



St Mary's CE Primary School
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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY 24th November 2023, WEEK 4

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Thank you to the parents who came to the presentation about our school improvement priorities last night. Following the meeting, we will send out an update about the St Mary's Fund; please spare a few minutes to read this really important information about the future of St Mary's - this is your child's school and you need to know what challenges we face so we can work together to reduce the impact of them. Thank you.

Our SIAMs inspection on Friday 1st December

Please read the letter sent to you earlier today regarding our SIAMs inspection next Friday.

OTHER NEWS

Young Carers

St Mary's is working closely with Richmond Young Carers Service to improve support within our school for young carers.

At St Mary's, we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring (unpaid) for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Research suggests there are at least 700,000 young carers in the UK but many do not realise they are a young carer.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At St Mary's we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively.

If you think your child might be a young carer, or could be affected by any of the issues we've highlighted, please contact Ruth Knight on senco@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk or via 0208 892 5840.

Any information that is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

Sporting Success

Last Friday, both our boys and girls football teams secured convincing victories over Marshgate Primary. On Wednesday, our girls football team were unlucky to lose in extra time in the borough semi-final – out of 36 schools, quite some achievement. Today, our cross country team were brilliant running the 2km borough race – particular mention to Sienna in Year 6 who came third out of 116 runners.

Fund raising reminders!

Santa Stroll in aid of the Princess Alice Hospice

Calling all children, parents and staff, please join us on Saturday 9th December 2023 at 9.30am for a stroll around Twickenham. The suggested walk will take roughly an hour. Our walk will start from the junior site.

Santa hats and maps will be provided for the stroll and a suggested donation of £10 per family for The Princess Alice Hospice would be much appreciated.

Please click on the link to sign up:
<https://forms.gle/q51dtWub5Ah372d99>

To donate please visit:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-c-ofe-primary-school-1696847473531>

Movember Fundraising

It is coming to the end of November and many of the St Mary's staff are sporting a moustache or are very tired from their exercise challenge. If you would like to donate to support us, please use the link below.

<https://movember.com/t/st-mary-s-twickenham?mc=1>

A message to all families from Father Jeff

It has been marvellous seeing the children during my visits to the school and their visits to the church this term. Children are an important part of our church community and we would love to welcome all school families to come along and see what our church can offer young people and their carers.

Mondays 9.30-11.15am - Minnows

A group for parents and carers of children aged 0-4. Join us for a relaxed time to chat over refreshments, with playtime and singing, and a thought for the week.

We'll meet every Monday this term until 18th December except 11 December, and next term from 15th January onwards.

All are welcome so do encourage partners / grandparents / other carers to come along if your little one spends Mondays with them. No booking required! Please contact Sarah Waller on minnows@stmarytwick.org.uk for more info. £3 suggested donation per family, including refreshments.

During our 9.30am Sunday services

Our Sunday school (age 3 upwards) is a relaxed and fun setting, with a Bible story, prayer, crafts, some acting out or games for the little ones to help stories come to life, and open discussions for older children. This runs every Sunday during term-time (except third Sundays when children join the whole service in church). You are welcome to come to the church hall for 9.25am to be directed to your age appropriate group. Parents then go across for the service where their children will join them for Communion. A parent of children in the youngest group is welcome to stay with them during Sunday school if they wish. For more information please email sundayschool@stmarytwick.org.uk.

Children are also welcome in church for the full service - there's an activity table with plenty of colouring, jigsaws and books, and you are welcome to take youngsters into the vestry and use the toys provided if distraction is needed at any time during the service. After the service, children enjoy free play in the courtyard by the hall, while parents chat over coffee - please do come across for this relaxed chance to get to know other families. You can find out more about St Mary's and its families here:

<https://www.stmarytwick.org.uk/children>

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our Christmas services.

Christmas Christingle Service

St Mary's School families are very welcome at St Mary's church special Christingle service on Sunday 10th December at 4 pm. We celebrate Jesus Christ as the Light of the World - and also aim to support children in need through The Children's Society. All children will receive a special Christingle orange during the service to light up and take home. Children may want to ring their own donations to the Society, and parents and carers can contribute in cash or by card.

It would be lovely to see you at this fun service!

- Sunday 17th December - 9.30am
Nativity Eucharist - 6pm Christmas Carol Service
- CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday 24th
December - 9.30am Eucharist -
3.30pm and 4.30pm Crib Services -
11pm Midnight Mass
- CHRISTMAS DAY, Monday 25th
December - 10am Festival
Eucharist and carols

It would be marvellous to welcome you and I very much hope families will be encouraged to come and see St Mary's church in action.

Blessings and best wishes, *Father Jeff*

Silent Auction

A reminder that the Silent Auction closes on Tuesday 28th November at 10.00pm, so it's time to get bidding! We've had a huge amount of interest so far, but there are still a few bargains to be found... artworks, dental vouchers, acupuncture, great days out and even some hair and beauty vouchers! This a really important fundraiser, and all proceeds go to fund our school, so please be generous – we can't do this without you!

<https://app.galabid.com/st-marys-auction2023/items>



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela'.

Angela Abrahams
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