



St Mary's Church of England School

Infants:

Amyand Park Road
Twickenham
TW1 3HE

T: 0208 892 5840

Middle:

Strafford Road
Twickenham
TW1 3AD

T: 0208 249 6836

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Juniors:

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TW1 3BA

T: 0208 892 7849

F: 0208 607 0420

E: info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Friday 21st July 2017

Dear Parents

My final newsletter of the academic year; I hope you have found them a useful source of information and that they have kept you up to speed with school life across the three sites.

We have had a very successful year and I want to share some of the successes with you.

Our academic results at the end of all Key Stages show that St Mary's is in line with, or in most cases, above National Standards in reading, writing and Maths. Once our data is validated in the autumn term, we will share the percentages with you.

Our in-year data for Years 3, 4 and 5 also compares favourably to National data in reading and Maths (it is not available for writing). One of our school development points for this year was to increase standards in writing. We have accomplished this across the board and our moderation with six local schools left us feeling very proud of all that has been accomplished. I hope you saw the evidence of increased opportunities for writing, excellent composition, handwriting and presentation in the books during open afternoon recently.

Here are just some of the highlights for the year:

- Two teams from Year 5 and 6 went to St. Mary's University to have fun with science
- For the sixth successive year St Mary's pupils entered both the Young Writers' and Young Photographers' competitions
- Every child in KS2 had a go at the National Quiz Club General Knowledge Quiz
- Over 63,000 primary school pupils undertook the Primary Maths Challenge back in November and that included 33 from St. Mary's.
- A festival of writing was celebrated at the Orange Tree Theatre
- A team of 8 children from Year 2 participated in their 5th Richmond Borough Battle of the Books held at Queen's CE primary school
- Y4 entered The Battle of the Books at St James' School and won!
- We had Bake off week
- Year 5 went to the Para World Championships
- We took part in The Time Explorers Challenge, run by Royal Historical Palaces
- We achieved highly in the borough sports competitions
- Our Year 6 reading mentors deserve a special mention for their dedication, reliability, good humour and patience



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- We had two wonderful sports afternoons
- Pen licences were awarded across the school
- We had Maths week, Science week and an amazing art week culminating in our very own St Mary's art gallery
- We raised a magnificent £13520.57 for worthy charities
- We sent our unwanted school uniform to Joy Nursery and Primary School, Kyengera, Kampala, Uganda where it is worn with pride by school children there
- Our reflection areas were developed
- We announced our sports boy and girls of the year- Tom Pugh and Charlotte Dawson shares the award with Evie Witek
- We could go on and on but this just gives a flavour and explains why we are all exhausted and ready for a holiday!

St Mary's Fund Update

Since we first met with parents we have been busy trying to boost the funds that come in to school. We managed to negotiate an increase in the allowance received from the local authority which is for schools that operate on multiple sites. Whilst this increase doesn't cover the entire extra costs we incur, it is a step in the right direction towards funding that truly reflects our unique nature. We have since taken that discussion to the head of finance at the local authority as well as to local council members. We are hopeful that they are sympathetic toward our cause and will push for the funding we need. We will be following this up in a meeting with The Schools' Forum in the autumn term.

To add to this, the school met with our local MP to discuss in detail the issues we face both now, and in the future. He is acutely aware of the struggles we face and we believe he will be a valuable advocate of the school in raising the profile of local funding issues to a much wider audience.

Whilst all of this is going on we are exploring a number of local community funds that may offer extra support for the school to raise balances in the short term.

As explained in a recent newsletter from the Headteacher, we have restructured the way we provide cover for the teachers during their statutory release time. Whilst this change was necessitated by our financial position and did provide the school with considerable savings, it will continue to provide consistency for all classes as they will be covered by the same staff members each week.

All of these changes have resulted in extra funding/savings in excess of £60k.

We have been quite astonished by the generosity of the parents of St Mary's. Since reaching out to parents in our initial meeting we have been able to use some of the money raised toward vital ICT equipment. We are also looking at potential projects to add an extra level of security to our safeguarding procedures. Now that standing orders have been set up by many parents we have a better idea of how much we will be receiving each month and can plan accordingly. We are still in discussions with HMRC about the creation of our own dedicated charity and account and will keep parents informed of any updates when we have them.

All of these initiatives and changes have helped give St Mary's a firmer foothold in relation to finances and for that we are grateful to each and every parent. There is still some work to do to narrow the gap in funding so it is important that momentum continues and we push together for a more appropriate funding allocation that truly reflects the special and unique nature of this school and its community.



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Our Charity collections 2016 /17

NSPCC - £7576.65
Grenfell - £100.01
Poppy Appeal - £169.75
Red Nose Day - £577.70
Roald Dahl Day - £210
World Book Day- £412.17
Macmillan Coffee Morning £210
Make a Wish £809
Water Aid £1605.35
Compassion £1076.60
Save the Children £534
Carol Service £239.34

Total - **£13520.57**

Attendance from 07.09.16 – 14.07.17

	% Attendance	% of Unauthorised Absences	No of Unauthorised Absences	No of Lates
Reception	96.21	0.35	104	112
Year 1	97.33	0.66	215	185
Year 2	97.40	0.41	172	375
Year 3	97.50	0.23	75	170
Year 4	97.05	0.42	140	118
Year 5	96.84	0.37	122	170
Year 6	96.99	0.59	130	68
Total School	97.07	0.42	958	1198



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Housepoints

Attenborough = **4392**

Farah = **3656**

Twining = **3726**

Walpole = **3768**

Report slips:

Thank you to those who returned the report slips. Names were drawn for each site this week and the following children won a book token to spend in the holidays:

Ines Maggio, 6W

Thomas Haylett, 3 Sycamores

Freya Kewell, Reception Doves

Thank you:

We are so grateful for the support of parents this year. Not only financially- which has literally saved our school, but also for the hundreds of other things you do to support us: homework, reading, support for class cake sales, fundraising generally, G&T drive, coming along to parent consultations, support over behaviour management when necessary, help in the classrooms, taking part in trips, Science days, cooking, keeping our libraries orderly, attending out of school events, being a parent governor, encouraging us with your praise and gratitude and so much more. I have been constantly uplifted across the year, by the lovely emails I receive to thank teachers or other staff for all that they do.

I was oblivious, before working at St Mary's, to the challenges a school on three sites brings. It makes a tough job even more challenging, but staff manage to make it look easy and it isn't! We may not have always got things right, but we have welcomed conversations about things that we needed to do to improve and are committed to growing.

We send our Year 6 pupils off to pastures new with our love and best wishes for the future. They are fine young people and we hope they always carry with them St Mary's values and beliefs.

We also thank, once more, our staff leavers for the service to the school; their contribution to our school's success is immense and we hope they will continue to flourish in whatever comes next.



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Important dates

School resumes for Years 1 – 6 on **Wednesday 6th September**

All our diary dates are on the website calendar now with a link for you to download them to your phone, I pad, laptops etc. Please note that these may be subject to change or we may be waiting for some dates to be confirmed. We will let you know when this document is available via School Communicator, under Resources.

With one year under my belt I can no longer be called the “new Head”, which is a bit scary as it suggests I should know everything about St Mary's! Thank you personally, for making it a positive move for me and welcoming me to this super community. All staff join me in wishing you all a long and happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Abrahams
Headteacher
headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk