



St Mary's CE Primary School  
[www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)  
[info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Happy New Year to you all. I hope the Christmas break was a wonderful family time and restorative. The staff joins me in thanking you for your cards and gifts; we were really overwhelmed by your generosity.

School was a busy place during the break: some spaces on the middle site had new carpet and lights, the dead tree at risk of toppling over was cut down. Heating on the junior site was fixed once again - fingers crossed it stays warm for the rest of winter.

You will have seen lots in the news in recent weeks about the rise in infections resulting in a strain on the NHS in what has been described as the toughest winter it's dealt with. Professor Susan Hopkins, chief medical officer at the UK Health Security Agency, has recommended that simple precautions are taken to minimise the spread in school settings. Included in those, and in line with St Mary's policy, children with a fever or those who are presenting as unwell should not be brought to school. Staff at school who are simply feeling under the weather but are not unwell have been asked to wear a face covering; you may see this when you are at school; please don't be alarmed. We really are trying to keep the school fully staffed and open this winter.

### Outdoor Learning

In the coming weeks we will be announcing the order in which children across years 1 to 6 will attend our new provision (details for Reception children to follow later in the year). We are aiming to implement a plan that allows us to schedule 2 x 4-week sessions per class, per year. Your child's Tucasi account has been set up to show Outdoor Learning at a cost £20. However, it will allow you to pay in stages if that suits you best. You can also overpay if you wish to cover the second lot of

sessions in advance. Those children in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant will be paid for. If any other families are struggling to find the £20 x 2 please email me at [headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk). We don't want any children to miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

### Weekly Attendance table: w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	5	98.43%
Year 1	6	98.89%
Year 2	0	94.71%
Year 3	1	96.24%
Year 4	1	96.68%
Year 5	0	99.56%
Year 6	1	92.97%
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>96.74%</b>

A special mention to Year 5 for their excellent attendance and lates record this week (only 2 absences across the year group). Let's see if anyone can beat them next week.

### OTHER NEWS

#### Visit from the MP

Munira Wilson MP visited us this week to see the runner-up from the 'Whale Watcher' competition. The book the competition was based on was written by Dougie Poynter and highlights how every one of us can make a big difference in saving our planet; children across the nation were invited to design a dustbin and Natalie in Year 6 was shortlisted! Congratulations to her.

If your child is interested in finding out about ways to help save our planet, the Whale Watchers is a wonderful book to read, or to read to them. It provides some astonishing facts about the importance of whales to our ecosystem. You can find it [here](#).

### Date for the diary

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am Year 3 pupils, and other children from Year 3 upwards who are new to school, will attend the lovely Bible Service at St Mary's Church. This is where they are presented with a Bible by Father Jeff to use in school. The Trustees purchase the Bibles as a keepsake and the children take them home at the end of their time at our school. We thank them for such a special gift. Parents of the children involved are invited to join us.

### FINALLY

A reminder of our school Vision which drives all we do at St Mary's:

**Growing and learning together to be our best, inspired by Jesus' love.**

At St Mary's we balance excellence with compassion.

By offering the finest education, inspired by the love of Jesus Christ, we nurture our children to reach their full potential, celebrating their unique and special worth.

Care and compassion are at the heart of every child's learning, encouraging their capacity for reflective thought to make a more creative difference in our world. We strive for and celebrate excellence throughout the school

community, building our children's resilience to embrace the challenges of our age with confidence.

Our motto is Conemur – may we try together – striving to be our best, for ourselves, our community and our world.

***"True love shows itself in action" 1 John 3:18.***

### Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to forgive those that may have sinned,  
And when our hearts are full of hurt,  
When our patience is wearing thin,  
Help us to not be curt.

Amen

Cash S, Rosie A, Rose A, Vega G and Zaki M  
**5E**

This week's final word comes from the Archbishop of Canterbury who says 'Caring goes to the heart of what is human' and links nicely to our Vision. Read his message here: <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/caring-goes-heart-what-human-says-archbishop-canterbury-his-new-year>

Yours sincerely,



Angela Abrahams  
Headteacher  
[headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

