



NEWSLETTER No 11: 17th December 2015

St Mary's CE Primary School
email: info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk
This newsletter is on the school website:
www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Dear Parents

Christmas celebrations

Parents, governors, trustees, staff and of course, pupils have all enjoyed nativity plays performed by Reception and Year 1, Christmas stories performed by Years 2 & 3 and the junior Carol service. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. A truly uplifting start to the joy of Christmas!



We raised an amazing **£1466** for our charity Compassion, <https://www.compassionuk.org>. Thank you for your support.

Staffing news

Alexandra Houlden, Year 1 Nightingales class teacher, will be starting her maternity leave on 22nd January 2016. We have recruited Ms Amber Fuller to teach Nightingales from 4th January 2016 so there will be a hand over period at the beginning of the spring term.

I regret to inform you that Katie Varney, Lead Professional of the gathered provision has resigned and will be leaving St Mary's at February 2016 half term.

Samantha Evans will not be returning to St Mary's after her maternity leave. Mrs Evans has relocated to Devizes, Wiltshire with her family. We wish them all a wonderful future.

Message from Fr Piotr

Dear Parents

Time just flies.....we are approaching the end of the term and yet again, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about our moments of prayer and reflection. First, with children from the infant and middle sites we were searching for the real secrets of happiness in our lives. I used lots of pictures and stories, including the Sermon on the Mount, to highlight that in our daily life "less is more", that each one of us is precious to God, that values promoted by our school such as friendship, compassion and love are really important. With pupils from the junior site we reflected on children who are the examples of being brave, grateful for each day, and even heroic. We talked about the boy who brought fish and bread to Jesus and then we reflected on Anna Frank's example. I introduced children to a Polish most loving teacher, Janusz Korczak and we also looked at Malala Yousafzai. I offered my personal blessing to all children who had birthdays this term. I love all my visits to our lovely Pines. May I wish you all a very blessed time of Christmas. We have all enjoyed the nativity plays and our junior carol service. In brief, I am delighted to share with you my joy of ministry to our wonderful children and unique school.

Yours Fr Piotr

Revd Dr Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski

Assistant Priest/School Chaplain - St Mary's Twickenham

piotrashwin@btinternet.com

Governing body news

We are delighted to welcome Ben Egan as our new staff governor. Ben replaces Katy Welsh, who has stepped down after two years' service. Ben will be contributing to Premises, Health & Safety committee and also Pupils, Parents & Community committee.

The Governing body has been busy this term establishing the work plan for the rest of the year and continuing to consider the school's response to changes in the educational landscape locally and nationally. At a recent meeting, governors considered a thought provoking presentation about the benefits and challenges of collaboration and autonomy, and we are liaising with both the local authority and the London Diocesan Board for Schools on ways of working more closely with other schools. The LDBS view is that the education of children comes first and structures second; staff and governors already work closely with the six other C of E primary schools across the borough and we will be developing these close ties further at governor level in the coming year. We are also grateful to the Trustees for the support they are giving us as we seek to recruit Mr Campbell's successor, a process which has been gathering apace this term and will continue into January next year.

Many governors lent a hand at the ever popular decorated jars stall at the Christmas Fair - over four hundred jars 'sold' in a not much more than two hours. Congratulations and huge thanks to all of you who lent a hand to raise funds for the school – a fantastic testament to your commitment to St Mary's as we seek to keep the school on a firm financial foundation in preparation for the next chapter of its amazingly busy, dynamic and inspiring life.

Ben Driver, Chair of the governing body

We can be contacted at governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Cumbria Flood appeal

As you will have heard, Cumbria was hit by heavy rain resulting in flooding in many communities. Please bear Cumbria in mind over the Christmas period and pray for those people who are homeless. Due to the unforeseen circumstances of the floods many people have lost food supplies, clothing and Christmas presents. If anyone would like to offer practical help, donations can be sent to:

www.cumbriafoundation.org

Sporting news

The school has had another very successful term on the sporting front. Both the Y4 & Y6 Tag teams finished second in the borough tournament (32 teams) and the Cross-Country team finished third. Fixtures in netball, boys/ girls football and basketball have also taken place. For more details see the news section on the website or the twitter feed.

Driving into the junior site

Important health and safety message for **ALL** parents. We do not permit any parent or carer to drive into school at drop off or pick up times, unless there are extenuating circumstances, e.g. a disability (temporary or permanent). Our Caretaker, Mohammed, endures a daily tirade of abuse from some parents which, I am sure you will agree, is not acceptable.

School run clubs

From the spring term, we will be charging **£20** per club, per term for our school run clubs. This is to help cover the increasing costs of resources purchased for the benefit of the whole school. Please note that no money is paid to staff running these clubs. As you are aware, clubs are run on voluntarily basis, ensuring we are able to offer a broad range of activities for all pupils.

You will be able to sign up for clubs during the first week of term. The timetable will be available via our website and School communicator (Resources) as soon as possible.

St Margaret's fair

We received a cheque from the St Margaret's fair committee in the sum of **£2,125**, our share of the proceeds. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the fair and we look forward to seeing you all again on Saturday 9th July 2016!

Takeover day

Twenty one children from Years 5 & 6 were successful in their applications to become Teachers for the day. They took Collective Worship, taught lessons, did break duty and even made it into the staffrooms!



References for secondary school

Please note that the price, per reference, from **2016** will be **£20**. You will receive an invoice from our Finance Officer, Denise Donald, once the school have submitted a reference for your child.

Harvest Festival appeal

Thanks to your generosity we raised a total of £1551.88 for our chosen charities:

www.wateraid.org/uk
www.redcross.org.uk

Poppy Appeal

We raised £228.43 for the Poppy Appeal this year. Thank you for your support and thank you to the children who spent their playtimes selling poppies.

MacMillan coffee morning

Staff at St Mary's raised £156.66 for MacMillan cancer relief by baking, eating and buying cakes.

FoSM contribution to school trips

FoSM have kindly agreed to a **£10** per child per trip contribution again this year. Thank you very much.

Kipper's Snowy Day

"Kipper's Snowy Day" is showing at the Watermans' theatre in Brentford from 5th – 23rd December 2015 and suitable for ages 3- 8. Tickets are £9 (£32 for a family of 4).
www.watermans.org.uk

Nicola Meadley
07768 878377 or Nicola.doug@gmail.com
Chair of the Executive
1st Twickenham (All Hallows) Scouts

Alison McCormick
07770 331350 or Alison.mccormick@uk.bp.com
Group Scout Leader
1st Twickenham (All Hallows) Scouts

End of term reminders

On behalf of all staff, I would like to wish you compliments of the season and a happy and healthy 2016. Please remember that school finishes **one hour** earlier on **Friday 18th December**.

Please take all your belongings home as the school is cleaned thoroughly over the holiday. We look forward to seeing you all on **Monday 4th January 2016**.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell
Head Teacher (headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)
17th December 2015



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RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

St Mary's CE School is a member of the RFU Education Partnership