



St Mary's CE Primary School  
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**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025, WEEK 3**

**FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

Parents, thank you for attending meetings with your child's class teacher this week; I hope you found them informative. If you did not manage to see the teacher this week please make an appointment via the school office. At the mid-way point of the year we really want you to know how your child is doing.

**A sporting star in our midst**

Those on the middle site will be very familiar with Mr Booth, the teaching assistant in Year 2. Well here he is as you've never seen him before (he's the one near the top with someone on his head!):

**Richmond Gymnasts to represent Great Britain at European Championships**



Mr Booth trains 6 days a week after his day job at St Mary's and he and his team have secured their place representing Great Britain in the European championships; we are so proud of him. Watch this space to find out how they do.

**Weekly attendance: w/c 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Well done to Year 1 for reaching 'The Golden Goal' for the highest attendance and to Year 3 for the fewest lates this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	5	91.16%
Year 1	5	98.61%
Year 2	4	96.20%

Year 3	1	97.25%
Year 4	2	98.60%
Year 5	3	96.81%
Year 6	3	95.24%
Whole School	23	96.33%

**OTHER NEWS**

**Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel**

We are taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event. We know it may be more difficult for some to take part than others but we hope this opportunity encourages the whole school community to be active and healthy on their journey to school and home (for those that drive, Park and Stride is one way to be healthy and active).

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school and that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels.

**Bird boxes- from Kevin**

The bird boxes in use last year have been cleaned out ready for spring and the great news is that all of them had a nesting pair in them- a big THANK YOU from our little bird friends for providing a safe and warm place to rear their chicks - and a big thank you from me too!

If anyone would like to sponsor a bird box in 2025 please email Mr Minty at [sminty@stmarys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:sminty@stmarys.richmond.sch.uk). Boxes are £20 each and your child will be told which special box is theirs. In preparation for spring

the boxes have a handful of clean hay inside, which helps the birds keep warm as a few will return over the winter months to roost inside, especially in cold weather; it also gives the new arrivals in spring something to start their new nest with.

### Message From Miss Turner

This half term, every class has been participating in a squat challenge to promote physical activity in children's everyday lives. The challenge is to see which class can do the most squats by the end of term. The results will be announced in celebration assembly the week beginning 31st March. These are the results so far - keep squatting everyone!

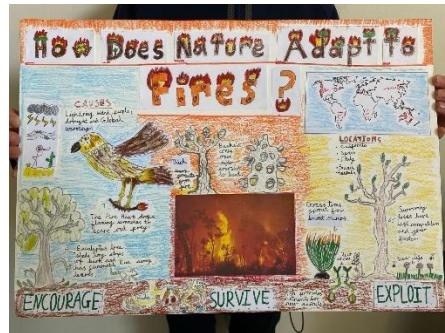
Infant Site	
1 <sup>st</sup> Nightingales	332
2 <sup>nd</sup> Blackbirds	276
3 <sup>rd</sup> Doves	250
4 <sup>th</sup> Robins	230
5 <sup>th</sup> Kingfishers	223
6 <sup>th</sup> Puffins	195

Middle Site	
1 <sup>st</sup> Poplars	958
2 <sup>nd</sup> Junipers	580
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oaks	543
4 <sup>th</sup> Maples	490
5 <sup>th</sup> Sycamores	330
6 <sup>th</sup> Willows	175

Junior Site	
1 <sup>st</sup> 6N	1505
2 <sup>nd</sup> 4H	580
3 <sup>rd</sup> 6K	472
4 <sup>th</sup> 5F	460
5 <sup>th</sup> 6C	272
6 <sup>th</sup> 4W	265
7 <sup>th</sup> 5A	245
8 <sup>th</sup> 4M	210
9 <sup>th</sup> 5M	135

### Weekly School Social Media Posts

St Mary's celebrated British Science Week with inspiring parent guest speakers, a popular poster competition, and engaging lessons on the theme of 'Change and Adapt'. It was a week full of creativity, learning and scientific discovery. Thank you to all those involved!



### A message from FoSM

Hello St Mary's parents!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as the new Chair of the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM). My name is Phillipa Straker-Nesbit (commonly known as Philly). My husband Jamie and I have one boy and one girl - Ted in Year 4 and Tilly in Year 3. We are all BIG fans of the school.

Together with my amazing Deputy Chair of FOSM, Sarah McLachlan, (or Vice-Captain as I prefer to think of her) we look forward to serving you all and the school.

Our main aims are three-fold:

**1) Community** - We want to bring the St Mary's community together, so families can connect and people can feel welcomed and supported. A happy, vibrant community and new friends can make our lives better!

**2) Fundraising** - We want to help FOSM and the St Mary's Fund make as much money as possible to maximize the school's facilities and provisions to enrich our children's school experience and education. All contributions make a difference and it's so easy for us to achieve if we all contribute where we can and work together.

**3) Events and parties!** - We are so lucky to already have some amazing School and FOSM led events, so we will be continuing these, and working to improve where possible to ensure maximum attendance and optimum results for the school wallet!

I'd love to get to know as many people in the St Mary's community as possible, so please do come and say hello if you see me - although I'm often to be seen whizzing along on my bike - so perhaps just a nod and a wave! If you have any bright ideas for helping us in our aims, please get in touch with me on the email below. We welcome input from our community.

For context, here's a photo of me (on Ted's first day in Reception and before Tilly even started!)



.... I'm delighted to say I have hardly ANY more wrinkles today!

Best wishes, Philly x

Phillipa Straker-Nesbit

Chair of Friends Of St Mary's  
[chair.fosm@googlemail.com](mailto:chair.fosm@googlemail.com)

## FINALLY

### Prayer

Dear God, I am thankful for the lunch ladies who make us our food every day. I am also thankful for our teachers who take care of us and our friends who I get to play with at break and lunch. I am hopeful for peace and that I can learn more. I am also hopeful that my loved ones will be healthy. I am thankful for the resources that our school provides us with.  
Amen. *Aurelia W 6KG*

### Reminders:

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
Comic Relief Day

**w/c 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
Last week of school run clubs

**w/c 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel 2025

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
FoSM Quiz & Curry Night 7 – 11pm, middle site

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
Easter service, led by Year 5

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**  
Last day of spring term, school finishes one hour earlier

Your sincerely

Angela Abrahams  
Headteacher  
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