



NEWSLETTER No 2: 17th November 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

Miserable Days Where Poppies Bloom

Miserable days where poppies bloom,
During the war, soldiers full of gloom,
Eagerness and enthusiasm gone,
All they want to hear is their hometown song.
A mother's cry fills the crowd
As the news is broken, her boys not around
Isn't it a shame, all people can be bothered to do,
Is sit down and be quiet for a minute or two.
But that's not the case. It's not true you see,
People can help all across the country.
Yes, wars in Afghanistan and in Iraq,
But mostly help ex-servicemen who need a fresh start.
If you haven't raised money for a charity yet,
Don't worry, you're a child, be patient, don't fret.
Why just the 11th? Why not the 10th or the 7th?
You can remember forever; they'll never leave our presence.
Sad times have come and will never go,
Even when we are buried knee deep in snow
During the war, soldiers full of gloom,
Miserable days where poppies bloom

Lest we forget



Scarlett G 6S

STAFFING NEWS

I am delighted to let you know that Annabel Gurdenli gave birth to a little girl on 26th October. Her name is Livia. Both mother and baby are doing well and we send them our very best wishes.

Samantha Evans is expecting her first baby in April 2015. We send our congratulations to both Mr & Mrs Evans.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Susan Kent. Ms Kent is leaving St Mary's at the end of the Christmas term to take up a post in the London borough of Hounslow. We wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

Will Ferris has been offered a part in the musical "Singing in the Rain" and will be leaving St Mary's on Tuesday 18th November. We have employed an experienced teacher called Anna Haynes to teach 1 Mallards from Tuesday 18th November.

We have the following vacancies at the middle site:

- SMSA (School meals supervisory assistant)
- Cleaner
- Gardener (two days a month)

For further details please contact Simon Minty at the middle site (0208 249 6836) or email him at sminty@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Questionnaire regarding homework

There is a questionnaire attached to this newsletter (on page 11) regarding homework. I would be grateful if you could spare the time to complete it and return to info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk. Thank you very much.

Finance

We were audited this week and given top marks. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and time, but particularly Simon Minty, our School Business Manager and Denise Donald, our Finance Officer.

CHURCH AND GOVERNING BODY NEWS

The Archdeacon of Middlesex

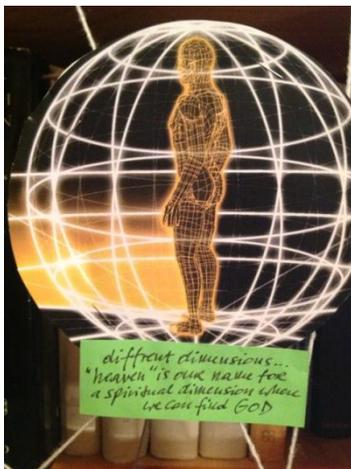
We welcomed the Archdeacon of Middlesex to our school on Wednesday 5th November. He and I walked from the junior site to the middle and infant sites. He was very impressed with the calm, purposeful, caring and happy atmosphere at the school.

Message from Fr Piotr

Dear Parents

We are in the middle of a very busy autumn! Thank you for coming to our MESSY CHURCH as on this occasion our parish church was very messy, loud and creative. As some of you know, we celebrated HARVEST at St Mary's Church with the spirit of gratitude for all God's gifts and we supported two charities. Thank you so much for your donations. Our Collective Worship on all three sites explores the spirit of Jesus' talk on the Mount (known as "The sermon on the Mount"). As you know our pupils are very intelligent and inquisitive, so in order to address their important questions about God, Jesus, religion, heaven and science I have created a collage (see the attached photos) made of 67 questions which I received on Junior Site together with my answers and comments. The collage is displayed by the entrance to the hall (Junior Site). I hope you may enjoy seeing it. There will be more as we approach a very busy time of pre-Christmas rehearsals, Christmas Fair and other events. If you have any queries, please contact me on piotrashwin@btinternet.com

Yours
Fr Piotr



Governing body

This term has flown by for the governors. Our finance committee was delighted by the substantial grade the auditors gave St Mary's entire financial systems, including our endeavours to achieve best value. Congratulations to Finance Chair Neil Stirling-Jones on the birth of his second baby. Our Curriculum committee has been celebrating our fantastic SATs results, but also looking forward at creative ways to cross reference the different aspects of the curriculum to really engage the children across the board in exciting and creative ways. Maths leader, Miss Stout, gave the governors an inspiring insight into the use of maths in the creativity afternoon activities. There is a similar and creative approach to computing as well. The Pay & Staffing committee has the enormous job of ensuring the new regulations are being properly applied in our pay and appraisal policies, which they are, while the Admissions committee has been reviewing processes and appeals, and preparing for the next admissions round. The Chair, Hugo Clark, works tirelessly in this area. The Ethos Committee has been celebrating the wonderful contribution made by Father Piotr, our Chaplain, and his answering questions from the junior children in a beautiful display (outside the junior hall, do please look at it). The governors have been scrutinising the SATs data, monitoring unauthorised absence and auditing the robust safeguarding and child protection procedures. There really is never a dull moment!

The icing on the cake this term (if not the whole year), has got to be the selection of Mr Campbell onto the Parliamentary Review of Primary Education in the UK, in recognition of our outstanding school, and his leadership of it. Congratulations to the entire team from the governing body.

Lucy MacArthur, Chair

Please contact the governors at governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk if you would like to.

CHARITY NEWS

Harvest Festival

Thanks to your generosity we raised £1175 for WaterAid and Asha.

www.wateraid.org

www.asha-india.org

“Smile” shoeboxes

We have sent 167 Smile shoeboxes to children who would otherwise have nothing at Christmas. Thank you for sending in such beautiful and thoughtful boxes.

PUPIL NEWS

Parent tours at the infant site

I would like to thank the following children for showing prospective parents around the infant site. They were polite, engaging, informed and great ambassadors for our school!

5M: Dan H, Josephine W

5P: Amelia C, Hannah D, Leona E, Riley H, Emily H, Gia K, Rachel T, Matthew van O

5T: Amy B, Marco H, Mollie L-W, Amy S, Mia W

Choir

The Choir will be singing at the Twickenham Christmas lights “switch on” on Friday 21st November. They will be singing carols in St Mary’s at 5.40 pm and be part of the procession walking along the river, ending up by the Christmas tree in Church Street at around 6 pm. The lights will be switched on at 6.30 pm. Please come and join us!

Year 6 visited Year 3

Our Year 3 children were delighted that Year 6 visited them recently. Year 3 pupils have been working hard on writing an exciting story opener and were pleased to have been given helpful advice and feedback from pupils in Year 6. Year 6 shared their detective stories with Year 3 too. Year 3 are looking forward to visiting the junior site and the Year 6 children very soon!



London Scottish Rugby coaching day

The Infant Site really enjoyed their 'Coaching Challenge Day' with London Scottish Rugby coaches. Every class had 30 minutes coaching of TAG Rugby. The middle and junior sites have their Coaching Challenge days with the players coming up in the next few weeks. When everyone has had the opportunity to be coached, we will be holding a whole school TAG Rugby skills house competition.



Year 2 topic walk

Year 2 enjoyed a walk around our local area recently as we have been learning all about Twickenham in our topic lessons. The children enjoyed trying to spot features that started with all the letters in the word Twickenham. The route took us along Church Street, down towards the river, through the sculpture garden and back to school via the beautiful Orleans House Gardens.



SPORTS NEWS

Cross country

Congratulations to Ben F and Matthew T on being selected for Richmond Youth Games U11 X Country team. The boys qualified through running a fast time in the Bushy Park 5km. They both finished very high up in the race in Parliament Hill, ensuring that Richmond finished 5th out of the 33 London boroughs.



Girls' football

Last Wednesday the girls' football team took part in the annual girls' football tournament at NPL in Teddington. Teams from around the borough gathered to compete against our St Mary's team who had a tricky group to kick things off. We won two out of our four group games with Captain Lucilda G-W and striker Emily H providing the bulk of our goals. As a result, we went through to the knock out stages where we faced Collis and thanks to a long range effort from the kick off in extra time we got through to the quarter finals. In the quarters we faced St Stephen's and a tight game went to the dreaded drama of penalties! Unfortunately, as is often the case with penalties, we lost but all was not lost as star goalkeeper Eunica B saved two penalties for our losing cause. All in all it was a superb day and the girls can be rightly proud with their quarter final place, well done to all who played!



Boys' football

League: The boys have had a promising start in their league campaign. Having suffered a defeat against the borough winning St Stephens team, they bounced back to two close victories over Archdeacon Cambridge and Queen's. The Archdeacon match was particularly exciting with the team going into a 3-0 lead, before then being pegged back to 3-3 and then scoring two goals in the last two minutes to win 5-3. Queen's was almost as tense, with a tight 3-2 victory.

Tournament: The boys had a very successful borough tournament. In their morning group they won two matches and drew two. This put them through to the cup competition rather than the plate. The boys then suffered an unlucky 2-1 loss to Stanley. They did however to continue to play three more friendlies, which they won convincingly.

Volleyball

St Mary's enjoyed some of their first competitive volleyball matches. In a 4 team tournament, St Mary's 1st team finished first and St Mary's 2nd team finished second. Well done to all those involved. The club is run by ex parent and current St Stephen's teacher, Fab Goalen at Orleans after school on a Thursday; it has children from both St Mary's and St Stephen's.

Gifted and Talented Year 5 PE

Seven children from Year 5 will be attending the borough G&T PE provision, where they get specialised multi sports coaching once a week with other children across the borough.

Netball, Tag Rugby and Cross Country fixtures are all coming up in the next two weeks.

GENERAL INFORMATION

School lunches

The cost of school lunches this half term is £78.75. Please log into Tucasi to pay. If you have any queries or problems logging in please contact: Kate Nepstad (knepstad@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk) at the junior site (0208 892 7849). Thank you.

Tucasi online payments

Polite reminder: we are no longer taking cheque or cash payments so please do not send either cash or cheques into school for trips etc. If you haven't yet registered for Tucasi, please do so. If you have any problems or queries, please contact Kate Nepstad at the junior site (0208 892 7849) or email her at knepstad@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk. Thank you for your support, it really is much more efficient.

Good manners on the way to School

I received a letter of complaint last week from a member of the community saying that one of our parents had (allegedly) "hit" her car and accused her of driving on the wrong side of the road. Pupils from St Mary's were cycling or using their scooters en route to school; apparently they were in the middle of the road. I am sure you will agree that this does not reflect the values or ethos of our school, nor set a good example to our children. Thank you for your support.

Scooters

Please do not let your children ride their scooters once they arrive at school. It is extremely dangerous and others are being hurt. Thank you for your cooperation.

Tickets for the Infant Nativity

You will receive a letter very soon letting you know how to obtain tickets for the infant Nativity.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ebola virus

We have been asked to pass on this message to parents from the LBRUT.

Advice for parents/guardians:

Parents/guardians should not be unduly worried about the possibility of their children catching the Ebola Virus. You may wish to use the following key points from the Public Health England advice to reassure them:

The risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is low and to date there have been no cases of Ebola Virus Disease being contracted in the UK.

Any person arriving in the UK having travelled from any Ebola affected countries will be screened. If they are free of symptoms they are not infectious so there should be no restrictions on their school attendance or normal activities.

It is not possible to catch Ebola from a person who is not showing signs of being infected. It can only be caught by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is ill with the disease.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend school or their early years setting as normal.

Further information on the Government's response to the Ebola virus can be found on www.gov.uk

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

18 th November	Individual photographs, infant site, am
19 th November	Individual photographs, middle site, am, junior site, afternoon
19 th November	Year 4 to Orleans Gallery
20 th November	5P & 5T to Southwark Cathedral
21 st November	3 Sycamores class assembly (link class 1 Kingfishers)
21 st November	Mufti day (in aid of the FoSM fair)
22 nd November	FoSM Christmas fair, MS 11.30 – 3 pm
25 th November	RS & RB to Twickenham Library
28 th November	5P class assembly (link class 2 Oaks)
1 st December	5M to Southwark Cathedral
4 th December	6P to Strawberry Hill House
5 th December	4B class assembly (link class 2 Maples)
8 th December	6S to Strawberry Hill House
8 th – 11 th December	Infant and Year 1 Nativity (details to follow)
15 th December	Junior carol service, St Mary's Church 6.30 – 7.30 pm
16 th & 17 th December	"The Story of Christmas", Yrs 2 & 3, 10 am (details to follow)
19 th December	Last day of term, school finishes one hour earlier

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell
Head Teacher (headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)
17th November 2014



THE ROYAL SOCIETY
Associate Schools and Colleges



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

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

Questionnaire regarding homework

1. Are you satisfied with the amount of homework your child has on a weekly basis?
Yes/No
2. Is there too little? **Yes/No**
3. Is there too much? **Yes/No**
4. Do you feel it aids your child's learning? **Yes/No**
5. Do you find it to be a difficult time to manage at home? **Yes/No**
6. Does your child see homework as an aid to learning? **Yes/No**

Please email your answers to:

info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Thank you for taking the time to respond. We are very grateful.