



St Mary's CE Primary School  
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## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023, WEEK 4

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

#### National Storytelling Week

Next week it is National Storytelling Week. To promote our reading for pleasure ethos and encourage our children to read more broadly, we will end the week by running the Usborne Book Fair, on Thursday 2nd February (Infant Site) and Friday 3rd February (Middle Site). Details have been sent to you. Mr Cadman and I will enjoy reading stories to the Infant and Middle sites, whilst the junior site hears from storyteller Wendy Shearer.

#### Air-Up

During this week, in the true spirit of a democratic society I have listened to the alternative views of our junior pupils regarding Air-Up bottles. Through their comments in school council boxes and in their conversations had with class teachers, they have communicated their disappointment at the decision taken to ban the bottles at school.

It was unanimously agreed that we need to consider sensitively those without the bottles and reflect on the waste from the pods which cannot be recycled at school, they were able to effectively challenge the ban and put forward their opinions respectfully and confidently. They were a very persuasive group! I have heard them.

St Mary's has therefore performed a U-Turn with the following stipulations which all involved have agreed to:

- No fussing with bottles or showing them off.
- No pods to be changed during the school day - they need to take responsibility for loading their bottle before school.

If pupils break their word that individual child will be asked to keep their bottle at home. Through this process I think our pupils realise that we care about what they think and they understand that they can influence change.

#### Progression in Calculation videos

We know that mathematics methods to solve calculations have changed from when many parents/carers went to school. To further support the Progression in Calculations documents on our website (<https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/progression-of-skills/>), our Year 6 Mathletes have created two fantastic videos explaining and demonstrating the different ways different age groups solve addition and subtraction at St Mary's. We hope you find these helpful. A special 'well done' to our Mathletes for their excellent work. Mr Egan, Mathematics Lead. Click on these links to watch the videos:

[https://youtu.be/VSV\\_A8X6Pwk](https://youtu.be/VSV_A8X6Pwk) and  
<https://youtu.be/jjSDCQ4SFpU>.

#### Ofsted Parentview

We now have 81 entries out of 470 families, please log on to increase the response:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## Weekly attendance: w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Well done to Year 3 this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	8	97.27%
Year 1	13	95.67%
Year 2	3	96.11%
Year 3	0	98.33%
Year 4	5	97.17%
Year 5	0	95.81%
Year 6	5	97.54%
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>96.83%</b>

## OTHER NEWS

### Travelling to school safely

These last two weeks, our Year 6s have been completing their cycling proficiency, learning how to safely cycle on local roads. When children scoot or cycle to school, it is not only a healthy way to travel but it also helps protect our environment from the pollution created by vehicles. It is important, however, that when using these modes of transport, helmets are worn to protect against serious injury. Use of lights and high-visibility clothing are also advised when appropriate. We hope parents and carers can support this happening.

## How do I tackle the challenge of getting my children to stay safer while online?

In our modern world, there are constant challenges to keep children safe and happy on the internet. We should aim to encourage them to develop strategies to own and manage their online presence, understand how social media companies work and develop strategies for what to do should things go wrong. Parents/carers have the greatest potential influence on children's online behaviour. Please see the attached document for setting parental safeguards on your children's devices.

### Sports news

A good performance from our netball team this week only narrowly losing to Archdeacon in a hard-fought league game. Do check out Twitter (@twickstmarys) for a photo of our Year 4 hockey lesson today.

## FINALLY

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for filling us with love and kindness. Please help us to keep anger, jealousy and bitterness from our hearts. Please support us to forgive others, just like you forgive us when we make poor choices. We pray that, with your guidance, people all around the world will be brave enough to forgive those who have hurt them so that the world can live in peace. Amen.  
*Coco B and Haley T (6Z)*

Yours sincerely,



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