



ST MARY'S NEWS

15th July 2016

www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

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From our Acting Headteacher, Tom Holmes

Dear Parents,

Here is our last newsletter of this academic year. It has been another highly successful year for the school.

Our current Year 6 pupils were St Mary's very first THREE form entry; we wish them well as they move onto secondary school. The leavers service in St Mary's Church on the last day of term is always a special occasion. We also say goodbye and good luck other St Mary families leaving us in other years, as they relocate to various parts of the country and the rest of the world.

I am also delighted to announce that after working with the middle site sports council, we have planned and designed a trim trail to be incorporated into the playground. This should be in place for September; many thanks to FoSM for their financial commitment to this project

Thank you to all staff, parents and pupils for their support of me during this term as Acting Headteacher. The time has flown by and I think the mileage on my bike has significantly increased! The school is truly a unique place both in terms of having three sites, but also in the education it provides for its pupils. Dedicated, expert staff combined with engaged, supportive parents' means we have highly motivated children wanting to get the most out of school.

The school continues to grow and develop with the use of the Elms classroom on the middle site and the new two classrooms on the Junior site.

I would like to thank all staff leaving St Mary's at the end of this academic year. Helen Gray has taught for four years, three years in Reception and for one year in Year 4. She has always been a very positive, dedicated, thorough professional and we wish her all the best with her new business.

Naomi D'Arcy has taught for three years on the middle site. Miss D'Arcy has always been an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher, getting the very best out of the children in her care. We wish her all the best in Hong Kong.

Jenny Trattles who has been at St Mary's for twenty six years and Linda Hine who has been at the school for sixteen years as Teaching Assistants are both retiring after seeing the school through many changes and transitions. I would like to thank them for all their support, hard work and dedication to the school.

We also wish the best of luck to other members of staff leaving: Catherine Zawada (to enter teacher training) Lisa Small (to be a Teaching Assistant at another school), Lisa Hilditch (working as a Nanny), Sophie Gates (to be a Teacher Assistant at another school) and Natali Bozhilova (further study)

We welcome one new teacher, Phebe Long, into Year 2; Mrs Long joins us from a school in Wandsworth.

Staff in the gathered provision will be working in mainstream from September; Ishara Taliwanth is becoming a class teacher in Year 4 and the Teaching Assistants will be working in other classes throughout the school.

A letter from the borough will be sent early next week giving parents information about online gaming. It is a worthwhile read.

Have a wonderful summer and see you all on **Wednesday 7th September!**

Governing body news

It has been a wonderful and successful term for the school, skilfully led by Mr Holmes and his team, and I thank him and his staff for all the hard work they have put in every day to ensure that St Mary's is and remains the compassionate, caring and inspirational place it is for every child here. I would especially like to offer my thanks to Mr Holmes for leading the school so well in a time of change and transition, maintaining a busy and varied programme for the children and playing such a full part in planning the school's exciting future.

Following recent elections, the governors warmly welcomed parent governor Richard Goatley and staff governor Ruth Knight at their June meeting. Richard is CEO of Middlesex County Cricket Club, and Ruth has been Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) at St Mary's for the past 8 years; both bring a wealth of expertise and experience to your governing board, and both are passionate in their commitment to the school.

Governors have visited the school this term to monitor specific aspects of the current school development plan, including the new Curriculum, Music and PE, as well as aspects in finance and safeguarding systems, and we will be continuing these visits next term. We have also been busy ensuring the smooth adoption of new classroom facilities on the middle and junior sites, as well as working alongside the local authority to develop our financial strategy in the face of the considerable challenge of running a popular, large and successful school over three sites (you will this week have received a letter about the relaunch of the St Mary's Fund to support and enhance learning resources across the school). These visits help governors to increase their understanding of what works well at St Mary's, and allow staff to get to know governors a little better too. Next term we will adopt a simpler committee structure which will help this process.

As you will have read in our recent statement, governors are deeply committed to SEN (Special Educational Needs), and proud of St Mary's record in supporting all children whatever their needs; we believe that everyone benefits from this inclusive approach. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter a celebration of this support within the day to day life of the school. We will continue to work alongside the local authority to ensure a service appropriate to the current needs of local children.

I would like to thank all governors, and especially our Clerk Kate Nepstad, for their tireless work and commitment to this great school. Happy holidays!

Ben Driver, Chair of the Governing Board
governors@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

SEN

Following last week's letter about the Gathered Provision, the school and governors would like to reiterate our commitment to SEN (Special Educational Needs) at St Mary's.

There are currently 11 children with EHCP's (Education Healthcare Plans). These pupils receive funding to assist with their education, commonly used for 1:1 teacher assistant support and some additional 1:1 teacher time.

There are 52 additional children in the school with SEN needs. All of these children have a learning profile, in order to specifically address their needs. All children with learning profiles have a meeting once a term with parents, the class teacher, SENCO's (SEN coordinators) and any other relevant adults.

The school welcomes children of all ability into the school and its underlying ethos embraces them. This inclusive approach gives our whole community an acceptance and understanding of disability, and compassion to those who find life more challenging.

SEN examples of intervention in our school include social skills groups, auditory processing, writing groups, phonics, handwriting, maths (pre teaching/ consolidation of maths concepts) and art therapy. The current SENCOs work six days a week between them, both Monday to Wednesday. Ruth Knight predominantly coordinates key stage two and Ruth Anderson key stage one. Rachel Robinson is currently on maternity leave and will be returning after Christmas in the key stage one role.

You can find a section on our school website regarding SEN: <http://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/sen/>

A message from Father Piotr

Dear Parents,

It has been yet another year of my great joy to guide our children in their spiritual growth. In our recent reflection and prayers we searched for discovery of the whole richness of children's talents as well as we gave thanks for backgrounds of their cultures (e.g. "Celebration of Life" service in our church). Collective Worship on all three sides endorsed our Christian values; among them this term were love and compassion. These values were seen in the light of Christian faith. Children from the Infant Site learned that they are in God's loving hands. Children from the Middle and Junior Sites learned about various "signposts" (beauty of nature, silence, music) which lift their hearts towards God. All three sides practice moments of silent, full of reverence prayer, while children from the Middle and Junior site were encouraged to ask questions and I did my best to answer at least majority of them.

May I wish you all a very restful summer full of positive thoughts? May I also express my gratitude to all teachers and staff for their excellent support given to my ministry.

Revd Dr Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski

Assistant Priest/School Chaplain St Mary's Twickenham

<http://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/our-school-film/>

see the place where **heaven** touches **the earth**:

<http://www.metooandco.org.uk/>

Year 6 destinations this year

Burford Boarding School **1**

Green School **2**

Grey Coat **1**

Gumley House **1**

Hampton Boys **1**

Kingston Grammar **2**

LEH **1**

Notre Dame **1**

Orleans Park **61**

St Richard Reynolds **2**

Teddington **1**

Tiffin **3**

Waldegrave **10**

We wish all our Year 6 pupils the very best for the future!

w/c 27.06.16	% attendance	No of Lates	HOUSE POINTS		
Reception	97.79	9	Attenborough	Green	849
Year 1	95.99	12	Farah	Yellow	744
Year 2	97.71	12	Twining	Red	827
Year 3	97.54	10	Walpole	Blue	729
Year 4	97.59	16			
Year 5	97.02	11			
Year 6	97.86	11			

Whole School attendance: 97.30%

Weekly diary for w/c 18th July 2016

Monday 18th July, Last week of Technokids

Wednesday 20th July, 11.15am, Leavers Service St Mary's Church.

LAST DAY OF TERM, SCHOOL FINISHES ONE HOUR EARLIER ON ALL SITES

Inset days: Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th September

FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM: WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2016

Local news

Family fun day 2016, Sunday 4th September 1 – 4pm, The Moor Lane Centre, Chessington. To book your place and your time slot on the hot air balloon please contact David Arrow on 020 8547 6564 or Jodi Williams on 020 8831 6357

Activity camps at Orleans Park School this summer. To book your place call 0845 456 3233 or go to www.fitforsport.co.uk

Pre season matches at Hampton & Richmond borough football club: www.hamptonfc.net

Colin Woolway will be running his successful Drumsense Drum Camp at St Mary's School middle site from July 25 – 28. This is the third year he has run this event at St Mary's to provide inspiration to drummers of all ages and abilities through tutoring, workshops and demonstrations by well known, guest drummers. The cost for the four days is £150 and it runs from 10am -4pm. For more information or to book a place, contact: colin@drumsense.com