

Message from Lucy MacArthur, Chair of Governing Body

Dear Parents

Parents often ask: “what exactly do governors do”? Funnily enough, before I became a school governor I frequently wondered the same thing! We are incredibly fortunate the school has such an active governing body. Indeed we were recently finalists in the National Governing Body of the Year Awards. There are sixteen of us in total, including the Headteacher and Father Jeff, the vicar. We have a diverse range of skills and are appointed by different stakeholders, such as the church (foundation governors) the local authority (LA governor), the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS governor), parents (parent governors) and the school (staff governors).

Our job is to

Set the strategic direction for the school

Make sure the school accurately evaluates itself in line with Ofsted's requirements

Help to set target areas for future development. Our recent and most obvious work in this area is the acquisition and development of the middle site

Check and evaluate standards and processes, by monitoring progress and results, or coming into school and focusing on a particular area, such as checking our recruitment practices are safe

Make sure St Mary's is meeting its statutory obligations and in many cases, goes above and beyond what is required

Take part in local and national consultations. Recent examples of this are the Twickenham Station development, looking at the school place implications, and we were consulted on the national changes to law regarding special educational needs

Take responsibilities for different areas of the school through committee work, such as health & safety, curriculum, admissions, and finance

Be responsible for setting the ethos and values of the school

To rigorously monitor and evaluate all the policies, and ensure that they are up-to-date and adhered to, to ensure your children and future children get the best possible experience and education

Have specific individual responsibilities, such as Special Educational Needs (SEN), safeguarding, checking school trips have been risk assessed, and monitoring our gifted and talented programme

Attend a multitude of training courses to keep up to date with the changing educational landscape

To liaise with the local authority over emergency issues such as bulge class requests

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What governors do not do is get involved in the day- to-day running of the school.

That is a job for the Headteacher and his excellent team of staff. A governor serves a four year term, and then if desired, seeks re-election. I hope this goes some way to explaining a bit about the work we do, work that is often behind the scenes, but is critical in maintaining St Mary's as the outstanding primary school Mr Campbell and his team have developed.

Many thanks for your support, Lucy MacArthur. You can contact the governors at: governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk.



Sports news

Athletics Borough Sports

Twenty seven children from Years 3 - 6 represented the school at the borough sports on Wednesday 5th June. The children in Year 5 & 6 competed in four events and those in Year 3 & 4 in two.

All the events are measured based on time or distance and points allocated. We had some strong individual results. In their heats of seventeen children in the 400m, we had the following placing:

Isaac Zawada	(Y3)	1st
Ben Freer	(Y4)	1st
Dan Hunt	(Y3)	2nd
Lucilda Goulden-White	(Y4)	2nd
Matthew Tyas	(Y4)	3rd

In the 600m: Indi Jones (Y5) and Matthew Patterson (Y6) were 3rd.

In the 75m Indi Jones was 1st in her heat.

The Year 3/4 pupils finished 2nd in their relay heat and the Year 5/6 pupils finished 3rd.

In the Team 1000 event both Mia Hinton and Ellie Thomas were awarded gold medals for their events.

Ben Freer won an overall medal for the fastest time for a boy in the whole borough in Year 3/4 over 400m - a fantastic achievement.

Overall, the school finished 6th out of 14 schools in the two form entry competition. Well done to all those who competed.

Sports news continued

Cricket:

The boys and the girls' cricket teams competed in the borough cricket sports event at NPL on Wednesday 22nd May. The girls easily won their first three games to progress through the groups and into the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they had the narrowest of defeats in the semis to the eventual winning school. Well done girls on another fantastic borough sports competition this year.

The boys were in a group of five and won three of their matches and lost one. Unfortunately only the winner of the group went through to the semi-finals, so the boys were eliminated. However, they played some very good cricket throughout the day and lost in their group to the eventual winners.

Tennis:

Six children from Years 3 and 4 represented the school at the borough mini-tennis event on 20th May at Grey Court School. The four boys and two girls performed very well; trying to win their individual games to count for points as the team competed against other schools. All matches were singles and four children competed in one match. The children successfully made their way through to the semi-finals, where they unfortunately lost. However, they came back to win the 3rd place play off; a great achievement out of 10 schools.



Pupil Parliament

Following the Hustings and vote, Jasper Lyon and Addison Eves (both in 5G) were duly elected to represent St. Mary's at the Richmond Borough Pupil Parliament. Their first duty will be to deliver their speeches to the Parliament in October.

Year 5 Science Workshop

Louisa Royle, Jacob Towey and Caleb Mackenzie really enjoyed the Science Workshop they attended back in April at Christ's Secondary School. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEM) hosted the workshop where pupils were introduced to a science lab, got to use a Bunsen burner and carried out some chemical experiments. Caleb and Jacob reported that they were given splints covered in 6 different chemicals which were placed in the flame of the Bunsen burner. These turned different colours.

Louisa noted that copper produced a green flame and potassium a lilac flame. She said "I really enjoyed the workshop and I learned that different chemicals equal different colours." Thank you to Christ's school for this excellent opportunity. Mrs Turner noted that children always get excited when substances are being burned!

Level 6 Maths enrichment day

Richmond Park Academy secondary school was host to a Level 6 Maths enrichment day for year 6 children across the Borough. Georgia Dougan, Helena Samarasinghe, Louis Samarasinghe and Eli Zawada worked on a number of Level 6 Maths activities through communication, reasoning and applying run by level 6 maths teachers from primary schools within Richmond.

Helena said "It was a great opportunity to improve our level 6 knowledge."

Georgia said: "It was a great learning experience for everyone. We learnt why πr^2 is the area of a circle and how to work out the volume of a cylinder." Eli and Louis said that their favourite activity was when they had to put 18 counters on a 24 grid and the columns and rows had to be equal.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed a very full day and participated with enthusiasm. RPA made us all very welcome and pupil ambassadors showed the children around the school. We hope to run this opportunity again next year.

Primary Schools' Mathematics Challenge

On Friday 3rd May, Daniel Banner, Michael Rasonyi, Megan Klass and Kate French from Year 5 participated in the annual Primary Schools' Maths Challenge 2013. Forty four teams, each of two pupils, from over twenty local schools, entered the competition, which involved a fiendish cross number and a team relay of 25 general maths questions. The children had to maintain their focus for over an hour answering as many questions as possible.

Mrs Turner was pleased with the way the children acquitted themselves: competition was stiff and unfortunately we were not in the top three this year.

Our thanks to Mr John Barlow (teacher at Colet Court, St Paul's Prep school) for a challenging yet fun afternoon. All the children had a brilliant time.

Year 2 Puzzle Challenge Session

Ten year 2 children attended an exciting Puzzle Challenge morning at Marshgate Primary School. They enjoyed a variety of fun 3D hands-on puzzle tasks requiring each team to work together and carefully develop strategies in order to find a solution. All the children said they had a great time and really enjoyed solving the mathematical puzzles together.

Those who attended were: William Brown, Felix Lyon, Tara Sharma, Kitty Conisbee, Josh Freer, Lotte French, Yash Gautam, Woody Lee, Eli Mackenzie and Charlie Simmons

Maths in Motion

Once again children from Year 5 and 6 have been meeting on Tuesday lunchtimes to participate in the Maths in Motion Car Racing Game. In December Louis Samarasinghe was on top of the podium ahead of 16 other St Mary's cars racing the National Christmas Fun Race on the Magny Cours circuit.

In March Martin von Hodenberg was the winner of the Circuit of Americas race for the 2012/12 National Challenge and beat other teams in our region to get into the National Semi Final. Louis, as the fastest winner in May on the Spa-Francorchamps circuit was put forward for this semi-final race but was not fast enough to get into the last 36 and the National Final at the Heritage Motor Centre in Warwick.

Mrs Turner thanks all the children who committed their lunchtimes to racing; everyone had great fun and races were very competitive.

The Maths in Motion package helps to develop skills in maths and maths applications. Pupils use these skills to set up cars using computer simulation software of a Grand Prix car racing game. They estimate, calculate percentages and angles, read scales, graphs and tables, assess risk and set strategies, but most of all work as a team.

Maths in Motion continued

The club will reconvene next week on Tuesday 18th June at 1pm to race on the Silverstone track. Year 4 children who are keen to attend are particularly welcome. If you are interested see Mrs Turner for more information.

Christian Aid week

Thank you for supporting this charity; most children came to school in trainers on Friday 17th May and we raised **£629.55**. Thank you for your generosity and support.

“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



Message for parents from LBRUT: 15 hours free childcare for two year olds

From September 2013, you could be eligible for 15 hours per week free childcare for two year olds if you are receiving one of the following: income support; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; income-related employment and support allowance; support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs. All looked after children will be funded (where benefits are not applicable).

For further information contact: the Family Information Service on 020 8831 6298, your local children's centre, health visitor or other professional. www.richmond.gov.uk/fis

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.

Summer term reminders and dates for your diaries

Wednesday 12th June:	Year 6 to “Matilda”
Friday 14th June:	Reception Blackbirds assembly (6HD to attend)
Wednesday 19th June:	Sayers Croft meeting for current Year 3 parents, 3.45 – 4.15 pm, junior site, 4W classroom (children will be looked after in the hall by the Headteacher)
Friday 21st June:	2 Willows assembly (Reception Robins attending)
Saturday 22nd June:	FoSM fair 11.30 – 3 pm, MS
w/c 24th June:	Year 6 to France
Friday 28th June	Reception Swifts assembly (5G to attend)
Friday 28th June:	Class lists will be sent home to parents
Monday 1st July	Moving up morning (children will spend the morning in their new class and/or new site; Year 6 children to their secondary school)
Friday 5th July	6S assembly (3S to attend)
w/c 8th July	LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL RUN CLUBS
Wednesday 10th July	KS1 sports afternoon (Orleans Park field, 1.30 onwards)
Friday 12th July	6HD assembly (3 P to attend)
Friday 12th July	KS2 sports afternoon (Orleans Park field, 1.30 onwards)
Thursday 18th 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 19th July:	Reports home to parents
Tuesday 23rd July	Leavers’ service at St Mary’s Church, 10 a m
Tuesday 23rd July:	Last day of summer term. School finishes one hour earlier.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell
Head Teacher
headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk
10th June 2013



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

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