



ST MARY'S NEWS
6th May 2016

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From our Acting Headteacher, Tom Holmes

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy two weeks of class assemblies, trips to Orleans House gallery, St Albans Cathedral and sports tournaments. I even experienced snow with athletics on our first day of that club! The whole school (somehow) managed to fit into the church on Tuesday for our 'Celebration of Life' service, many thanks to Fr. Piotr for organising this uplifting service.

The winning poster has been chosen for our school fair and I look forward to seeing it up around Twickenham.

We wish our Year 6's well with their SATs next week, Years 3, 4 & 5 will also be doing assessments in the next two weeks, whilst Year 2 have their assessments spread out between now and half term.

Please see the news below about our charity event for this term. Those parents who requested free rugby 7s tickets for the weekend of the 21st/22nd May will have now received them.

We were delighted to receive two awards from 'SSAT' (The Schools, Students and Teachers network) last week. We have been rated in the top 10% nationally for attainment and top 10% nationally for progress for Key Stage Two. Both these awards are a reflection of all the hard work of teachers across the school.

Have a great weekend. You can contact me directly at headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Staffing news

Miss Helen Gray will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to start her home based early year's education company. I will write more about Miss Gray nearer the end of term and will be advising parents of staffing for September.

We also say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Amy Apar, who after a year as a teaching assistant on both the junior and infant sites, left today to work at the school her son attends.

Charity news

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for helping to support our charities so far this year. We are very grateful for your generous donations to Water Aid, the Poppy Appeal and Macmillan Cancer Research. This term, we would like to support the "Make a Wish" foundation. We would like to help the charity grant wishes for children suffering from life-threatening illnesses in the UK. On **Friday 27th May**, each site will be making a coin trail in their respective playgrounds to spell out one of the St Mary's school values. To help support this worthwhile cause, we would ask that each child brings in at least £1 in any coin denominations to help us to write the words and make some children's dreams into a reality. We thank you kindly in advance for your generosity and support.

Annabel Gurdenli, Charities coordinator

Forthcoming meetings with Mrs Angela Abrahams, incoming Headteacher

Mrs Angela Abrahams (Headteacher from September 2016) will be coming to St Mary's to meet parents from all three sites on the following dates:

Monday 27th June, 9.00am Infant site (new Reception intake meeting follows at 10am)

Wednesday 6th July 9.00am Junior site.

Wednesday 6th July, 3.30pm Middle site (children will be looked after in one of the classrooms)

Ideally you will attend a meeting at the site where your child is based, but if for logistical reasons you have to attend a different meeting then you may do so. You only need to attend one meeting if you have more than one child in the school.

A message from the governing body

Our governors have been busy this term working in and out of school for the good of all St Mary's pupils. In addition to our weekly meeting with Mr Holmes, several governors have visited lessons and other activities to follow the progress of this year's school development plan, focussing on music, PE and IT within the new curriculum, as well as safeguarding and ethos. We are working hard with senior staff and the local authority to ensure that the school, with its unique three site status, is on a strong financial footing for the future. This work often involves liaison with professional advisors from both the local authority and the diocese; a notable recent success has been in securing the use of part of Amyand House for a Y2 class next year, which will allow the school to continue to make best use of all the fantastic facilities we currently enjoy on the middle site. We have also signed off the Deed of Variation to amend the school's PFI agreement so that work on two new classrooms on the junior site can commence this term, well ahead of the time we will need them.

Such work can on occasion be less than glamorous, or even visible to the community, but is clearly vital in any successful school and can be very rewarding too! If you would like to know more about the work of the Governing Body please visit our pages on the school website or contact us at governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk.

We are heartened by the interest that parents have shown in the forthcoming parent governor election and we have some excellent candidates already. It is not too late to put yourself forward: the deadline for nominations is 12 noon on Wednesday 11th May. Ballot papers will be sent home at the end of next week. *Ben Driver (chair), Ieke Hilmy (vice chair)*

w/c 25.4.16	% attendance	No of Lates	HOUSE POINTS		
Reception	97.97	8	Attenborough	Green	546
Year 1	97.99	10	Farah	Yellow	541
Year 2	97.48	6	Twining	Red	546
Year 3	96.99	25	Walpole	Blue	554
Year 4	98.24	7			
Year 5	97.61	3			
Year 6	97.43	1			

Whole School attendance: 97.69%

Weekly diary for w/c 9th & w/c 16th May 2016

w/c 9th May, SATs

Monday 9th May, Yr 1 cake sale

Tuesday 10th May, Reception Doves to Orleans House Gallery, Yrs 1P & 1K to Twickenham Apiary

Thursday 12th May, Reception Robins to Orleans House Gallery

Friday 13th May, 1 Owls class assembly (link class 5B)

Monday 16th May, Yr 4 cake sale

Tuesday 17th May, Reception Blackbirds to Orleans House Gallery, Yrs 1O & 1N to Twickenham Apiary

Thursday 19th May, Whole school photograph, Orleans Park field, 6P to Houses of Parliament

Friday 20th May, Reception Blackbirds class assembly (link class 6T)

Local news

Dreamcatcher Media summer filmmaking camp 2016. For further information: 0203 598 5942, info@dreamcatchermedia.co.uk or www.dreamcatchermedia.co.uk

Archive Explorers: Booking is now open for Archive Explorers, an activity week for 9-14 year olds. Please click on the link for further information and to book www.richmond.gov.uk/localstudies

Richmond Music Trust, BandIt Band Course 2016: Singers/Electric/Bass Guitarists/Keyboard Players/Drummers. Please contact Bethany Calder BethanyCalder@richmondmusictrust.org.uk or call 020 8538 3866