



NEWSLETTER No 10: 25th September 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

We have had a very positive and calm start to the autumn term. We have welcomed 90 Reception children into the school and many other new children in other classes throughout. We are very pleased to have you all here at St Mary's and welcome you all into our community.

An update on our four form Year 1 group

We are pleased to inform Year 1 parents that your children have started to settle in really well across the year group. As you will appreciate, the expectations in the classroom are higher this term and all four classes are responding and rising to the challenge. Outside the classroom, the children are fortunate in that they have the FoSM funded equipment to play with at both break times and lunch times; this is helping with pupils social interaction skills and reinforcing their understanding of other children's needs.

Message for Year 6 Parents

The deadline for applications to borough secondary schools in September 2016 is **Saturday 31 October 2015**. Please visit http://www.richmond.gov.uk/secondary_school_admissions

May we remind parents that we require evidence of visits and exams to Independent schools and grammar schools. Please email info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk with relevant details when planning such visits.

Please note, we charge £10 per reference per school; you will receive an invoice from our Finance Officer, Denise Donald, once a reference has been completed by the school.

Governing body news

Welcome back to a new academic year, one in which the governors will continue to strengthen and challenge the school in order to drive further improvements. This year our school has been chosen to be a member of the Mayor of London's prestigious Gold Club, made up of London's top performing schools. I would like to thank the school's leadership, all staff and particularly the pupils for this wonderful accolade.

On the topic of accolades, many of you will remember I announced that Mr Campbell had been chosen as an example of an outstanding Headteacher in the UK for the Parliamentary Review of Primary Education. I am delighted to say that this has now been published and can be viewed via the link below (St Mary's is on page 41):

<http://www.youblisher.com/p/1217435-TPR-2015-Primary-Education/>

My heartfelt congratulations to Mr Campbell on this highly deserved recognition

The skills base of the governing board has grown with the recent recruitment of two new post holders, skilled in legal and HR areas. I'm delighted to welcome co-opted governor Christina Sturge and London Diocese Board of Schools (LDBS) governor, Alexandra Hazard. The leadership of the board has had some significant changes. As of Monday, September 21, I have stepped down from being Chair in order to specifically focus on the special educational needs provision, and have handed the reins over to Ben Driver, a recently reappointed, experienced and highly skilled parent governor, mathematician and secondary school teacher. Ben will be known by many of you for his organ and piano playing in our school Church services. Ben leads the board with a fresh passion and drive required to continue our school's amazing journey.

The Vice Chair, Jonathan Jones, has also stepped down, but continues serving on the board on many committees and will continue to give us the value of his experience and expertise in governance. His role has been handed over to foundation governor, Ieke Hilmy, who will be supporting Ben. I'm sure you will all join with me in wishing Ben and Ieke well in their new roles. The governing board is delighted by these appointments, and will support them all the way. I have absolute faith that they will continue to serve the school extremely well. Although sad to be standing down, I am delighted that my involvement with St Mary's school governing body continues. So without any more to do, I hand you over to our new chair, Ben Driver.

Lucy MacArthur, outgoing Chair of the governing body

Every member of your governing board has felt privileged to serve St Mary's in their fantastic work, led by Lucy, over the last three years. She has been a wonderful example to us all and I am delighted she is continuing to serve on the board. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be elected Chair of the governing body of this great school, and I shall do all I can to support Mr Campbell and his dedicated staff in their excellent and inspiring work. Children matter at St Mary's, and the academic progress, spiritual welfare and happiness of all six hundred and thirty three of them is uppermost in all the things we do. So many of you, whether as parent, teacher, teaching assistant, support staff, or pupil, already do incredible things for this our compassionate, loving and inclusive community. I celebrate this, and wish all of you and your families well for the coming school year. *Conemur!*

Ben Driver, Chair of the governing body

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

Message from Father Piotr

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a restful, joyful summer and I am delighted to welcome all our children back. This term our Collective Worship (Tuesdays/Junior Site and Thursday/Infant and Middle Site) will focus on the attitude of gratefulness. I shall use lots of inspiring pictures and stories to illustrate the importance of being grateful and to see our daily life as a miracle. We shall continue our moments of silent (meditative) prayer at our Collective Worship. If I may I would like to point out that our libraries have new books for children about prayer, Jesus' world, Saints and about the Bible. Please use these resources. Soon I shall contact you about our next Messy Church.

Most kind regards
Fr. Piotr

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

Our volume on history of Early Christian theology is now published, more details here:
<http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-111843871X.html>

Thank you to FoSM

On behalf of everyone at St Mary's I would like to take this opportunity to thank FoSM for their very generous contribution towards the purchase of Chrome books, to include setting up costs. These Chrome work books will make a big difference to the children's learning.

Many thanks again to all members of FoSM and our parents for your continued support.

School uniform

Many pupils are wearing our new school uniform with pride. It looks very smart!

Please may I remind you to label your child's uniform? Members of staff have been given countless unnamed items of clothing with no idea as to whom it belongs to. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Uniform ladies for all their hard work, particularly over the summer holiday, liaising with our suppliers to ensure everything was available for parents to purchase. We know there have been delays with some items but understand these issues are being quickly resolved. Should you have any questions or queries please contact:

[**stmarysuniform@gmail.com**](mailto:stmarysuniform@gmail.com)

Thank you for your uniform donations to The Pompilio Ortega Nursery and Primary School in Honduras and the educational Ugandan charity www.projectlemonde.org.uk.

Photographic Permission

If you do not wish your child/ren's photograph to appear on the school website or in any other school news (i.e. this newsletter), please let us know by emailing me at:

headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Please note we only identify pupils by first names.

London Schools' Gold club

I am delighted to tell you that St Mary's is now a full member of the London Schools' Gold Club 2015/16.

What is the London Schools' Gold Club?

The Mayor's London Schools Gold Club is an annual scheme which celebrates and shares exceptional practice in London's primary and secondary schools. Gold Club members are schools that have succeeded in improving pupils' aspirations and achievements. The scheme champions these exceptional London schools with a Mayoral Award, works with them to identify what has made the difference for their school and helps them share this practice and their experience with other London schools.

<http://www.londonschoolsgoldclub.org.uk/>

Year 4 have fun at Sayers Croft!

Our Year 4 pupils have just returned from another successful trip to Sayers Croft. Sadly, the weather was very damp at times but the children enjoyed all the activities and tuck shop! Thank you to all staff who accompanied Year 4.

Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival on Tuesday 20th October, 10 am at St Mary's Church. The service will be led by Year 2 and everyone is welcome. Years 1 – 6 will attend the service. We will be collecting money for the following for Water Aid and the Red Cross. Please click on the links below for further information:

www.wateraid.org/uk

www.redcross.org.uk

Building of two new classrooms at the junior site

Work will commence of the building of two new classrooms in January 2016.

Film for the School website

Film makers “Darrall Macqueen” have made a wonderful film of our school which is available to view by following the link below. It will be on our website in due course. I hope you enjoy watching it; I believe it accurately sums up how our school engages our children and enriches their education both spiritually and academically.

<https://videocentralhd.lgfl.org.uk/Play.aspx?id=qtbZVLf2C0UFjH>

My thanks go to Mr & Mrs Raey (parents of Ned, Year 1 and Ralph, Year 3) for their time, effort and expertise in the making of this film. It is wonderful!

Term and diary dates

These were available on School Communicator, Resources, Diary and Term dates in July. Since then, they have been updated and/or amended. Please ensure you have all these dates in your diaries, calendars, smart phones etc. There are some important changes:

- The FoSM Christmas fair will now be on Saturday 5th December, 11am – 3.00pm, middle site.
- The KS1 (Reception – Year 2) sports afternoon is on Thursday 7th July, Orleans Park field, starting at 1.30pm
- The KS2 (Year 3 – 6) sports afternoon is on Thursday 23rd June, Orleans Park field, starting at 1.30pm
- Class photographs are now confirmed for Wednesday 8th June 2016 (Infant site, morning) and Thursday 9th June (middle site, morning and junior site, afternoon)

Thank you.

Reminders

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform, PE kit and proper shoes for school. Hair, if long, should be tied back. We are NUT FREE school; please don't send your child/ren to school with products containing nuts.

School Communicator

We believe most parents have downloaded School Communicator now. This is our main method of communicating with you so please make sure you have downloaded the app and registered your email address; otherwise you will miss important information. Thank you.

<http://www.schoolcommunicator.co.uk/download.php>

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter! @twickstmarys

Contact Sheets/Integris

As with School Communicator it is the responsibility of parents to keep this information up to date so we are able to contact you if we need to. If your address, telephone numbers, emergency contact numbers have changed, please let us know immediately, using the info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk email address. Thank you.

Permission for pupils to walk home from school

Year 5 pupils are encouraged to walk home from school in the summer term. If, however, you would like your child/ren to start doing this earlier, please email me giving permission for your child to do this. Without your permission, pupils will be challenged by teaching staff on gate duty at the end of the day. I can be contacted directly at headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell
Head Teacher (headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)
25th September 2015



THE ROYAL SOCIETY
Associate Schools and Colleges



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

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