



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

F: 0208 891 1904

Juniors:

Richmond Road
Twickenham
TW1 3BA

T: 0208 892 7849

F: 0208 607 0420

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

www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Friday 3rd November 2017

Dear Parents,

This is a lengthy newsletter but please keep reading to the end for an important appeal on school funding, thank you.

Half termly letters

Half termly letters are available for you to read in Resources, "Half termly letters". Thank you.

Swimming trials for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 – Advance notice

The Richmond Borough Schools Swimming Gala is an exciting and successful event for St Mary's. Time trials for the gala held next February will take place at Pools on the Park, Richmond on **Tuesday 12th December from 4.00 – 5.30 pm.**

The events at the Borough Gala consist of Y3/Y4/Y5 boy and girl 1 length freestyle, Y6 boy and girl 1 length butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle. In addition, there will be a 6 x 1 relay consisting of a girl and boy from Year 3 or 4 plus Year 5/6 and a medley and freestyle relay usually consisting of Y6 children or **whoever is the fastest.**

Qualifying times:

Y3 girls/boys 25m freestyle 42 secs

Y4 girls/boys 25m freestyle 36 secs

Y5 girls/boys 25m freestyle 32 secs

Y6 girls/boys 25m freestyle 28 secs

Girls/boys butterfly 32 secs

Girls/boys backstroke 34 secs

Girls/boys breaststroke 36 secs

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 12th December. Please note, only pupils who attend these trials may qualify for the team. I will not be accepting timed trials by parents or third parties. Details will follow if you are successful.

Emma Beagley (Mrs), Teaching Assistant in charge of Swimming

Contacting our SENCOs (Special Education Needs coordinators)

We have now created a direct email address for our SENCOs. If you would like to contact Mrs Knight, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Kapila or Mrs Freer please email them at senco@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk



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Book Fair:

Our Scholastic Book Fair is on **Tuesday 7th November**. The stalls open 15 minutes before the end of the school day on each site and remain open for an hour afterwards. We are very grateful to the parents who have signed up to run the stalls for us.

We receive commission on all your purchases and the rate is excellent. We hope to boost our guided reading scheme with the books we order afterwards, so thank you in advance for any purchases.

Reminders:

According to research by Greenpeace from April, more than 2,000 schools and nurseries across the country are located close to roads with illegal levels of pollution. Fortunately we are not one of those schools, but to assess our pollution levels we recently carried out an air study at each of our sites, we await the results and I will let you know as soon as I have them.

If you drive to St Mary's you can make a big difference to the air quality around our school by switching off your engine when waiting. Vehicle idling is an offence against the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. The law states it is an offence to idle your engine unnecessarily when stationary and if you fail to turn your engine off after being spoken to there are penalties. Please help us to keep your children healthy by switching off!

Our residents have mentioned that once again parents are blocking their drives before and after school. Please help us keep positive relationships with them by avoiding their space, thank you.

Before the half term break I met with Councillor Susan Chappell to talk about the safety on the roads around our sites. With her support, we wrote to the council and await their response to some of our suggestions about how to make the roads safer for our children and families. Again I will let you know when we hear back from them.

Work over the half term break:

Those on the junior site will have noticed the WONDERFUL new Astro Turfed area that was once a swamp! It was a delight, that first sunny day back, to see the juniors sunbathing on it, what a difference. My wish is to have it painted with running lanes so the children can race during playtimes and become really fit. I need a small lottery win and then we'll have them!

Reception Playground:

Those of you who were here well before I arrived may remember that FoSM fundraised for a brilliant Reception playground trim trail. Owing to the drainage problems it was never fitted, but because those works happened over the summer we can now proceed with the developments.



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We aim to get it all in over the Christmas holiday; wouldn't that be a terrific Christmas gift for the children?

A message from the Chair of Governors: Parent Governor Vacancy

Richard Goatley has tendered his resignation as parent governor, following a significant increase in his workload in his job. I would like to thank Richard for his energy and ideas shared with governors and parents over the last year, particularly in relation to fund raising, and I am delighted that he intends to continue to help St Mary's in this very important area.

Arrangements for the election of a new Parent Governor are well underway and you have received a letter from Mrs Abrahams outlining the process.

We are particularly keen to hear from parents with a background in finance. If you are interested, please contact the school so that we can meet you to discuss your candidacy. You can find information about governance at St Mary's on the school website

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

If you would like to talk to me or Mrs Abrahams about this role, please call the school office.

Ben Driver
Chair of the Governing Body

Celebration children:

Reception Blackbirds: *Iris Z*
Reception Doves: *Joshua C*
Reception Robins: *Charlie T*
Year 1 Nightingales: *James S*
Year 1 Puffins: *Puffins were on a trip this week*
Year 1 Kingfishers: *Emily K-B*
Year 2 Junipers: *Olive J, Benjamin K*
Year 2 Oaks: *Olivia L, Olly W*
Year 2 Willows: *Benjamin T, Mila R*
Year 3 Elms: *Grace van O, Elena E*
Year 3 Maples: *Frankie M, Max A*
Year 3 Poplars: *Rosie M, Daniel H*
Year 3 Sycamores: *Sadie G, Advait D*
Year 4S: *Jess C*
Year 4T: *Finlay W*
Year 4W: *Mabel F*
Year 5M: *Oscar C*
Year 5N: *Willem D*
Year 5T: *Ralph R*



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Year 6B: *Adam S*

Year 6PG: *Joel K*

Year 6S: *Zoe M*

Stars of the week:

Infant Site: Asher S, Reception Doves

To guess this star of the week, you will have to listen very carefully.
The clue is in the poem!

A is for amazing and adventurous
S is for sensible and speedy
H is for happy and helpful
E is for enthusiastic and eager
R is for respectful and responsible
Have you figured it out?

It's Asher S from Doves!

Middle site: Joshua A Year 2 Junipers

J is for joyful. You are a delight
to know
O is for open-minded. You show
real interest in what others say.
S is for smile. Your lovely smile
brings us all great happiness
H is for helpful. You are considerate
and kind to everyone around you.
U is for understanding. You show
enormous care for your friends
A is for just awesome. You always
give your best and never give up.

Joshua A thank you for being such a star



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Junior site: Alban C 6PG

Un poème pour.....a real superstar

Il est calme (calm), a cool head at all times, never flustered or floundering.

Il est un modèle (role model), a shining example to all and to your sister in year.....quatre.

Il est un écrivain (writer), your written work is inspired, a joy to read.

Il est sportif (sporty), a real sports leader who is never afraid to get involved.

Felicitations (congratulations) Etoile du site (star of the site)

Alban C

Attendance data between 16.10.17 – 20.10.17

	% Attendance	% of Unauthorised Absences	No of Unauthorised Absences	No of Lates
Reception	97.33	0.11	1	8
Year 1	96.11	0.22	2	2
Year 2	97.78	0.22	2	2
Year 3	97.59	0.18	2	4
Year 4	97.33	0.33	3	3
Year 5	97.78	0	0	0
Year 6	96.22	0.22	2	5
Total school	97.18	0.18	12	24

School Funding:

Last year we were involved in the campaign for Fairer Funding. Your support at that time was amazing, but school funding remains a key concern as school costs increase, but funding is not rising to match. Schools continue making cuts, risking the quality of education. You can find more information, facts and figures on the Fair Funding for All Schools website:



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<http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org>

One way in which St Mary's parents can take action is by lobbying our MP (Vince Cable – who is aware of the perilous situation but needs to know that it is of concern to parents, too) and our local Borough Councillors. The Councillors for Twickenham Riverside ward, where the school is located, are Susan Chappell (who is also the Strategic Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Schools); Helen Hill; and Benedict Dias.

Parents living in North Twickenham & St Margaret's ward could also lobby the Councillors there:

(Geoff Acton, Alex Ehmann, Ben Khosa).

The leader of the Council is Paul Hodgins: he used to be Strategic Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Schools and he needs to know that we are still very concerned about school funding.

Here are the email addresses:

Vince Cable MP	vince.cable.mp@parliament.uk
Twickenham Riverside Councillors	Cllr.SChappell@richmond.gov.uk Cllr.BDias@richmond.gov.uk Cllr.HHill@richmond.gov.uk
St Margaret's & North Twickenham Councillors	Cllr.GActon@richmond.gov.uk Cllr.AEhmann@richmond.gov.uk Cllr.BKhosa@richmond.gov.uk
Council Leader: Cllr Paul Hodgins	Cllr.PHodgins@richmond.gov.uk

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Councillors for other wards can be found here: <https://www.richmond.gov.uk/councillors>

The key points to raise with Councillors are:

- School costs are rising (for example, pension & NI increases) but funding is not rising to match;
- St Mary's faces the significant extra challenge of being situated across three sites (three admin offices, three lunch halls, three sets of heating costs etc) and this three-site operation needs to be funded adequately – currently it is not – or children's education will suffer.

Thank you for your support.



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Diary dates

Monday 6th November – Year 2 to Windsor Castle

Monday 6th November – Year 3 cake sale

Thursday 9th November – 6B class assembly (link class 2 Willows)

Tuesday 7th November, Book fair, all three sites starting at 15 minutes earlier than pick up time at each site

Parent Teacher Consultations 8th and 9th November 4 – 7pm *please sign up via Tucasi from 8pm tonight until 12 noon on Tuesday 7th November. There will be no school run clubs this week and school finishes ONE hour earlier on both days*

Christmas card deadline 10th November 2017

Rotary shoeboxes are due back on Friday 10th November (please collect an empty box from any school office; please note that you need to stick **£1.50** in coins on the top of your box)

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Abrahams

Headteacher

headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk