



St Mary's Church of England School

Infants:

Amyand Park Road
Twickenham
TW1 3HE

Middle:

Strafford Road
Twickenham
TW1 3AD

Juniors:

Richmond Road
Twickenham
TW1 3BA

T: 0208 892 5840
F: 0208 744 9027

T: 0208 249 6836
F: 0208 891 1904

T: 0208 892 7849
F: 0208 607 0420

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

www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

My final letter of the week, and there have been many!

My gratitude to the St Mary's community is boundless; during one of the toughest weeks of my teaching career, I have witnessed the resilience, goodwill and sheer strength of human spirit shine through from all quarters. Examples of these are: Parents sending in good wishes and food parcels; our staff have worked such long hours preparing that they couldn't shop, biscuits in the staffrooms and many offers to help and the sharing of jokes to lighten the load. It often takes a crisis to make us stop and think about what really matters in life; family and friends - people, not things.

My thanks go to the staff and all other critical Key Workers who are helping to see us through these difficult times, we will continue on as long as we are able.

Key Workers

If you are a critical Key Worker and concerned that you may be called upon to go into work at a later stage, please just email us nearer the time (keyworker@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk). Thank you.

Join AfC Richmond Children's centres Facebook page

Achieving for Children (AfC) will be posting regular updates on their Facebook group and will be uploading virtual sessions for you and your children to enjoy from your homes. Search for "Achieving for Children Richmond Children's Centres"

Going forwards:

I will continue to keep in touch with you as and when I have something to share. Parents of the vulnerable and Key Workers may hear from me more often if there are matters relating to our daily care of your children.

Teachers will ensure that Home Learning is available by the Monday of each week. We hope that the children find their work exciting, that it keeps their minds growing and that they are all very well behaved for you, as they are for us! Social media is reporting that after one Day 2 of Home Learning, one parent is demanding a pay rise for teachers - we look forward to it!



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Statement from the Co-Chairs of the Governing Body

Today we say farewell to normal school operations for the spring term and wait to hear how the summer term will be affected. We are so grateful that the school will continue to provide for all our pupils over the coming weeks either in-school for children of key workers, or at home for those who will be home-schooled. This is now a time where we should do all we can to support each other, finding strength in unity and support as we seek the best for our pupils.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we'd like to thank the school – its senior leaders, teachers, TAs, support staff and parent community for their outstanding fortitude and determination to provide the best support and education for our pupils in this unprecedented time, where major changes are announced daily.

We will continue to be in touch as this situation evolves and develops. With best wishes,

Andrew Gunn and Malcolm McKinlay

I leave you with a message and a prayer from Father Jeff:

Dear Friends,

I have been moved and inspired by the resolve and resilience of people in the face of this pandemic and hugely heartened by the enhanced sense of commitment and compassion people are showing to each other. Please know that the St. Mary's Church community are praying for you all: Children, Parents, Carers, Our Senior Leadership team, Teachers, TAs, Administrators, Cleaners, Governors. As we fight the effects of this virus together, you may like to use the following prayer in the days ahead.

Blessings and best wishes

Jeff Hopkin Williams.
Vicar of St Mary's Twickenham.

May the healing power of Christ be with those who are suffering

May the reassuring peace of Christ be with those who are frightened

May the compassion of Christ be with those anxious for loved ones

May the arms of Christ embrace all those in anguish, pain or need

May the strengthening Spirit of Christ be with our doctors, nurses and carers

May the discernment of Christ inform those researching into a vaccine



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May the wisdom of Christ be with those making life changing decisions

May the resurrection power of Christ reach out to the dying

May the comforting power of Christ enfold those who are grieving

May the spirit of new life inspire those who are recovering

May the love of Christ fill our hearts with love for one another

And may the Blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Flow into our lives and the lives of all those for whom we pray.
Amen.

J.H.W. March 19th 2020.

Best wishes,

*Angela Abrahams
Headteacher*