



St Mary's CE Primary School
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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2023, WEEK 2

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It's been another lovely week and the children have slipped right back into routines. Our new Reception children enjoyed school lunch for the first time and we've never seen so many clean plates on the first day – well done to them.

With many more children taking up the offer of free school lunches our halls are abuzz. We'll carry out a survey later in the term to see what they think of them.

Twitter

As you know we have constantly updated Twitter with the news of school events each week.

Unfortunately, when it changed over to X, access to St Mary's Twitter feed through our website meant you saw our posts in popularity order rather than chronological order.

We are working to find a way to get new posts to you which is likely to be through Instagram, but, in the meantime, if you log on to a Twitter account you will still see the posts as they were before.

Healthy Eating Suggestions

We wanted to provide clarity on what is and is not permitted at school for mid-morning snacks and packed lunches. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 receive fruit for a morning snack at no cost to parents; children in Years 3-6 may bring in a small snack should they wish.

Our Healthy Eating Guidance document provides information on what is allowed.

Children having hot school lunches will sometimes get a low-sugar biscuit or cake for dessert; as such, we agreed those not having school lunches could have a 'Friday treat' as part of their packed lunch. What is acceptable

is included in our Healthy Snacks and Packed Lunches page: <https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/school-meals-and-snacks/>

OTHER NEWS

Willow Wood

Willow Wood starts back next week with children in Years 3 and 4. All children will have 2 blocks of 4 weekly sessions this year with our skilled professional Kevin, and what fun they are in for: opportunities to learn outside and connect with nature in tailored workshops.

Kevin has asked me to reach out to you to see if you can help with some resources; it's quite a list!

- small metal barbecues- not too big and not gas
- metal cooking trays
- bulbs /plants such as daffodils /primroses
- wood which he could collect
- 1-pint plastic milk cartons
- metal skewers, spatulas, tongs, oven gloves
- toilet paper rolls (the cardboard sleeve)
- yoghurt pots
- rope (different thicknesses and lengths)
- small metal tobacco tins
- old beach towels

Anything you have to donate can be dropped at the junior site, thank you.

Weekly attendance: w/c 11th September 2023

Well done to *Reception* for reaching 'The Golden Goal' for the highest attendance and to Years 2 and 5 who had the fewest number of lates this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	1	99.13%
Year 1	8	97.83%
Year 2	0	99.00%
Year 3	3	97.43%
Year 4	4	98.40%
Year 5	0	98.87%
Year 6	1	98.87%
Whole School	17	98.50%

Dates for 2023-24 - REMINDER

Here is the link to our dates for the next academic year:

<https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/calendar/>

Please find attached to this newsletter a three-page document called "Dates for parents Summary".

This year, you will be able to view these as a monthly calendar too. The tab is called "PDF Monthly". We encourage you to subscribe to our calendar so that you can download all the dates to your devices. Please note that some need to be confirmed and that these dates start from September 2023 until July 2024 so it's important that you make a note of the ones relevant to you and your child/ren throughout the academic year. Reminders will, of course, be sent to you via your weekly newsletter from teaching staff.

Cargo Bike Rides

The council's cargo bike hire scheme was recently extended to Twickenham (www.ourbike.co.uk). Officers will run a pop-up event on the **Middle Site playground on Monday 25th September** at pick up time where parents will have the opportunity to try riding a cargo bike in a safe environment (some examples are in the photo). Officers will also have information on the Try Before You Bike scheme, also supported by the council.



FINALLY

Safeguarding

After attending training this week on the new guidance on filtering and monitoring from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, I want to share a good source of advice. This link takes you to help on deciding which games are appropriate for your child's age: <https://www.uswitch.com/broadband/studies/parents-guide-to-gaming/>

Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for all the things you give to us. Thank you for water, food and a safe and happy home to live in. We pray that people who are struggling in the world can have enough supplies to live on. We pray that you give our school hope and resilience and help us strive in everything we do. Amen *Martha 50*

Yours sincerely

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