



## St Mary's Church of England School

### Infants:

Amyand Park Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 3HE

T: 020 8892 5840

### Middle:

Strafford Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 3AD

T: 020 8249 6836

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### Juniors:

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T: 020 8892 7849

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E: [info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

[www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

Dear Parents,

### St Mary's Fund

As we start a new financial year and approach the end of another school year, we would like to give you an update on the funding situation at St Mary's school.

#### Financial pressure facing schools

As has been well documented in both local and national press, government funding has been cut for schools over recent years and this trend is likely to continue. As a high-performing school in an affluent area, we have been negatively impacted by the changes.

Along with the governors, we monitor our budget and expenditure very closely to maintain as stable a financial situation as possible. Like other schools, we have made efficiencies where possible to reduce the impact of decreasing funding. However, going forward – having received further cuts last financial year – we are having to look at other ways to overcome this shortfall to balance the budget. Measures include increased lettings, exploring local grants and setting up St Mary's Fund.

#### St Mary's unique situation

Our challenge is made even more difficult given our unique footprint. We are a Department for Education (DfE) funded school split across three sites. This means that we incur costs exceeding those by similar-sized schools based on one site. Amongst other things, we require administrative staff for three offices, lunchtime staff for 3 playgrounds, and staff to care for three different premises, as well as the associated utility costs for those sites. Whilst having multiple sites has advantages for our children from many social and developmental perspectives, from a cost perspective these additional expenses draw funds away – funds that would otherwise have been spent on extra resources.

Over the past four years we have been working closely alongside the local authority to strategically plan for this challenge in a bid to secure a solid platform and future for the school. However, in an environment of continuing cuts, offsetting this extra layer of expenses has become increasingly difficult. This year, along with the local authority, we have approached the DfE to see if they can help us address this issue, given our unique footprint. We have also spoken to local councillors as well as our local Member of Parliament in the hope that they are able take our cause to a higher level.

#### St Mary's Fund

This aside, we are appealing to parents to contribute to the school via St Mary's Fund. Since we first communicated this to parents, many have made very generous donations. This financial support is already helping to ease the impact that the funding constraints have put upon us.



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Our desire is that this momentum continues and we wanted to make sure all parents were aware of the current, and future, funding situation. Our families are a valued part of the school community, and ultimately a contribution to the fund is for your children and their future. Any donation is gratefully received and all of the money will go directly to support the pupils at St Mary's.

### How to give

We collect through the FOSM (PTA) account owing to their charitable status and eligibility to claim Gift Aid on all donations. The details of this account are:

**Account Name:** The Friends of St Mary's Church of England Primary School (Twickenham)

**Charity Commission Registered Number:** 1026779

**Account Number:** 63497417

**Sort Code:** 60-22-03

Whilst all money is extremely well received, regular donations give us much-needed visibility of our funding and help immensely with our future financial planning and stability going forward.

Recently, many parents have asked how much to give. We welcome any donation, no matter how small. But for example, £15 per month, per pupil, would bridge the gap between our current funding and our essential outgoings. £25 per month would not only balance our books, but allow us to further invest into the education of our children. [Here](#) is a short video showing what a difference the fund is making and could possibly make with further contributions.

### Your generosity

We appreciate that families give so generously in other ways to St Mary's. We are so lucky to have FoSM and such a supportive group of parents, already working so hard to raise funds – this will remain vital to the school's success. The St Mary's Fund is not to replace or reduce the efforts of FoSM, it is simply a more formal way of addressing our current financial challenge, and allowing those of you who wish to give more directly to support our children's future, the option to do so.

We have attached an FAQ sheet which we hope answers any immediate questions you might have. However, should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us via email or any of the school offices.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Abrahams  
Headteacher



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## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is St Mary's Fund?** St Mary's Fund is a fund that has been set up allowing parents to contribute monthly or give one-off donations, to help the school reduce its budget deficit in light of continued underfunding by government.

**Am I required to pay?** No – there is absolutely no requirement for any parent to pay in to St Mary's Fund, it is completely voluntary.

**Is there a minimum I can pay?** No – there is no minimum payment and all donations are very gratefully received.

**Is there a maximum I can pay?** No – we are always very grateful when parents make donations to the school. If some parents feel they wish to pay larger amounts then this would be of even greater help. We particularly value regular contributions which allow us to budget effectively.

**How much do you need?** We have calculated that if the majority of our 400 families donated between £15 and £25 per month, we could significantly reduce our deficit for this year and future years.

**How can I donate?** You can set up a standing order payment to FOSM, details below:

**Account Name:** The Friends of St Mary's Church of England Primary School (Twickenham)

**Charity Commission Registered Number:** 1026779

**Account Number:** 63497417

**Sort Code:** 60-22-03

Please label your standing order clearly with the reference **SMF and your surname** so it can be easily located. FOSM then transfer the donations into the school account. Thank you so much for your on-going support.

**I already donate through FOSM, why should I donate to the fund?** FOSM will continue to play a vital part in fundraising at St Mary's. The money they raise will largely be for specific projects whereas the fund will be used for other essential expenditure. Both benefit the children.

**What will the fund be used for?** The fund will help bridge the gap between our current funding shortfall and our necessary expenditure. Crucially, the money will not be ring-fenced so will be able to be used across all expenditure items according to the school's needs.

**Can the school claim Gift Aid on my donations?** Whilst the school cannot, FoSM have altered their charter to enable Gift Aid to be claimed on all donations. Once your standing order is set up, our School Business Manager will be in touch with a form that requires completing which will then allow Gift Aid to be claimed for all future donations, as well as any made since April 2018.



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**Would payment to the fund be in lieu of other voluntary contributions?** No – this fund is completely separate so we would still need parents to pay contributions towards trips, visits and workshops to ensure we can continue to offer exciting opportunities to further enrich the children's learning.

**I don't agree with this fund – shouldn't St Mary's be getting their money from the government?** Schools are increasingly having to source alternative streams of funding in order to meet rising costs, to ensure that current pupils are not at a disadvantage. Over recent years, funding per pupil has decreased to what we feel are unsustainable levels, whilst pension and national insurance contributions, as well as cost of living expenses such as utilities, have all increased. This shortfall between funding and expenditure is exacerbated by the extra costs we incur for being a multi-site school.

**If we donate, aren't we reducing the need for government to pay more?** In an ideal world, the government would be putting more in the overall education pot, however currently they aren't. The worry is that it is our children, today, who will feel the impact if we are unable to generate increased revenue.

**My workplace offers payroll giving or matched funding – is there any way I can use this for my contributions to the school?** Yes – we have attached a list of those firms who provide payroll giving options and/or matched funding. If yours is one of those, please do check their policy to see if your regular contributions to St Mary's Fund (via FOSM) are eligible. We also know that many firms match the funds raised for sporting events – for example a sponsored swim, walk or run – and that you can use FOSM as the registered charity for this.



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## Companies who offer Payroll Giving, Match Funding and/or Sponsorship

#	Commonwealth Bank of America	Lancashire Holdings
3i	Compass Group	Legal & General
3M	Credit Agricole	Lloyds Bank
<b>A</b>	Credit Suisse	<b>M-P</b>
Apple	<b>D-E</b>	Marks & Spencer
Asda	Dairy Crest	Mitchells & Butlers
Aviva	Deutsche Bank	Mondi
AA Group	Diageo	National Bank of Australia
Abbey	Disney	National Grid
<b>B</b>	EasyJet	NCC Group
BAE Systems	Elementis	Next
Barclays Bank	Essentra	Old Mutual
Barclays Capital	Experian	Pearson
Balfour Beatty	<b>F-H</b>	Persimmon
Barratt Developments	Fidelity	Prudential
Bank of America Merrill Lynch	First Group	<b>S</b>
BBA Aviation	Foreign & Colonial	Sage Group
BMO Global Asset Management	Galliford Try	Sainsbury
BNP Paribas	Goldman Sachs	Santander
British Airways	Henderson	Schroders
Berkeley Group Holdings	Howdens	Sab Miller
BG Group	HSBC	Societe Generale
Black Rock	Hyperiom	Sky
BP	<b>I-L</b>	Standard Chartered
Booker Group	IG Group	Standard Life
Brewin Dolphin	ING Bank	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp
BT Group	Intermediate Capital Group	<b>T-Z</b>
Burberry Group	IP Group	Travis Perkins
Bank of China Limited	Intercontinental Hotels Group	Tesco
<b>C</b>	Investec	Tui
Clarksons	Jardine Lloyd Thompson	Unilever
Citigroup	John Laing	United Utilities
Cobham	JP Morgan Chase	Vodafone
Coca Cola	Johnson Matthey	Whitbread
Commerzbank	Kier Group	Wells Fargo