



## NEWSLETTER No 4: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

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

### STAFFING NEWS

Miss Alexandra Houlden is now teaching in Year 1 Mallards and has settled in really well.

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Verity Wasserberg and Mrs Rachel Robinson are both expecting their second child. We will, of course, update you with staff changes arising from this news.

Congratulations go to Tom Holmes who is marrying Kathryn Earnshaw during the Easter holidays. We wish them both a long and happy life together.

Mrs Samantha Evans will be starting her maternity leave on 27<sup>th</sup> March. 1 Mallards will be taught by Mrs Katy Cliffe on a Monday and Tuesday and by Mrs Julia Pannall on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

### INFORMATION & REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

#### Term & Diary dates

These dates are available to download and print off on the school website ([www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)) under the "For parents" tab on the home page. Children are in school for 190 days and staff for 195. Inset/training days are determined by me and set at the discretion of individual schools. Please do not assume that if another local school, including secondary schools, have an inset day, we do too! You will see that we have four inset/training days for this academic year when children are not in school. The other day will be used as "twilight" sessions.

#### Parking at the middle site

I was dismayed to receive another email plus photographs from a neighbour in Strafford Road. One parent claimed that the school had sanctioned parking across residents' driveways and the other accused our neighbour of being racist. This behaviour of a minority of parents does not reflect the ethos of the school. Please consider our neighbours at all times and please do not park across their driveways. It is inconsiderate and a poor example to our pupils. Thank you.

## **Dogs**

As dog numbers are on the increase, may I remind you not to bring dogs onto school premises and to respect the feelings of those children and parents who are ill at ease with dogs. Carrying your dog onto any school site is not permitted either. Thank you.

## **Congestion at the infant site**

A number of parents and childminders have asked me to mention the issue of congregating around the entrance to the infant site with buggies and dogs, making it difficult for others to come in and out of the infant site. Please bear this in mind when dropping off and picking your children up at the infant site. Thank you.

## **Milk**

As part of new legislation in the national School Food Plan, children under 5 will soon be provided with free milk to have during playtimes. Those entitled to free school meals will also have it delivered to them at no cost. Parents of children not covered by those two groups are able to purchase milk for their child. To facilitate this, St Mary's is working with a company called "Cool Milk"; if you would like any further information regarding including your child in this scheme, please ask at any school office for a registration form.

## **Homework Survey**

Attached to this newsletter are the results of our homework survey. Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

You will see that the survey is broken up into three sheets.

All staff have discussed the findings of this survey. Consequently, homework arrangements will remain as they are.

## **Able and talented news**

All news can be found on the school website's home page, under "news feed".

## **School policies**

These are regularly updated and put on our school website. Please view them by visiting the "For parents" tab on the home page ([www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)), then go to "School policies".

## **School Uniform**

After discussions with parents, school councillors, sports councillors and staff, we have decided to replace the current sweatshirt with cardigan/jumper. We are also replacing the current sports kit.

A letter with full details will be sent out to parents on 13<sup>th</sup> February and the new uniform will be available to you to look at after half term. We intend to phase in the new uniform in September 2015. We hope you will like the new uniform; however, I would like to point out, at this stage, it is not mandatory to replace your current uniform immediately. I suggest when you are ready to replace your child's sweatshirt or cardigan, you then purchase a new style cardigan or jumper.

## **Houses and house points**

The house winners at the end of last term were:

Infant site: Walpole (blue) and Twining (red)

Middle site: Attenborough (green)

Junior site: Attenborough (green)

We are looking forward to adding Farah (yellow) to this list!

Some children are still working their way to achieve the bronze award (50 house points) whilst others have been presented with their bronze award certificates in achievement assemblies and are now trying to achieve the silver award (75 house points).

News of house competitions will follow throughout the year.

## **Tucasi**

I hope you agree that the Tucasi online payment system has been a success. If you pay for a club online your child's name is automatically entered onto the register for that club. The registers for clubs are a very important part of the school's safeguarding arrangements. If your child is attending a club without having paid, their names will not appear on the paper register for the teachers: you will therefore need to log onto Tucasi to pay the balance.

Unfortunately there is no facility for refunds if your child decides that they do not want to continue attending a club for which you have paid.

## **Email address for Tom Holmes, Verity Wasserberg & Richard Taylor**

You can now email Mrs Wasserberg and Mr Holmes directly at:

[deputyheadteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:deputyheadteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk) and Mr Taylor at:

[assistantheadteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:assistantheadteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

## CHURCH NEWS

I hope you all had a happy celebration of the New Year! In January, while I have been leading the Collective Worship, we have explored with children the attitude of "being grateful", while also we have reflected on the richness of our spiritual gifts. I am delighted our moments of silent prayer (7-10 seconds meditations) are going very well and that in our prayers we include children from the countries where there is conflict and war.

There will be plenty of opportunities to refresh the spirit of joy among our children in forthcoming weeks. I wish to highlight the forthcoming "Messy Church" on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 15.15 - 17.00. I wish to take this opportunity for more volunteers to help us with running Messy Church. If you can offer the time, a bit of energy or help with preparation of Messy Church, please contact me ([piotrashwin@btinternet.com](mailto:piotrashwin@btinternet.com)) or visit our Messy Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/275413909296420/>

Thank you for your support.

Fr. Piotr

## GOVERNING BODY NEWS

The governors wish you all a Happy New Year! We have recently re-constituted the governing body under new regulations and now comprise fourteen members. We have a vacancy for a specialist skill, such as a lawyer or an HR professional. If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with Kate Nepstad, the clerk, at the junior site ([governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)). The governing body have been monitoring the number of unauthorised absences over the past three years. I am pleased to report that the number is slowly going down, but we could do better and should, therefore, remind you that you should not take your children out of school for any holidays during term time. This is something Ofsted picked up on during our last inspection, so please try to help us by only going on holiday during the holiday periods. The latest Absence policy is on the school website ([www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)).

We are looking forward to a busy spring term...watch this space!

Lucy MacArthur  
Chair

[governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Blogging

A team of Year 6 children have established a blog. It can be found under the Quick Links section on the school website - then click on "Pupil Mind". The direct URL is <https://st-marys-church-of-england-primary-school.j2webby.com/>. Its initial role will be as a kind of "online magazine" for pupils across the school: they will post sports news, online games that they have created, film reviews and house news. They will also be asking for contributions from children across the school for the section entitled "Pride" (this could be writing, art work, photographs etc. that the children have created). We would encourage children and parents alike to comment on the published items.

There is also a section entitled "Class Blogs" - Year 5 are currently trialling blogging from the classroom and again, I would encourage you to view their work and to please leave comments.

Since one of the main goals of the blog is to take learning beyond the classroom walls, safety is our most important consideration. Everything that appears publicly on the blog, all comments and posts, must first be approved by the school before they appear. Any images or videos will be published in line with the school's approach to the use of digital photography. In order to maintain a productive, interesting and safe blogging environment, we will ask all contributors to abide by the following rules:

#### **Blog Rules**

*Using a blog safely is the most important thing about being a blogger. The following rules, if followed, will minimise any risks and will ensure that you will stay safe whilst blogging.*

#### **Post about whatever you like**

*The blog is your space. Write about whatever interests you.*

#### **Look after personal information**

*Never give out personal information about your location or identity. Take particular care when leaving comments on other blogs as you don't know who is moderating. Never give out your log in details to anyone.*

#### **Comment often**

*Comments make blogging work, so comment often and be friendly. Blogging is about us all working together to help improve our writing. Nobody likes to receive unkind comments so be friendly.*

#### **Be thoughtful when commenting**

*Make your comment worth reading, be positive interested and encouraging. No "Hi! Visit my blog! Bye" comments. Be thoughtful. If you leave comments on other people's posts, you'll find people will visit your blog and leave comments for you.*

#### **Do your best**

*Always do your best. Check through your post or comment before you click send. Many blog moderators don't like text speak or slang so you may find your comment doesn't get published if you use these.*

#### **Ask for help**

*Ask for help if you read or see something that makes you feel unhappy while you are blogging.*

## Year 1 listen to a talk about Antarctica

Mr Neden Watts (father of Robin and Angus) came to talk to Year 1 about his work in Antarctica. He dressed in clothing suitable for the Antarctic and showed Year 1 pictures of animals. The children thoroughly enjoyed his visit and learned about the very cold climate, the animals and life in Antarctica.



## Year 5 built a quarter scale, 6m Viking Longship at school!

Year 5 built a quarter scale, 6m Viking Longship at school! The children built the Viking Longship, wove "sails" on a Viking "warp-weighted loom", sewed sails for the ship, made "authentic" Viking shields and designed dragon heads. Raviit, 5T said: "We also tested our strength by holding a finished Viking shield which had the weight of a real one and let me tell you it was really heavy."



## SPORTS NEWS

### Athletics

The indoor athletics team (9 boys and 10 girls from Years 5 & 6) competed in the borough event on Monday 26th January at St Mary's University. Out of 32 schools competing, our team achieved a magnificent 3rd. They were awarded bronze medals and London 2012 memento batons.



### Boys' football

The boys' football team finished off their league campaign with two very tight games; they could easily have won both. Unfortunately they lost 1-0 to Kew Riverside and drew 2-2 with Darell.

### Tag rugby

The tag rugby team played their three final league games, winning two and drawing one. They will now wait and see if they have qualified for the quarter-finals.

The A and B team both had matches after school in a wet Marble Hill Park against St Mary's and St Peter's. The A team lost by two tries and the B team won by three.

Two teams will be playing in the Harlequins tournament on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January from 10 am with another forty children attending the match, with one pupil running out as one of the mascots!



## Running club

We thought you would like to see this beautiful photograph of running club taken on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January in Marble Hill Park! Please follow us on Twitter for regular updates, reminders and photographs - @twickstmarys



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### “Catch it. Bin it. Kill it” campaign

Public Health have launched the 'The Catch it. Bin it. Kill it' campaign to encourage the public to adopt hygiene practices. The campaign urges people to carry tissues and use them to catch coughs or sneezes, then to bin the tissues and to kill the germs by washing hands.

Once flu is spreading widely, apart from vaccination, hygiene is the main method that can help prevent spread. Go to [www.gov.uk/government/news/catch-it-bin-it-kill-it-campaign-to-help-reduce-flu-infections](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/catch-it-bin-it-kill-it-campaign-to-help-reduce-flu-infections)



## CHARITY NEWS

### Make a Wish

Johnny Corbett, father of Lily in 5P, is raising funds for the charity "Make a Wish" (which grants magical wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening conditions) on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 7pm at the Pope John Centre Heston TW5 ORL. Raffle and auctions of football memorabilia will be held on the night. To book tickets (£15 each) and for further information please contact:

Johnny Corbett 07808 961374 or email him at [john@gcslondon.com](mailto:john@gcslondon.com)

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell  
Head Teacher  
[headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

30<sup>th</sup> January 2015



THE ROYAL SOCIETY  
Associate Schools and Colleges



**RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION**

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