



## St Mary's Church of England School

### Infants:

Amyand Park Road  
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### Middle:

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### Juniors:

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

### Return to school for pupils in Years 2-5

Plans for all England's primary children to return for a month before the summer break have been dropped by Education Secretary Gavin Williamson. We know parents and children will be deeply disappointed by this move, as are we.

Resources at school are currently stretched significantly due to year groups being split; we ask parents of the children attending, to keep in mind circumstances may change at any time and therefore flexibility, during the coming weeks, may be required.

Now that Google Classroom is up and running we understand from parents that it has reinvigorated the children. Teachers are really enjoying the comments they receive too. Can I please remind you that this facility is only for the children's comments, parents still have access to the year group email to ask any questions you have?

Thank you for the positive comments Google Classroom, we aim, as ever, to keep our processes under review.

### Diversity- Black Lives Matter

We have been warmed by the response to our work on diversity this week, especially Black Lives Matter. Thank you for having those challenging conversations with your child and for watching our Collective Worship. It is important that these conversations aren't just a one-off, but are kept alive.

There are many ways to do this and here are some examples:

1. Use the wealth of resources created to help you to keep those conversations going, here is just one: <https://www.timeout.com/new-york-kids/news/how-to-talk-about-race-justice-and-equality-with-your-children-060220>
2. Consider the literature you buy- including picture books that show positive images of ethnic minorities.  
Book list:
  - How to be an antiracist-Ibram X Kendi
  - All kinds of people- Emma Damon
  - Be who you are- Todd Parr
  - Chocolate me – Tay Diggs
  - Dark sky rising- Henry Louis Gates Jr (9-12 years)
  - To kill a mockingbird- Harper Lee (11 upwards)
3. Encourage your child to make friends with children that don't look like them.



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In the coming weeks our staff will be trained via a webinar, on the subject of '*unconscious bias*'. This is the agenda:

- Understand what unconscious bias is and how it impacts everyday decision-making
- Look at how biases originate in our brain and the science behind it
- Recognise the impact bias has on our decision making and behaviours, and the impact this can have on those around us (both in school and outside)
- Look at how to mitigate bias in order to make the school as inclusive as possible for staff and pupils

We look forward to sharing our learning with you over time.

### Summer Fair

They say the sun shines on the righteous, so get ready for the lovely weather to return in time for our virtual Summer Fair tomorrow. Just like the recent VE Day celebrations, we are hearing from families who are ready to string up the bunting once again, this time to enjoy a day of fun in support of our school. With an array of FREE online mini-workshops from our community's most talented art, drama, singing and dance providers, there's lots to get involved in. See Emily's recent newsletter to check out the workshops:

### Summer Reading Challenge

Silly Squad has been launched much earlier than usual, so it is now available with a virtual 'Let's Get Silly!' programme on the Summer Reading Challenge's Facebook page. It features special readings, family activities and draw-a-longs from guest celebrities and authors.

The Silly Squad digital platform ([www.sillysquad.org.uk](http://www.sillysquad.org.uk)), aimed at children aged 4 - 11, will be a celebration of fun and happiness featuring artwork from children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson. The website has a safe sign-up process, a personal profile area where children can set reading goals, review books, and see book recommendations and a forum to download and print activities. As children read books they will receive online rewards and unlockable content, and once they have reached their personal target they will be able to print their own certificate. Although children can set their own reading goals on the platform, Richmond Libraries encourage children in our borough to aim to read six books over the summer holidays. For this year's challenge children can include any books they have read, they do not need to be library books.

### Research on intake of fruit and vegetables for children aged 5-7

Chloë Bannerman is the Project Officer for the Public Health team at Richmond and Wandsworth Council. She is undertaking research around the intake of fruit and vegetables for children aged 5 to 7 years to inform and improve the work the Public Health team does on the Healthy Eating agenda. Please see the link below to find out how you can become involved.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FvBZi56qAWtPBs8QYBA8wM7P172CylE/view>

Best wishes for a lovely weekend and I hope you all enjoy the *fun of the fair!*



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Yours sincerely,

Angela Abrahams  
Headteacher

