



NEWSLETTER No 1: 25th September 2013

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

Welcome back to a brand new academic year. We are very pleased to welcome not only our new Reception children, but children throughout the school. We are looking forward to a productive, busy and happy term.

ParentMail2/School Database

As you know, we have been having problems with PM2 and despite an assurance that all the problems would be resolved by Friday 20th September, the system is still not working properly. I can only apologise for this and reiterate that every communication sent out to parents is available via the school website (www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk) under the "For Parents" tab. We will continue to try to resolve the problems with PM2.

If you have moved house or changed your mobile phone number(s), please ensure you let office staff know, in order that our school database can be kept up to date and we are able to contact you immediately, should we need to. Thank you. (info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk).

Diary dates

Revised and updated diary dates are available on the School website (www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk). Please note the following changes for your diaries:

Year 5 Cycling proficiency is now taking place on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th October.

The FoSM "Table Top" sale is now on Saturday 12th October.

"The Story of Christmas" will be performed by Years 2 & 3 on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December, 10 am in the middle site school hall. Tickets will be allocated nearer the time.

Year 6 will be going to France from Monday 16th – Friday 20th June 2014

Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival on Tuesday 22nd October, 10 am at St Mary's Church. The service will be led by Years 2 & 3 and everyone is welcome. Years 1 – 6 will attend the service. We will be supporting Water Aid and the food bank in Hounslow (in partnership with St Paul's Hounslow West Church). Your child will bring home an envelope for any donations you may be able to give to Water Aid (www.wateraid.org) in due course.

Mr & Mrs Foxwood, parents of Isaac in Year 1 Kingfishers, have started a food bank in Hounslow, in partnership with St Paul's Hounslow West Church. The purpose of St Paul's food bank is to distribute nutritious food in a way which addresses the needs of families in Hounslow who don't have enough to eat. As you may know, Hounslow has some high levels of deprivation; in fact in the borough as a whole 28% of the children live in poverty (<http://democraticservices.hounslow.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=60126>). Many of these families struggle to feed their families. It is a rapidly increasing problem, although often hidden.

The food bank is working with: Hounslow Children's Social Services; Sure Start; local primary schools and a pre-school, who refer the food bank to families who are struggling to feed their children. These may be families experiencing a crisis such as illness, a lost job, benefits delay, or who rely on free school meals to provide a daily hot meal for their children who then find it difficult to find the extra food out of term time. The food bank gives a family a food package which aims to cover three meals a day for 3 days. The food package contains nutritious non-perishable food items. We will be asking you to send in non-perishable food items by 15th October.

Thank you for your care and generosity at Harvest time.



Sports news

The school's fixtures for the year got off to a very good start at the "5 a side" Hampton Football tournament. The Year 6 team played six matches, winning five and losing once in a very competitive group. The Year 5 team played eight matches, winning five, drawing one and losing two. Well done to all children involved in this tough tournament, having to play consecutive matches. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support.

The School A and B teams played a friendly match against Stanley on Monday 16th September. Unfortunately both teams lost, but the children were practising for the new season and there was a strong team spirit throughout. Sixteen children from both Years 5 & 6 represented the school.

Well done to all those who chose to take part in the Richmond run festival on Sunday 22nd September in Old Deer park. KS1 children ran 500m, while KS2 children ran a mile. All those who took part were awarded an impressive looking medal and T shirt. There is also a running club at Marble Hill Park every Friday morning starting from the juniors for those in Years 4 – 6, interested in running.

We are looking forward to participating in a number of tournaments and leagues throughout the year with many opportunities for children to represent the school in a wide range of sports. We are involved in Football leagues in (boys & girls), Tag rugby and Netball. In addition there are many other borough tournaments in different sports.



Class trips out of school

Class trips and visits are very important for the children and enhance the curriculum in so many ways. In order for class trips to go ahead, we need a certain ratio of adults to children. For infant children, the ratio is 1:6 and for children in Years 3 – 6, the ratio is 1:10. These ratios are laid down by the local authority and we have to adhere to them. It is, therefore, very important we have enough parents volunteering to accompany classes on trips, otherwise we will have to cancel the trip completely. Thank you to all those parents who volunteer on a regular basis; we appreciate your commitment, time and help.

Driving to the junior site

In my newsletter dated 7th May 2013 I wrote the following:

“An accident waiting to happen” best sums up the situation at the infant, middle and junior sites. We have had reports of “near misses”; dangerous/inconsiderate parking and some parents seem completely unaware of children on foot, scooters or bicycles. Most of our children are capable of walking for 10 minutes (they run around for at least 40 minutes at lunchtime).

Therefore, I am asking you to park a 10 minute walk away if you have to drive to school. If you live a 10-15 minute walk away, please do not even consider driving to school. I receive complaints from our neighbours and parents almost on a daily basis. This issue is of great concern to staff and the governing body.

I would like to reiterate that with reference to the **junior** site, no parent should be driving down the driveway in the morning or the afternoon. In addition, I will not tolerate verbal abuse of my staff or the caretaker, when you are asked not to do this. This is for the safety of all our children and adults, either on foot, scooters or cycling. If you have a very good reason to drive into the junior site, please email me at headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk, stating your reasons and giving evidence of any disabilities. Thank you.

Some reminders

Calling the school:

Please ensure you call or email the school if your child/ren are unwell, have a medical appointment etc. We would be grateful if you could call the site where your child is taught as we are not able to transfer calls between sites.

Infant site	0208 892 5840
Middle site	0208 249 6836
Junior site	0208 892 7849

Email: info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

We are a nut free school:

We have a number of children throughout the school with severe nut allergies; please ensure that you read labels on snacks/lunch items you send into school with your child. Please ensure they are “nut free”.

A message from Lucy MacArthur

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to all of our new families both in reception and throughout the school. The Governing Body warmly welcomes you and hopes that your children have settled in to school life well and are making new friends. We also hope that you, as parents and carers, feel welcomed and supported in this time of transition for your child. Our wonderful network of parent representatives in each class is there to strengthen and support the parent community, and keep you in touch with the other families in your child's class. Our class reps are part of the Friends of St Mary's parent group chaired by Johanna van Otterdijk and she can be reached on Johanna.vanotterdijk@gmail.com, should you have any questions.

As governors we are enormously proud of our recent achievements including the outstanding success of our year 6 SATs results. The tests this time included a new spelling and grammar test. The expectation at the end of year 6 is to achieve a Level 4. This year 75% got a level 5 or above (these are levels not usually expected until secondary school!) Several achieved the highest Level 6. This is testimony to the high calibre of teachers and support staff we are so fortunate to have at St Mary's.

Mr Campbell and I have worked hard on the school development plan, which outlines our key areas of focus this year. The school is well on the way to ensuring every planned objective is met.

There are thirteen new members of staff in place for this academic year many of whom, as Chair of Governors, I interviewed as part of a panel, and the Governors welcome them warmly to our school.

In addition to staff, we are delighted to see Father Piotr begin his chaplaincy at St Mary's, and welcome him with open arms to our community. As a parent of children in the school, he will be a familiar face to many of you already.

The governors continue to work closely with St Stephen's School who will be sharing our middle site again this year, and we will be working closely with Orleans Park secondary school in supporting them with the building of their Sixth Form, which we believe will ultimately benefit many of our current children at St Mary's, as well as many others in our community.

Parents will be delighted to hear that we now have road safety signs on Strafford Road and Amyand Park Road, warning drivers of the middle site.

Governors have worked extremely hard to persuade the Council to agree pedestrian crossing surveys on Strafford Road (and possibly Amyand Park Road/Oak Lane). These will be undertaken to gain a better understanding of the numbers and location of where people are crossing. The governors continue to put great pressure on the Council and are fully aware of the concerns of parents regarding road safety, as we share them ourselves.

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We are looking forward to another successful year, and I haven't even mentioned the resounding success of the first year with a middle site. It just goes to show how quickly and smoothly it has become an integral part of our school.

I look forward to seeing many of you as I cycle regularly between the sites! Lucy MacArthur
governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk



A message from Father Piotr

A word of very warm welcome from the chaplain: Father Piotr

My name is Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski and I am a half-time assistant priest at St Mary's Church (Twickenham) and the chaplain to St Mary's School. I was born and brought up in Poland. I previously worked as the Anglican Chaplain and Lecturer at University of Chichester, and more recently as a team-vicar in Richmond. I am delighted to continue my ministry to St Mary's School, which I know quite well as our two children attend Infant and Middle Sites. I wish to add that as parent I am very happy that our children are pupils of St Mary's school.

As Chaplain I lead the morning (collective) worship every Tuesday (Juniors) and Thursday morning (Infant site and Middle Site). I hope to introduce our children to the world of Christian faith through various stories, symbols and prayers. Every week I visit the majority of classes. I can be approached by all children and teachers during that time. In addition, everyone is most welcome to contact me via my email: piotrashwin@btinternet.com

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My pastoral ministry to the parish and school is combined with my academic commitment to the Theology Department at King's College London. In recent years I have become interested in the spirituality of children, particularly children with special needs. At St Mary's our monthly service *Little Heaven* offers a moment of prayer for parents and these special children who bring more richness to our world. This year I hope to develop a creative approach to prayer through *Messy Church* so please watch the space!

And, just in case you wish to know what I would take with me to a desert island, three items for certain: the *Gospel of Mark*, my surfboard (I guess I will not need my wetsuit) and my favourite collection of meditations: *One Minute Wisdom* by Anthony de Mello.



St Mary's Scratch Orchestra

Adults - do you play an orchestral instrument?

Come and play with the Twickenham Scratch Orchestra!

We will meet on **Monday 21st October** at St Stephens Church, East Twickenham. We will gather at around 8 and play for about an hour and a half, with time for a drink and chat after if you wish. There will be a modest charge (to cover room and music hire) and you will need to bring a music stand.

An indicative standard is Grade 5 and above, but we are pretty relaxed. Everybody is welcome – don't worry if you haven't played for ages or have little experience of orchestral playing. We probably have enough woodwind but spaces for most others.

[Join NPL under 12s girls football team](#)

Training takes place on Tuesday evenings from 6 – 7 pm at the NPL grounds in Queen's Road, Teddington. Matches will be played on Saturday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Nigel Sinsbury on 07977 547286 or complete the form on their website: www.nplfootball.co.uk/joinus.html.

Information for parents from the LBRUT

Free writing workshops in your local library

Inspired by local authors and poets, past and present. For ages 8-14 and their parents/carers. Booking is essential either in person or by phone.

Saturday 21 September: Hampton Library 10am-12noon, 020 8734 3347 and Whitton Library, 2-4pm, 020 8734 3343

Saturday 28 September: East Sheen Library, 10am-12noon, 020 8734 3337 and Twickenham Library, 2-4pm, 020 8734 3340

Know Your Place Heritage Festival cache treasure trail

Throughout September KYP caches will be hidden in secret locations all over the borough. We are looking for intrepid explorers of all ages to help discover them. Solve clues and get on the trail to explore the borough and its history. Visit the Local Studies website for more information:

www.richmond.gov.uk/kyp_treasure_trail.htm

Information from other organisations

European Antibiotic Awareness Day competition

European Antibiotic Awareness Day is an annual campaign held on 18 November every year to raise awareness of prudent antibiotic use and the threat of antibiotic resistance. Public Health England is running a competition for schools to encourage teaching about antibiotics.

[Letter from Public Health England](#)

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell
Head Teacher (headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)
25th September 2013



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

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

THE ROYAL SOCIETY
Associate Schools and Colleges