



**NEWSLETTER No 10: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013**  
 St Mary's CE Primary School  
 email: [info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)  
 This newsletter is on the school website:  
[www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

Dear Parents

**Summer term reminders and dates for your diaries**

<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May:</b>	Year 5G assembly (3 Elms to attend)
<b>w/c 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	SATs week (Year 6)
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Christian Aid day
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May:</b>	Reception Robins assembly (6S to attend)
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:</b>	Inset day
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Inset day
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Borough sports day (St Mary's College)
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Class photographs IS & MS
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Class photographs JS
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Year 6 to "Matilda"
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Reception Blackbirds assembly (6HD to attend)
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Sayers Croft meeting for current <b>Year 3</b> parents, 3.45 – 4.15 pm, junior site, 4W classroom (children will be looked after in the hall by the Headteacher)
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June:</b>	2 Willows assembly (Reception Robins attending)
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June:</b>	FoSM fair 11.30 – 3 pm, MS
<b>w/c 24<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Year 6 to France
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Reception Swifts assembly (5G to attend)
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June:</b>	Class lists will be sent home to parents
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Moving up morning (children will spend the morning in their new class and/or new site; Year 6 children to their secondary school)
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	6S assembly (3S to attend)
<b>w/c 8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL RUN CLUBS
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	KS1 sports afternoon (Orleans Park field, 1.30 onwards)
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	6HD assembly (3 P to attend)
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	KS2 sports afternoon (Orleans Park field, 1.30 onwards)
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July:</b>	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 19<sup>th</sup> July:  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July:

Reports home to parents  
Leavers' service at St Mary's Church, 10 a m  
Last day of summer term. School finishes one hour earlier.

### Easter service

Thank you to all staff and children for our Easter Services. Our collection raised £403.39 and has been sent to Water Aid and Compassion. Thank you for your support and generosity.

"We spelt out the word Easter and explained why Easter is important to Christians" *Seb Lear 3E.*

"We all had the opportunity to share our experiences at Easter" *Matthew Klass, 3E*

### Christian Aid week

We will be supporting this highly worthwhile charity, which is fighting against poverty. As an incentive to raise funds, your child will be allowed to wear trainers to school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May in exchange for a £1 minimum. We are hoping to raise at least **£500**.

"The greatest single threat to human life, in our time, is hunger. Nearly 900 million people will go to bed hungry tonight". [www.caweek.org/act](http://www.caweek.org/act)



## Driving to school

“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.

With reference to the junior site, no parent should be driving down the driveway in the morning or the afternoon.

The law for the yellow lines outside the school is:

### **No Stopping**

**Monday to Friday**

**8.00 - 9.30am**

**2.30 - 4.30pm**

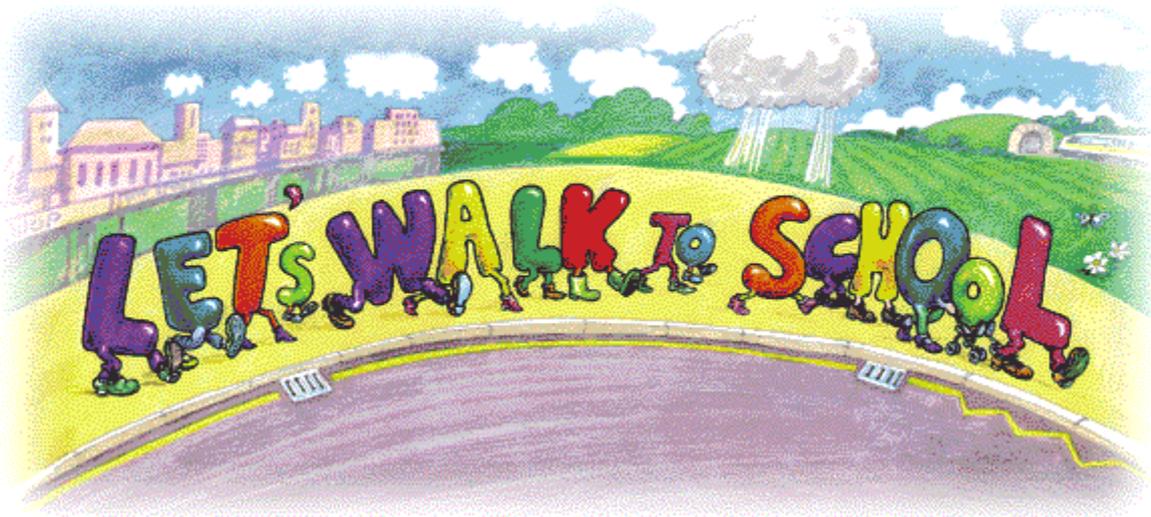
**On Entrance markings**

**Except bank and public holidays**

**August and 24 to 31 December**

This is for your children’s safety.

Please do not park or “drop off” during these times. Please park considerately and help us keep all our children safe. Thank you.



### Dogs outside school

We have an increasing number of dogs tied up outside school at drop off and pick up times. I am concerned for the safety of our children and would ask you not to bring dogs to school if at all possible. Thank you.

### Parent volunteers needed urgently!

We **urgently** need a parent or two to take over our **School Travel Plan**. Training will be provided. You will probably need to spend around one hour per week on our STP, which is extremely beneficial and important to our school, children and parents. Please contact me at the junior site or Lucy Macarthur via email ([lucymacarthur@virginmedia.com](mailto:lucymacarthur@virginmedia.com)) or by phone 07962 948037 for further information. Thank you very much



### Reception visit Miller's Ark Farm

Reception had a very successful trip to Miller's Ark Farm in Hook last week. The farm staff described the children as a delight as they were introduced to the animals and explored the working farm. The children very much enjoyed holding and feeding the animals as well as supporting the farm in thinking of names for the baby animals we met, some only a few days old. Reception Teachers would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents who joined us on the day.



## Chicks in Year 2

We have been studying the life cycle of a chicken as part of our Science topic in Year 2. We were pleased to welcome an incubator full of eggs and are proud to say that we are now caring for ten young chicks.

Ella Bail from Oaks commented: "The chicks have been very nice to watch and it was fun stroking them because they were very soft. The one that we were holding was a boy; we knew that because he was yellow."

Sam Gardner Dobson from Willows added: "We had a look at the chicks and sketched them in our chick diaries. They were adorable. There were ten eggs with numbers on up to ten. Number 3 was the first to hatch and we saw it and it was amazing!"



## Year 3 visit the British Museum

Just before the Easter break, Year 3 children enjoyed a fantastic day out at the British Museum to see for themselves the Egyptian artefacts and mummies that they had been learning so much about in school. After a tour around the Egyptian exhibit we enjoyed a presentation by the museum expert on the mummification process and afterlife.



### Year 5 visit Richmond Museum

In March 2013 5B and 5G visited Richmond Museum to learn about Tudor Richmond. They discussed details in a painting that hangs in the Fitzwilliam Museum showing The Thames with ferries (before Richmond Bridge was built); images of Morris dancers; horsed vehicles and of course, Richmond Palace. Then three lucky pupils got to put on replica costumes and everyone learnt about the different items they were wearing. Finally the classes were split into groups to handle real artefacts and take a closer look at the Tudor exhibits on display in the museum.

The leader, Philippa has welcomed the children back to visit with their families and offered to get the costumes out when she is there (every other Saturday) as long as someone phones ahead so she can get them ready!



## Gardening at St Mary's

As the gardeners amongst you will know, the growing season is upon us at last!

Here at St Mary's we have caught the gardening bug and have a variety of different growing projects on the go across the three sites.

At the junior site, we are in the process of building raised vegetable beds, and have been busy sowing vegetable and herb seeds to plant up on all three sites once they are ready. Thank you to Mia, Thomas and Ellie in 6KT and Tom in 5G for doing such a fantastic job of caring for the seedlings. Well done, they are thriving! We have also planted a pear tree by the steps leading down towards the main entrance, and will be planting up potatoes in old car tyres next week.

Last week at the middle site, parents and children from Pines, along with children from the junior site, did a great job weeding and preparing beds, ready for planting up the vegetables and herbs.

The infant site is also growing a variety of plants in the raised beds in the reception playground.

**The children are all very excited about growing their own vegetables, and are really keen to get involved, but, we are in real need of some more gardening tools. If you have a rake, spade, fork, wheelbarrow, etc. that needs a good home, we would be more than happy to take it off your hands!! Please contact Karin Pointon at the junior site (0208 892 7849 or email [info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)). We are still looking for parent volunteers to run a regular gardening club on the middle site. Please contact me at [headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk) if you can help. Thank you for your support.**



### **School Meals Online Payment Access Information**

We are delighted to inform you that we are trialling a new system which allows you to make payments to our school using the Internet. In the first instance we are trialling this system for school meals only. We hope parents will be able to pay for everything online in the near future.

For those children who currently have school meals, a letter giving instructions on how to create an account to use for online payments was sent out w/c 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Should you have any queries, please contact our Finance Officer, Denise Donald at our Junior Site (0208 892 7849 or [info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)).

### **Boxes of tissues at the infant and middle sites please!**

The infant and middle sites are in desperate need of boxes of tissues; any donations will be gratefully received. Thank you.

### **Sun and hot weather during the summer term**

Please remember to send your child/ren to school with plenty of water, sun hats and apply sun cream before they come to school.

### **Spare clothing at the infant site**

We would be very grateful for any donations of spare clothing for the infant site. Thank you.

### **School football kit**

If you have any School football kit at home, please could you return it to Tom Holmes as soon as possible? We seem to be missing lots of socks. Thank you very much.

### **Sixth form at Orleans Park School**

Building work will start over the summer holiday but will not be completed by September 2013. Therefore, please be aware of large vehicles driving in and out of the entrance to the driveway in due course.

## Learning to read through phonics: information specifically for Year 1 parents from the Department for Education

### *What is phonics?*

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;  
Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make – such as “sh” or “oo”  
Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

Children can then use this knowledge to “de-code” new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

### *Why phonics?*

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds, progressing through to the most complex – it’s the most effective way of teaching young children to read. It’s particularly helpful for children aged 5-7.

Almost all children who have good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment.

Children who have been taught phonics also tend to read more accurately than those taught using other methods, such as “look and say”. This includes children who find learning to read difficult, for example those who have dyslexia.

If you would like to find out more about phonics visit, [www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/pedagogy/phonics](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/pedagogy/phonics), or, search for “phonics” on the Department for Education website at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk).

### *What is the phonics screening check?*

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child’s phonics knowledge. It helps your school confirm whether your child has made the expected progress.

In 2013 the check will take place during the week commencing Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

### *How does the check work?*

Your child will sit with their teacher and be asked to read 40 words aloud.

Some of the words they may have read before and some words will be completely new to them.

The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher can easily stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

### *What are “non- words”?*

The check will contain a mix of real words and “non-words” (or “nonsense words”). Your child will be told before the check that there will be non-words that they will not have seen before. Many children will be familiar with this because many schools already use “non-words” when they teach phonics.

Non-words are important to include because words such as “vap” or “jound” are new to all children. Children can’t read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. It’s a fair way to assess their ability to decode.

### ***Helping your child with phonics***

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

Some simple steps to help your child learn to read through phonics:

Ask your child’s class teacher about the school’s approach to phonics and how you can reinforce this at home. For example, they will be able to tell you which letters and sounds the class is covering in lessons each week.

You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child. Teaching how sounds match with letters is likely to start with individual letters such as “s”, “a” and “t” and then will move on to “2-letter sounds” such as “ee”, “ch” and “ck”.

With all books encourage your child to “sound out” unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once a child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help your child to follow the story.

Your child’s teacher will also be able to suggest books with the right level of phonics for your child. These books are often called “decodable readers” because the story is written with words made up of the letters your child has learnt. Your child will be able to work out new words from their letters and sounds, rather than just guessing.

Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.

Word games, like “I-spy”, can also be enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise their phonics.

## Parent Workshops

Gill Hines is running a series of her entertaining and informative evening workshops for parents in Twickenham.

Developing Self Esteem	Monday 13th May
Increasing Resilience	Monday 20th May
Communicating with Teens	Monday 3rd June
5 steps to positive behaviour management	Monday 10th June
Preparing for the Teen Years!	Monday 17th June

For more information and online booking go to [www.gillhines.co.uk](http://www.gillhines.co.uk)  
(Places are available for parents with low income)

## Little star writing

Little Star Writers are fun, creative inspirational individuals with lots of ideas, boundless enthusiasm and a love for writing. Whether you're an aspiring author or a reluctant writer, improve your literacy skills, stimulate your imagination, and discover the rewarding nature of Creative Writing with LSW! Spaces are limited. Email us for more details and booking forms. [www.littlestarwriting.com](http://www.littlestarwriting.com) or [info@littlestarwriting.com](mailto:info@littlestarwriting.com)

Yours sincerely



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7<sup>th</sup> May 2013



**RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION**

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