



St Mary's CE Primary School
www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk
info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY 24th March 2023, WEEK 5

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Parent Teacher meetings

It was lovely to see so many of you at parent meetings this week; thank you for working closely with us.

British Values

On Friday 31st March we invite your child to come in to school dressed in either red, white and blue or in their national dress to celebrate our School's growing diversity and British Values Day.

The Key British Values are:

- democracy.
- rule of law.
- individual liberty.
- mutual respect.
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Teachers are planning a range of activities to show the importance of these values to modern Britain and we hope the children will come home telling you all about what they have learnt.

Term dates 2024 – 25

These have now been approved by the governing body and are available to view via our website: <https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/term-dates/>

Our school calendar has been updated. Please ensure you have these dates to hand to avoid booking holidays in term time.

Applying for absence during term time

Whilst we very much discourage any time out of school, there are occasions when circumstances may be considered. We ask that applications are submitted using the absence form in the link below and returned to me via headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk.

This form is available via our website (<https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/school-policies>) underneath our Attendance and Punctuality Policy:

[St Mary's application for absence from school form](#)

End of term reminder

Our last day of term is Friday 31st March and school finishes one hour earlier on each site. Please ensure everything is taken home including lost property, scooters, bikes, lunch boxes etc. Thank you.

OTHER NEWS

School Meals

Whilst we await confirmation of the Mayor of London's plans for free school meals for the whole school, we have, unfortunately, been notified of a rise in costs from the caterers.

As has been the case in most sectors, the cost of supplies has risen for Caterlink and they are passing the cost on to all schools in the contract. Our current financial situation does not allow us to absorb these costs so we are left with little choice but to increase the cost of meals to £2.90 per day. This is in line with the increase in the cost to the school.

This will take effect from Monday 17th April which means that the weekly cost of meals will rise to £14.50 after the Easter holidays. Should you wish to pay for the whole half term then the cost will be £81.20, and the whole term will cost £179.80.

We appreciate that the timing of this is not great as many families are experiencing ever-increasing financial commitments but, regrettably, we are left with no alternative. Please rest assured that we will keep you up to date with any changes regarding the provision of free school meals for all children.

Message from the Eco Council

Please do your best to ensure your children have little single-use plastic and wrappers in their snacks and lunch to help our environment. Fruit is a waste free and healthy option and wraps and tubs can also store food. Thank you.

Red Nose Day

Thank you for your support last Friday. To date, we have raised £371. There's still time to donate: <https://donation.comicrelief.com/>

Governing Body News

Following the recent parent governor election, we are delighted to welcome Sarah Aarons to the governing body. Thank you to all those who put their names forward - it is a testament to the strength of our community that we had so many excellent candidates.

We would like to thank the outgoing parent governor, Malcolm Mckinlay, for his hard work over the past 4 years, particularly as co-chair of the governing body during the challenge of Covid. We would also like to thank Ollie Watkins for his support over the past year.

***** FoSM NEEDS YOU *****

With such a shortfall in school funding your help is needed more than ever to keep FoSM on tip-top form. Please consider offering up your services for one of the many exciting roles below. Our committee Chair, Anna, has divided the roles up so that they are less onerous for any one person.

The FoSM team are looking to expand with a number of roles and projects currently available. We know that most people can't commit to ongoing roles so by taking a project-by-project approach more often we're hoping that more people will be keen and able to get involved.

FoSM relies solely on the generosity and skills of parent volunteers, without whom we can't maintain the level of fundraising that the school and the children have become used to. Please do look at the below and if you think you can help or have any questions message me on here or WhatsApp on 07816 261987.

Cake Sale Lead: Type of role: Ongoing/12 month. Hours: Approx. 2-3hrs per term

Silent Auction Lead: Type of role: 3 months (ongoing if keen). Hours: Approx. 1-2hrs per week over the 3-month period

FoSM Website Redesign: Type of role: Ad hoc project. Hours: Approx. 6-8hrs

Summer Fair Committee: Type of role: 3 months only (no expectation to repeat role unless keen). Hours: Approx. 0.5-1hrs per week over the 3-month period, with more required the week ahead of the event (NB the date of the fair is yet to be set and the team will have the final say over this)

Quiz and Curry Night: Type of role: 1 month. Hours: TBC 1-2 hrs per week for 4 weeks ahead of the event.

Anna Chair FoSM
chair.fosm@googlemail.com

Weekly attendance: w/c 20th March 2023

Well done to Year 1 for reaching 'The Golden Goal'- the highest attendance this week and to Year 6 for the fewest lates!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	7	95.80%
Year 1	5	99.38%
Year 2	2	95.95%
Year 3	4	96.06%
Year 4	4	98.40
Year 5	3	96.80%
Year 6	1	95.71%
Whole School	26	96.89%

FINALLY

Prayer

Most Gracious God, be with the family, friends, pupils and colleagues of Ruth Perry in the shock and grief over their sudden loss. We pray to you, O God.

Yours sincerely



Angela Abrahams
Headteacher
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