



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

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: SUNDAY 10th March 2024, WEEK 3

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Thank you to those who reached out to us to offer condolences after the tragic death of Poppy. As often happens when people are unsure of the circumstances, there follows lots of speculation which has no purpose other than to cause greater heartache to the family. Rumours have also had an impact on some of our Year 6 children who now sadly believe their chosen secondary school is a scary place to be. I urge you to quash rumours and to avoid any talk in front of the children - this is the best way we can support the family at this time.

Weekly attendance: w/c 4th March 2024

Well done to Year 2 for reaching 'The Golden Goal' - for the highest attendance and to Year 3 for no lates this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	2	96.47%
Year 1	13	95.43%
Year 2	1	99.14%
Year 3	0	97.41%
Year 4	5	97.54%
Year 5	3	95.45%
Year 6	5	98.64%
Whole School	29	97.19%

OTHER NEWS

Volunteer readers

If you have some regular time on your hands and would like to put it to great use we have a job for you – please come and volunteer to help our children learn to become better readers; training provided. Please get in touch if you are interested: headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk

Holiday requests

As we approach the Easter break I wanted to update you on the number of holiday requests we have received this year. **53** holiday absence requests have been received since September 2023 with a total of **349** missed sessions which equal **174.5** school days.

The only "authorised" holidays this year have been in Reception as some pupils were not yet 5 years old (statutory school age). Please remember that holidays cannot be deemed "exceptional circumstances"; in fact, the authorised holiday code has now been withdrawn from use by the Department of Education such is their commitment to reducing holidays during term time.

We send our term dates out well in advance to allow you to book around them. Please read our Attendance & Punctuality Policy available via the link below:

<https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Attendance-and-Punctuality-policy-2022-23.doc.pdf>

Please remember that we do not authorise absences two days before or two days after a half term or term holiday without medical/other evidence. Thank you for your support.

Big Battery Hunt – Battery Recycling Initiative

We have recently signed up to a new nationwide recycling challenge run by Duracell Batteries which is aimed at inspiring primary school aged pupils and their parents to increase the number of batteries currently being recycled in the UK. We need your help! Our challenge is to collect as many batteries as we can! There will be a prize for the school that collects the most batteries by the competition deadline of 12th June 2024 so dig out your old and unwanted batteries and hand them in to either the infant, middle or junior site reception where there will be designated 'battery recycling boxes'. You can find out more by visiting www.bigbatteryhunt.co.uk.

Parent Teacher Consultations reminder

A reminder that school finishes ONE hour earlier on both Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March on each site. School run clubs will run as normal but finish one hour earlier on both Wednesday and Thursday.

Red Nose Day/Comic Relief

On Friday 15th March we encourage everyone to wear something red and learn a joke - it's all about doing something funny for money!

Here is the link to our Just giving page.
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd24-st-marys-church-of-england-primary-school-c8b031e2-600d-47e7-ba70->

FINALLY

St Mary's Church, Mothering Sunday 10th March 2024

Eucharists will be celebrated at **8 am** and **9.30 am**

For those who have lost loved ones

May you see God's light on the path ahead
When the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear,
Even in your hour of sorrow,
The gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness
Never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember
when the shadows fall,
You do not walk alone.

Yours sincerely



Angela Abrahams
Headteacher
headteacher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk