Frost (Education spokesperson) on **Monday 19th February at 7.30 - 9pm at Meadlands School in Ham** (Broughton Ave, Richmond TW10 7TS). The aim is for parents to discuss their views on what extra support needs to be available for children in relation to mental health.

One of our St Mary's parents will be speaking about their experiences with their daughter and some of the challenges faced at primary school by special needs children e.g. managing anxiety, transitions, friendships etc. and how the schools can support parents and pupils. Achieving for Children, the organisation responsible for managing special needs at the Borough level, will also be attending.

### Cars on the junior site:

Please remember that cars are not permitted to drive up to the main entrance before school or immediately after. On most occasions we have a caretaker down by the main road to prevent this from happening. If he is not there, please do not see this as an invitation to drive up! We are receiving reports from parents that some cars continually drive, at speed up to the gate and down the driveway.



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After another near miss on Strafford Road this week I write to remind parents about the need for careful driving and parking in the areas around our sites. Councillor Chappell has sent through the advert below referring to the idling of cars engines, which some of you may consider.

NEWS: Volunteer needed to help educate local drivers about air quality

Volunteers are urgently needed to join a series of local 'Idling Action' days, educating parents, carers and motorists of the dangers to air quality when leaving their car engines idling on the school run, outside shops, at level crossings or anywhere when parked for a minute or more.

The Council has received funding from Mayor of London to join the National Idling Action campaign and hold a number of community 'action' events.

Volunteers will work with Council officers and local schools to engage with idling drivers and passers-by about the effects of idling cars on local air quality, particularly when parents drop their children off at school or pick them up or stop at level crossings. The volunteer teams will invite drivers to join the campaign and switch off their engines when not moving. Volunteers will receive full training.

Previous action days elsewhere in the country have shown the over 80% of drivers switch off when asked by the volunteers and most pledge to give up idling for good.

At the same time, participating schools will deliver presentations, games and activities to educate children on air quality issues.

Over the next few months, events will be held in East Sheen / Kew / Richmond and Hampton.

The first event is to be held in East Sheen on the afternoon of Wednesday 7th February 2018.

Cllr Pamela Fleming, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, said:

*"Air pollution is a serious health risk to our borough, and it is imperative that those who drive to, or through, our borough help us to keep those emissions to a minimum. We can't do this alone. We need everyone to play their part and take personal responsibility for our environment. That means we need drivers to turn their engines off when they are not moving.*

*These action days are another of the proactive and innovative ways we're exploring to change people's behaviour and help us become the greenest borough in London. I hope that we can put together a big group of volunteers to help educate drivers to change their behaviour."*

If you are interested in volunteering, email: [Carol.Lee@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Lee@richmond.gov.uk)

For more information about Idling Action, go to: <https://idlingaction.london>



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### School Meals Supervisor:

We are currently recruiting for a meal supervisor. If you would like to find out more about joining the team and working for a few hours each day, please contact Simon Minty at [sminty@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:sminty@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

### Easter bags of love to Uganda:

A parent at St Mary's works for Project Le Monde: *Project Le Monde believes that providing underprivileged communities in Uganda with good quality school buildings can significantly improve the educational experience and life prospects of thousands of children.*

During the week beginning the 29<sup>th</sup> January our children will hear all about the work that Project Le Monde does around the world and will be invited to take part in a fundraiser. The children will bring home a letter and an envelope to give you a broader sense of what the charity does. We are being asked to donate **£3 per family** - not per child, which will buy the following items to be organised into little gift bags for some of the children in Uganda:

- Bed socks, toothbrush and toothpaste, a tin of food- meat or fish and a notepad and pen. If we raise the £1,440 needed, we can send 240 bags to the children
- All pupils at St Mary's will make an Easter card to add to the gifts and the junior pupils will assist in making up the bags before they are sent overseas

We hope you will help us to send Easter gifts to these very deserving children. Thank you.

### Friendship Week:

Next week is Friendship Week at St Mary's. The teachers have planned a number of related lessons and experiences for the children which will help in identifying what makes a good friend and what definitely doesn't! If you'd like to follow up our work you can access support from [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



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### **Attendance data between 22.1.18 – 26.1.18**

	% Attendance	% of Unauthorised Absences	No of Unauthorised Absences	No of Lates
Reception	97.67	0	0	5
Year 1	98	0	0	0
Year 2	96.78	0.67	6	0
Year 3	97.71	0.18	2	8
Year 4	87.64	0	0	0
Year 5	94	0	0	2
Year 6	92	0.67	6	0
<b>Total school</b>	<b>94.93</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>

### **Class points competition**

Congratulations to 4T who have won the class points competition this week, ending on 92/100. The class points are awarded and/or deducted by house captains, class councillors and any adults. Good luck for next week! Charlie Thomas, Year 5 class teacher

### **Celebration children**

There was no Celebration assembly at the infant site this week due to the Perform drama workshops.

There will be no Celebration assembly at the junior site next Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February due to the Year 5 Viking workshop

Year 2 Junipers: *Zoe R-V*

Year 2 Oaks: *Thomas L*

Year 2 Willows: *Poppy T*

Year 3 Elms: *Maia B*

Year 3 Maples: *Freya B*

Year 3 Poplars: *Lusi B*

Year 3 Sycamores: *Ruby B-H*



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Year 4S: *Lauren M*  
Year 4T: *Darcy E-W*  
Year 4W: *Luca P*  
Year 5M: *Daisy M*  
Year 5T: *Sahil R*  
Year 5W: *Joe S*  
Year 6B: *Oliver S*  
Year 6PG: *Brooke E*  
Year 6S: *Kiana K*

### Stars of the week:

#### Middle site Star of the week – Jemima T, 2 Junipers

Who is this amazing person from the middle site?  
Coming to school each day with such warmth and light  
Their smile is broad and fast to appear,  
and brings great happiness to everyone near  
They are quick to help out – kind and caring too.  
Who are they you ask? Well, I'll give you a clue!  
They love playing with friends and giving them  
gloves to keep warm,  
They love maths puzzles but far, far more they love writing poems in acrostic form!  
Their name starts with 'J' and they are in Junipers class.  
Can you guess yet? She's a fantastic lass!  
Thank you Jemima for being such a star,  
I know your great thinking will take you far!

#### Junior site Star of the week – Eloise W, 5W

This St Mary's superhero goes by the name of Super Girl.  
Her special powers include:

- Having the ability to light up any room she walks in.
- Flying around, making sure all of her friends are okay.
- Giving 100% to anything that is thrown her way.

This is no ordinary superhero; she's kind, caring, bright, polite and helpful. Her energy is contagious and her smile infectious. Some would call her a role model; some would call her a shining star.



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When she's not saving the world, you will find her taking pride in her work, competing in Quiz Club, singing in the Chamber Choir, playing silent ball in the playground or teaching the children and staff a phrase or two in French.

This Super Girl is well loved by everyone and goes by the name of Eloise Wedgewood. You'll find her whizzing around in 5W.

### Diary dates

w/c 29 <sup>th</sup> January	"Friendship week"
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 cake sale
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 3 Sycamores class assembly (link class 5M)
w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 safe walking
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 cake sale
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Borough swimming gala heats, 2pm, Pools on the Park
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	"Shine online" for Reception parents and staff, The Shack 7.30 – 9.00pm
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Mental Health Symposium for parents at Meadlands School, Ham 7.30 – 9.00pm

### E Safety talk for parents at Orleans Primary School, Hartington Road, Twickenham TW1 3EN

This will be taking place on **Tuesday 27th February** at **9am** in our School Hall and is with Peter Cowley AfC E-Safety Advisor. Everyone is invited.

### Orleans Primary School

t: 020 8892 1654

e: [info@orleans.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@orleans.richmond.sch.uk)

### AfC info - our information website for parents, carers and young people

Achieving for Children has launched a new website which contains information for the recipients and customers of our services in Kingston and Richmond. AfC Info currently contains information and advice on the following:

- Early Years and childcare
- Family Information Service
- Parenting support
- Children's centres
- Leisure activities for families and children



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- Emotional Health Service
- Education and employment advice for young people
- Leisure activities for young people
- Advice and support for young people on health and social issues
- Volunteering and participation activities for young people
- SEND Local Offer for families including children and young people with disabilities

More subjects may be added as the website grows.

### Information from other organisations

#### Young Artists and Authors Showcase - Sister Cities Richmond Virginia

Sister Cities is a non-profit organisation with international members. Its mission is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation, one individual, one community at a time.

Sister Cities has launched a competition, the Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS), which encourages youth from around the world to submit their artwork, literature, film or photography that portrays this year's theme of 'the Art of Diplomacy'. Participants are asked to showcase the importance of international diplomacy and innovative ways citizen diplomats achieve peace through people-to-people interaction.

The submission deadline is 20 February 2018, with winners and finalists being announced in June. Please see the links below to the flyers and entry forms for more information.

[Photo Comp](#) | [YAAS Flyer](#) | [Young Artists Entry Form](#) | [Young Author Entry Form](#)

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Abrahams

Headteacher

[headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)