



NEWSLETTER No 9: 27th June 2014
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

Staffing news

Tiffany Sherry is getting married over the summer holidays and will return to school as Mrs Neville. We send her and her future husband our very best wishes for the future.

We will be saying goodbye to the following staff members:

Leanne Collyer, Caroline Felgate, Penny Grant, Julia Hunt, Danielle Sugden. We wish them well in the future; they will be missed by us all.

We look forward to welcoming three experienced teachers and one newly qualified teacher:

William Ferris, Rebekah Percival, Rhys Williams, Daisy Chenery

I would like to acknowledge all the hard work, time and commitment from Lucy MacArthur, in her capacity as Chair of the governing body.

Father Piotr has embraced the school community from his very first day with us. We are very grateful for his support, dedication and spiritual guidance.

Year 6 French trip

Year 6 have just returned from a very successful and enjoyable trip to France. I would like to thank all the staff who accompanied the children for providing such good care during the week. In particular, I would like to thank Tom Holmes for all his hard work in organising the trip. We will be writing to Year 5 parents about next year in due course.



Parent and SEN questionnaires

Please find attached the results of the parent and SEN questionnaires. We are very grateful to those parents who took the time to complete the questionnaires and return them to us. We will, of course, take note of any issues raised.

FoSM Summer fair

Once again, thanks to Johanna van Otterdijk and her amazing team, we had a very enjoyable and successful fair at the middle site. As you know, both Mrs van Otterdijk and Mrs Sant are stepping down at the end of this academic year. FoSM are a tremendous support to the school in all sorts of ways and without their support we could not offer the children the extra academic, sporting and extra-curricular activities they currently enjoy. If you think you might be able to take over next year, please speak to Mrs Van Otterdijk or to me. Alternatively, please email me at headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

A photograph of Vince Cable at the fair, notebook in hand!



Sky Sports Day

On Tuesday 17th June, Year 4 were invited to take part in a Community Sports Event, organised by Sky Sports. During the day the children got to try out both familiar and unfamiliar sports in small teams of around 12. There was a competitive side to the day, with teams scoring points for winning and points for good team spirit during the day.

All the children behaved impeccably and got fully involved in all the different activities. Mrs Evan's team won the 'Team Spirit' award and they came away with a rather impressive trophy!

Brass Concert

Over the last eight weeks, Year 4 pupils have been learning to play brass instruments with Giovanni and Rosie from the Richmond Music Trust. They have learnt a variety of notes on cornets, trumpets, baritones and trombones. They learnt two songs and some children had a go at improvising a solo using their instrument.

On Tuesday 24th June, we gave an informal concert to parents to show them what we had been learning. We even got them to join in with our 'buzzing' warm ups! Year 4 have enjoyed their brass lessons and now have the chance to continue learning next term if wish to.

Firebird Project

St Mary's school orchestra and thirty one members of Year 5 have been practising very hard over the last few months to prepare for the final performance of the Firebird, organised by the Richmond Music Trust and the Boundless Dance Company.

On Thursday 26th June, all the hard work culminated in a morning of rehearsals and an evening performance at the Tennis Arena, St Mary's University. They joined hundreds of children from across the borough in a massed dance to The Firebird by Stravinsky, played by a two hundred strong orchestra. The dancers also produced their own solo performance, inspired by the themes of the music.

Members of the orchestra played excerpts from the ballet 'The Nutcracker' between each school's solo dance.

It was a fantastic evening and the children performed with energy and enthusiasm throughout.

Richmond Youth Council

St Mary's School was selected by Richmond Youth Council to create a short film about "The National Height and Weight Measurements." Mrs Reay (Ralph's mother in Year 1) who is the executive producer of Darrell Macqueen, very kindly volunteered herself and her team to direct and produce the short film. A few children from Year 5 and Reception had two great days at Twickenham film studio where the filming took place

This film will be used within the borough to help build children's confidence about their height and weight checks.



Science at Lady Eleanor Hollis School

Apoorva, Scarlett, Maria and Manon from Year 5 enjoyed a science workshop at LEH School.

Manon reported "At LEH we did three interesting experiments in Physics, Biology and Chemistry. We also had a tour of the school with a Year 7 student."

Apoorva enjoyed investigating light using filters during the Physics lesson.

"We had a very interesting Biology lesson in which we extracted some of our DNA. It was so much fun," commented Scarlett. Using a Bunsen burner to heat up a copper sulphate solution made Maria feel inspired to become a scientist. After this excellent opportunity I think we have some budding scientists amongst the girls.

Year 4 Battle of the Books

Pupils in Year 4 worked hard throughout the year reading, discussing and doing activities on ten books in preparation for the annual Richmond Year 4 Battle of the Books competition. Seb, Edan, Jasmine, Tessa, Alex, Rebecca, Delfina and Selena spent a day battling with twenty other schools where the competition was keen and the tension high. The team was first in the quiz section and did well in the art activity. Standards were very high in the drama section and the team worked well encouraging each other, finishing a creditable 8th overall. Well done and thank you to parents for their support.



Maths day at Claremont Fan Court School

Four children from Year 5 spent a very hot but stimulating day at Claremont Fan Court School tackling maths challenges such as designing packaging to protect a single Pringle, investigating ternary numbers to support a card trick and use a calculator in an unusual way to find their way around the school grounds. Ben, Sophia, Dominic and Brune worked in teams with children from other schools and were inspired and excited by the variety of maths activities. Mrs Turner said that she had never seen children walk up and down the sweeping school stone steps so many times counting with such concentration trying to work out all the permutations. It seemed an excellent way to get the children thinking and wear them out at the same time!



Year 2 Battle of the Books

In preparation for the annual Richmond Year 2 Battle of the Books competition, eight Year 2 pupils worked hard throughout the year reading and enjoying activities on five books. Against 18 other schools, Immy, Olly, Ollie, Lola, Amelie, Joe, Caitlin and Max spent the day battling away, attaining first in the quiz section and second in the art activity. Despite the heat, they put on an excellent drama on the book Fergus Crane which resulted in them achieving 6th place overall. It was particularly pleasing to see all the children encouraging each other and communicating so well as a team. Well done and thank you to parents for their support.

Science Fair

On Thursday 12th June pupils from years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a Science Fair in the junior site hall. All seven junior site classes had to devise a fun and engaging practical Science experiment for other children to complete. The children had great fun getting to grips with the practical Science and very much enjoyed finding out which is their dominant side and seeing how water is heavier than oil.



Year 2 Willows Assembly

Willows performed their assembly, "The Great Fire of London" on Friday 13th June. As well as acting, dancing and singing, they also showed the stop-motion animation they had made about the fire.



Message from Lucy Macarthur, Chair of GB

It's nearly the end of another academic year... where has the time gone? I can't believe the Year 6 France trip has been and gone! Mixed feelings prevail as we sadly say goodbye to our year 6 children, but feel excited for them as they are ready for the world outside of St Mary's. The foundations they have developed over the last seven years will be successfully built upon as they start the exciting journey into teenage years and early adulthood. Firstly though, they have the exciting school production, Fiddler on the Roof, to look forward to!

There are two departures from the governing body that I must mention, as we sadly say goodbye to Tanya Allen, our LDBS appointed governor. Tanya has served her four year term and unfortunately her work commitments mean it's time to move on. She has been a terrific asset to the governing body, especially with her HR knowledge. The other governor who is sadly leaving us is trustee- appointed Rebecca Wallis. Rebecca has been a governor since 1996. In the nicest possible way she has got through two Headteachers, five chairs of governors, and two Vicars! Rebecca has dedicated eighteen years of her life to the excellent governance of St Mary's, and she was on the panel who appointed Mr Campbell, and oversaw the opening of the unit, so we have a lot to be grateful for. Rebecca also saw the school expand from a single form of entry, single site school to the amazing, community serving, Christian spirited school that it is now. It is with a heavy heart indeed that I say goodbye to them both.

The governors never cease to be busy! The final budget has been approved, the curriculum policies are ratified. We thank you for taking the time to respond to the recent survey about our school, the results of which were very positive indeed. We are ready for the extra reception class in September, staff have been appointed. St Stephen's reception classes will be vacating Amyand House at the end of term; we will keep you posted on the future use of this building, which is currently under negotiation.

Governors and staff had a very productive strategic vision workshop, which was led by our school advisor from the diocese. It was an inspirational session, bringing us all closer together in our shared values and vision for St Mary's.

Wasn't the summer fair fantastic? Well done to Johanna and her marvellous FoSM team for delivering such a community spirited and happy event. As Father Piotr commented, the way so many parents and families got involved really illustrated the camaraderie, helpfulness, supportive and supporting nature of our wonderful school.

The governors are delighted to see so many of you walking your dogs on the school run! As an important reminder of our health and safety school policy, please do keep your dog on a lead at all times, and do not bring your dog into the playground. Be sensitive to the feelings of others, and stand away from the gate. We ask that you never leave your dog unattended or in the care of a child and we trust that you will always clean up after your dog. We encourage walking/cycling and scooting to school, and we appreciate that so many of you refrain from driving. Please do continue in this spirit! It's better for the children, the environment, and our neighbours.

Lucy MacArthur
Chair of the Governing Body

Message from Father Piotr

Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my personal joy as the chaplain of all our children. We continue our Collective Worship (Tuesdays and Thursdays) focused on the stories from the Bible in the Infant and Middle Sites (Joseph in Egypt, Moses and Miriam, Journey to the Promise Land), while on the Junior Site we reflected on the gift of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) as the divine, Source of our creativity and compassion. My main pastoral effort is to "translate" rather complex Biblical stories into a language and experience which may inspire our children and their imagination. I also highlight the role of women and girls (!) in the Bible. Recently I have welcomed children from Reception classes to St Mary's school. I took this opportunity to explain the richness of symbols, liturgical vestments and colours in our parish church. I look forward to our next Messy Church (**Friday 11th July**). The theme is "Community, what does it mean to you?" Let's explore it together through craft and play. Hoping the weather will be kind and we can get together in the church garden to celebrate the end of the school year. Bring a picnic tea and we can eat together too! So please follow us on the Facebook (Messy Church - St Mary's Twickenham): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/275413909296420/>

Fr. Piotr

PS. It is lovely to see our children on the streets dressed in the football shirt of their national teams; it shows the richness of cultures that we bring to our school.

Revd. Dr Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski

Assistant Priest/School Chaplain - St Mary's Twickenham
<http://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/father-piotr/>

Online payments/Tucasi

From September 2014 we will not be taking payments for trips, clubs etc in the form of cash or cheques. We will also be asking parents to log into Tucasi to give permission for all trips and you will also be able to indicate if you are able to accompany your child's class. I will be writing to you separately with more information about this change before the end of term.

Thank you from Amanda Duke - Humanitas

I just wanted to thank St. Mary's (once again) for supporting Humanitas; we raised £700 so thank you for your generosity and kindness.

This is the giant pile of donations currently sitting in my kitchen! I will be loading everything onto the lorry later this week to be driven straight out to our orphanage. *Amanda Duke*



Isla Flett 6P wins the “Junior Memory Championship”

Isla Flett is officially the best young learner in the UK. On Sunday 15th June Isla became the new national Junior Memory Champion, winning a thrilling final at London Zoo and amazing the audience with her learning skills.

Isla was one of 18 finalists who had congregated in London from all over the UK. These were the top performers in a series of memory tests taken by thousands of children online - in the most popular competition so far. Since September they have all been following a specially-written training programme, preparing to take part in The Junior Memory Championship - organised by The Learning Skills Foundation.

At London Zoo the very best children were put through their paces by the championship's Founder, former World Memory Champion Jonathan Hancock. This year's challenges included a memory test about Regent's Park, as well as numbers, words, and a collection of names and faces. The competition was fierce and unusually tight, but in the end Isla's strong all-round performance gave her the top score. On the way to the title she managed to memorise 43 random words in perfect order, 39 names, and 90% of an information page - each feat after just 5 minutes of study.

Well done Isla! We are very proud of you.



Race for Life 2014

A number of parents, children and other family members ran 5k on Sunday in memory of Jain Grant and Susannah Kennett, both parents at St Mary's. They raised over £1900 for Cancer Research UK. Grace in 5M also ran, completing the race in 33 minutes, raising £150. Well done to everyone who took part in memory of some very special people for a very worthy cause.



St Margaret's Fair Football tournament

Please click on the link below for information regarding St Margaret's fair on 12th July. Information regarding the football tournament is attached to this newsletter. <http://www.stmargaretsfair.org>

Walking Bus for September 2014

There are 1 - 2 spaces available on the walking bus which walks from the infants, via the middle site, to juniors each morning. In order for your child to join every day, you will need to undertake one of the walks each week. If you are interested, please email marilia@waitrose.com before Friday 4 July.

Wrens visit the chicks on the middle site

Wrens held the chicks carefully and counted how many there were in the incubator. This linked to our Easter topic.



Transport for London proposal

TFL are proposing to take down the bridge over the A316 and replace with a crossing. If you would like more information, please click onto this link:

https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/consultation-and-engagement/a316-st-margarets-crossing/consult_view

Scrummy Mummies Healthy cooking club

St Mary's parents are currently being offered a 15% discount on all remaining summer term courses at Scrummy Mummies Healthy Cooking Club. This award-winning, local social enterprise offers parents a chance to enjoy cooking a selection of healthy meals to take home, and have a good natter, while the little ones are being cared for in the next room. It would particularly suit those of you with younger siblings still at home during the day. Visit www.scrummymummiescooking.co.uk for more information.

15 hours of free childcare for two year olds

Some families may be able to apply for 15 hours of free childcare and early education for their two year old child. The benefits for the child include opportunities to learn, play with new friends, experience new activities and get ready for school. Parents can benefit by getting ideas of how to help their child play and learn, more time, opportunity to take up a college course or employment.

Families who think they might be eligible can read more about the funding and find out how and when to apply:

[Kingston schools](#) | [Richmond Schools](#)

or by visiting their local Children's Centre to pick up a form. You can find details of the nearest centre:

[Kingston Schools](#) | [Richmond Schools](#)

Contact for more information:

Kingston Families Information Service on 020 8547 5004 or email fis@kingston.gov.uk

Richmond Families Information Service on 020 8831 6429 or email fis@richmond.gov.uk

Reminders

Dogs are not allowed on school premises. Please do not bring your dogs into school at any time.

Scooters and bikes should not be ridden into school, under any circumstances. Please ensure your child/ren dismount and wheel their scooters and bikes into school. We have had one avoidable accident already this term. Thank you.

Road Safety instructor needed by Richmond Council

Richmond Council needs another Road Safety instructor to visit primary schools throughout the borough to take groups of Y3 children out on local roads near their school to instruct them in road safety as well as, on occasions, to help as instructor with playground scooter training with Y2 children. The work is part time, school term only, and paid on a casual basis at £12.75 per hour (incl. holiday pay) varying from zero hours some weeks to 4 or 5 mornings in a busy week – some afternoon work is also available. Full training will be provided. Work is allocated a term in advance so you can plan your working days and the hours will suit parents with children at school. If you enjoy working outdoors and with children, then this could be the job for you. Please ring Safety Education on 020 8487 5131 or email safety-education@richmond.gov.uk for more information and to learn how to apply.

Message from Nick Whitfield

Dear Fundraiser

Fundraising for the Philippines

I am writing with the final update of our joint fundraising work for families affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines at the end of last year. I have held back from giving the final figure until after we held a children's launch for AfC as this was the end of this year's fundraising. At this event we raised an additional £550 for Great Ormond Street and this has now been sent.

We were all really shocked by the devastation that the storm caused when it hit in November. 91 schools across Kingston and Richmond joined forces to do something to help. Together, we raised a magnificent £56,750. This money has gone directly to help families affected by the storm to protect them from getting ill, and to rebuild their homes, schools and communities. A number of schools also did other work to support this cause.

Thank you for leading the way with great fundraising ideas and all the effort that you put in. I have been really overwhelmed by the thought and care you have had for the families and communities affected by the disaster. Even though these events happened thousands of miles away, we have shown that people matter to us, wherever they are. With a little bit of effort we can make a real difference to them.

A special thanks to all of the children who were involved in this fundraiser, we really appreciate you uniting in times of need like this and your all of your help will be greatly appreciated.

I will be having discussions with head teachers in the coming months about possible charity fundraisers we can work together on in the future and I will talk to you all about how we can collectively allow children to make a difference to the things that they see happening in their lives.

Please do share this information with children that joined in!

Once again well done!

Yours sincerely

Nick Whitfield
Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services
Achieving for Children
Providing children's services for Kingston and Richmond

Phone Kingston: 020 8547 5286

Phone Richmond: 020 8891 7507

Email: Nick.Whitfield@achievingforchildren.org.uk



Summer term reminders and dates for your diaries

Tuesday 1st July	KS1 sports afternoon (Orleans Park field, 1.30 onwards)
Friday 4th July	6P assembly (3 Elms attending) Class lists home to parents
Monday 7th July	Moving up morning (children will spend the morning in their new class and/or new site; Year 6 children to their secondary School)
7th, 8th, 9th & 10th July	Junior musical production, "Fiddler on the Roof" 7.15 pm, JS hall
Wednesday 9th July	KS2 sports afternoon (Orleans Park field, 1.30 onwards)
Friday 11th July:	Reports home to parents
Saturday 12th July	St Margaret's Fair, Moormead Park
W/c 14th July	LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL RUN CLUBS
Thursday 17th July:	Open afternoon for parents and children. At the Infant site between 3.15 – 4 pm, middle 3.30 – 4 pm and junior site from 3.35 – 4.30 pm. Children are encouraged to take their parents, grandparents and siblings to their classroom to show them their work.
Friday 18th July	6S assembly (3 Poplars attending)
Wednesday 23rd July	Leavers' service at St Mary's Church, 11.30 a m
Wednesday 23rd July:	Last day of summer term. School finishes one hour earlier
Monday 1st September	INSET DAY
Tuesday 2nd September	INSET DAY
Wednesday 3rd September	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell
Head Teacher

headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

27th June 2014



THE ROYAL SOCIETY
Associate Schools and Colleges



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

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