



## St Mary's Church of England School

### Infants:

Amyand Park Road  
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T: 0208 892 5840

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### Middle:

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### Juniors:

Richmond Road  
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TW1 3BA

T: 0208 892 7849

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

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents,

The end of another year; in my final newsletter I always try to sum up the year with some of the highlights. That isn't to say every day, week, month and term is perfect at St Mary's, but we do strive to create a happy, inspiring and fun-filled education for your child and fortunately the challenging days are few.

So, what can we look back on with pride?

### Budget

It may seem odd to begin the newsletter with this paragraph but we are hugely relieved to once again report we have been able to just about balance our school budget. Schools become incredibly vulnerable when they go into the red; you may have seen the news this week about threats of school closures. Our budget position isn't because we are properly funded, far from it; it is because of you, the parents. The St Mary's Fund, FoSM events such as cake sales, fairs, quizzes and uniform sales literally keep us going - this is **not** an exaggeration. With schools all around us going into a deficit, we are so grateful to you for keeping us afloat. So, whether you work closely within FoSM, regularly donate to our St Mary's Fund, spend your money at events or contribute to all of these - thank you.

### Academic Success

Last week, school performance data was published nationally for Key Stage 2 (Year 6) outcomes. Once again, we are incredibly proud of the achievements of our children and their teachers. Despite in recent years our demographic changing significantly, we have sustained the high bar we have set ourselves for some time now at St Mary's. Full results can be found on our website (and the following link) but we are pleased to share that in all areas (English, maths and Year 1 phonics) we were graded as 'significantly above the national average' and in most cases, performing in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles nationally. <https://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk/school-results/>

### Events

Successful residentials, numerous exciting visits and visitors, sporting achievements, a stimulating curriculum that we keep tweaking to keep it current and of excellent quality, joyful class assemblies and heavenly Church Services all help to enrich your child's experience here. Our children tell us they are happy - 95% of our junior pupils (year 3-6) said they look forward to going to school and 95% of our children agree that they learn a lot at school - phew! Anything over 80% is seen as excellent results!



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### Charitable Fundraising

We have raised thousands of pounds for numerous charities and school-based projects like the playground works: the year up to July was £11,822 and this academic year so far has been £3,520. Your generosity is incredible.

### Attendance

With a sharp focus on attendance this year, including working closely with families and the Local Authority, we are proud to be first out of 44 Richmond schools for attendance. Being in first position was not our ambition, but ensuring children are in school as much as possible to benefit from education was. Thank you for hearing our pleas not to take holidays during term time and to get your children into school on time; it really makes a difference to your child.

### Reaching beyond St Mary's

After an outstanding Ofsted inspection last year, we were determined to reach out and make a difference beyond St Mary's. Both Mr Cadman and I support the LDBS (London Diocesan Board for Schools) in various ways. Mr Cadman trains senior teachers through the NPQLT (National Professional Qualification for Lead Teachers) and I continue to be the Primary Adviser for 12 inner-city schools. In addition, many of our teachers mentor Early Career Teachers (ECTs) here or are mentors for trainee teachers from both St Mary's University and the LDBS SCITT. We feel that in this way we are having an impact on the future of education as well as bringing back excellent professional development and practice to St Mary's. It is a win-win.

### And even further...

This year, we are supporting Connected Planet Foundation's work in the Maasai Mara, Kenya and will be partnering with pupils at Semadep School to share stories, cultures and understand about their wildlife heritage.

It is a fantastic opportunity for us to support community-focused conservation efforts in the Mara. Any fundraising we do allows the children of Semadep School to build a connection to nature that will last a lifetime. We will keep you updated on the project as the year progresses.

### Next year

With our 380<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations just around the corner, we want to let you know of some dates to get the party started. Year Group discos will take place at the end of the school day (within school hours and not changing pick-up times) on the following dates:



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Reception	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 1	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 2	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 3	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 4	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 5	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 6	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2025

More information will be shared about events soon.

### To end

To end with I want to share with you the words I received in a Christmas card last week:

*To Mrs Abrahams,*

*I love all our assemblies, thank you for the lovely outings you let us do. I hope your Christmas is wonderful. Merry Christmas. Jesus was born to tell everybody to be kind, helpful, peaceful and loving to everybody.*

*Love from Isabelle in Poplars*

Amen to that.

The staff joins me in thanking you for your generous cards and gifts and we wish you and your family a joyful and peaceful Christmas, filled with love and blessings. May this season bring hope and happiness to all in our school community.

A final message from St Mary's 😊: <https://youtu.be/j5jGV2RD3Ow?feature=shared>

Your sincerely

Angela Abrahams  
Headteacher

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