



St Mary's Church of England School

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Middle:

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Thursday 19th December 2019

Dear Parents,

Here is the final newsletter of 2019 and what a year it has been. Our children have been blessed with staff who are committed and go the extra mile for them and they have delivered a curriculum which is rich and diverse and filled with super experiences. Here are just some of the highlights:

Reception: Orleans Gallery, Brooklands Museum, Ladyland Farm

Year 1: Circus Skills Workshop, IMAX Cinema, Twickenham Apiary, St Mary's Church

Year 2: Windsor Castle, Little Hampton, African Drumming Workshop

Year 3: Butser Farm, Volcanoes and Earthquakes Workshop, Orange Tree Workshop

Year 4: PGL residential, Kneller Hall Music Concert, Natural History Museum, Tower Bridge

Year 5: Royal Albert Hall, Hampton Court Palace, Dragon Boating, Orange Tree Theatre

Year 6: Henley Fort, Poppy Factory, Houses of Parliament, France residential trip

After school clubs continued through the generous giving of time from staff too, I know you will wish to join me in thanking them all for providing these experiences.

Publication of Primary School Performance Data

This week the government published national and local authority Key Stage 2 data for primary schools.

Equally, The Times newspaper published its annual Top 500 Primary Schools list (there are 20,832 primary schools in the country). We are extremely proud to be included in this list:

<https://www.richmondandtwickenhamtimes.co.uk/news/18104193.councillor-penny-frost-says-tight-financial-constraints-couldnt-stop-richmond-exhaling-education/>

Richmond upon Thames is the highest performing borough in the country and 16 of our Schools reached the Times list.

Overall attainment, those achieving the Expected standard or better in reading, writing and mathematics combined, is high and an improvement on the year before. Progress continues to be a strength, especially in reading and maths. Writing progress does not appear as strong as other subjects, but this is a consequence of how well our pupils performed when they were in Year 2 (the starting point for their progress measure). You will notice however, that many of the locally high performing schools are in a similar situation. This information can be found at the following link (also on our Results page on the website): <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/compare-schools>

We congratulate the children and the staff on reaching such high standards.



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Charitable donations

During 2019 we have raised money for The Sandcastle Trust, Macmillan, "Jeans for Genes", Rhinos, Children in Need, Save the Children, Vineyard Community Centre and Crisis at Christmas and have, together, raised a total of **£4750**. It is an incredible amount of money and truly lives out our Christian value of service to others.

The Christmas Fair

If you are on Classlist you will already know the substantial amount raised at the Fair, **£13,300**. I have also just heard that the Silent Auction Raised **£5,100**. Wow, wow and wow again!

Rotary Young Writer Competition

Last year, St Mary's scooped all three prizes for the Rotary Young Writer Competition; we hope many of you will enter again. This year's task is to produce a written or typed piece entitled 'Connections'. The entry could be fiction or non-fiction, a story or poem, as long as it relates to the theme. An A4 page or up to 500 words is suggested as a suitable submission. To be eligible, entrants must be 7 to 10 years old as of **31st August 2019**. Entry forms can be collected from the Middle Site and Junior Site offices. Entries must be submitted to school, for the attention of Mr Cadman, by **9th January 2020**. The three most outstanding submissions receive a book token (£30, £20 or £10) and the local winner progresses to the District Finals.

So that's it from me this year, thank you for reading my newsletter and for providing such support to us all.

We wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas with loved ones and look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th January 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Abrahams
Headteacher