



St Mary's CE Primary School  
[www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)  
[info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024, WEEK 6

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

##### Headteacher

What a triumph last weekend's Christmas Fair was; the wet and windy weather didn't put you off and there was a constant stream and cheery buzz about the place all day. Thank you for all your support.

Having to re-organise the fair inside at short notice proved to be a blessing and was in fact a complete success! We will keep it inside for future Christmas Fairs. The amount we raised was in the region of £8,500 which is just incredible.

We are so grateful to everyone who made it happen, including Anna Miley (our Emeritus Chair of FoSM) who looked remarkably involved for someone who has retired 😊.

##### Junior Site Carol Service

We very much look forward to our two Carol Services on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Please remember all junior site children are expected at both services in full school uniform - it is hugely disappointing for those that come along when there are gaps in their class. Thank you for supporting the children at this special time of year.

##### Cycle Lane

Many of you have asked about the cycle lane outside the Infant Site, especially as we were expecting it to be completed by the end of November. I understand they are waiting on additional resurfacing materials which are due after Christmas.

#### Weekly attendance: w/c 9th December

Well done to Year 5 for reaching 'The Golden Goal' for the highest attendance and also to Year 1 for the least lates this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	3	90.76%
Year 1	2	96.81%
Year 2	6	94.13%
Year 3	5	96.04%
Year 4	4	95.09%
Year 5	8	97.90%
Year 6	7	94.94%
Whole School	35	95.16%

#### OTHER NEWS

##### Christmas resources

Beacon House have published a brilliant collection of resources specially designed by their therapists to support regulation, connection and rest during December. Take a look here:

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/winter-resources/>

##### Sing-a-long a Christmas garden trail until 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Celebrate Christmas at Strawberry Hill House and Garden.

[Click here](#) to view flyer.

##### Increase in short-sightedness in children

Research suggests that the global prevalence of short sightedness (myopia) is increasing. It is now twice as common as it was 50 years ago and children are becoming short-sighted at a younger age. Yet, over 20% of parents have never taken their children for an eye test.

The Royal College of Optometrists recommend that to prevent short-sightedness from getting worse in children, those aged 5 to 12 should spend at least two hours a day outside, minimise screen time and when using a screen it should be no less than 30cm in front of their face. They also recommend that parents/carers access free eye tests at an optician.

[Click here](#) to read more.

### **Norovirus cases on the increase**

Norovirus, commonly known as the 'winter vomiting bug' (although it can strike at any time of year), is a stomach bug that causes sickness and diarrhoea. Cases typically increase through autumn and into winter, but this year cases have risen earlier than usual and are expected to continue to increase. See [UKHSA Agency blog](#).

Norovirus is able to spread easily through communities and so outbreaks are common in settings where individuals have close contact such as schools and nurseries.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Zip card applications now open**

TfL have reopened applications for Zip photocards after the recent cyber attack.

You can now apply for Zip photocards for ages 5-10, 11-15 and 16+ at [Free and discounted travel](#)

TfL services will continue to accept expired aged 5-10 and 11-15 Zip photocards until 31 December 2024. After that date customers will need a valid pass.

Please make sure you apply in time as the Post Office is often busier around Christmas. The last posting date is 18 December.

### **Last day of term reminders – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Just a reminder that school ends one hour earlier than normal on each of our three sites on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. This allows staff to begin preparing for the new term.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> the children will be entertained by the staff in their annual Panto; there will be no Celebration Assembly for the Junior Site that day.

### **Attendance reminder**

I would like to remind you that we are unable to authorise absences on the last two days of a half/whole term or two days at the beginning of each half/whole term without evidence of illness/changed travel plans etc. A copy of the letter sent to parents on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 is attached to this newsletter for reference and you can read our Attendance & Punctuality policy via our website here: <https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Attendance-and-Punctuality-policy-2024-25-September-2024.pdf>. Thank you for your support.

### **School Run Clubs**

With the exception of junior site table tennis, there are still places in all other school run clubs. If you would like to sign your child/ren up, please login to Tucasi.

### **Weekly School Social Media Posts**

On Tuesday this week, Year 6 travelled back in time to Ancient Greece with the support of History Off the Page. They made wax tablets, visited an apothecary and performed in their own amphitheatre. A great way to help them answer their enquiry on the Ancient Greek legacy. Thank you to those parents who helped on the day.



## FINALLY

### Prayer

Dear God, I am thankful that there is always someone to feed me delicious meals and clean the school. I am so grateful for the warm home you blessed me with. Please pray for those struggling with sickness, may they find comfort and strength. We pray for endurance through our assessments and friendship for any new students struggling to make friends. Amen. *Calli S 6N*

### Reminders:

#### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

2:00pm and 6:30pm - Junior Carol Service  
(years 4 - 6 at St Mary's Church).

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Infant Site Christmas lunch  
2:30pm - Year 2 Great Work (middle site hall)

#### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Middle Site Christmas lunch  
3:15pm – Year 5 Great Work (junior site hall)

#### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Junior Site Christmas lunch

#### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Christmas Jumper Day  
Whole school assembly (staff pantomime)  
Last day of Autumn Term  
(school closes one hour earlier)

Your sincerely



Angela Abrahams  
Headteacher

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