



NEWSLETTER: 26th NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Parents

School Council

For those parents who are not aware of the role of our School Councillors, one child from each class is elected by their peers to represent their class. The children are invited to pass on their ideas on how to improve the ethos of the school through their Councillors. The Councillors meet approximately once every half term to discuss ideas and any matters arising are discussed with the class before decisions are taken. The children relish their roles as Councillors and there is no shortage of subject to talk about.

Recently our School Councillors sent all parents an email informing them of their decision not to send Christmas Cards this year. As a school we are hoping that money you might have spent on Christmas cards will be donated to the children of Haiti.

- Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Unemployment rates are between 65-75% with a minimum wage of only \$1.50 per day.
- Currently 4,000 to 6,000 infants are born HIV-positive in Haiti. Approximately 30,000 Haitians died last year of AIDS-related causes. 74 out of each 1,000 live births die before their first birthday.
- More than one-third of school-aged children do not have the chance to attend school. In many areas the schools have no chairs or desks and students must sit on bare ground. Some 500,000 girls and boys are out of school and some 300,000 children live in domestic servitude.

There will be collection boxes on each site every Monday morning until the end of term from 30th November. Please give generously and I look forward to letting you know how much money we are able to send to the children of Haiti this Christmas.

Scooters and Bikes

I would like to remind children that they should dismount their scooters or bikes as soon as they arrive at the school gates (Infants and Juniors) to avoid the danger of collisions and accidents involving other children or adults. Thank you

Medical

I would like to remind parents of our policy regarding sick children.

A Classroom Assistant with a First Aid qualification is always on hand on both sites to look after any pupils who may need attention.

To protect both pupils and staff from the spread of infection, parents are asked to keep a sick child at home until he or she has recovered. For example, a child who has been given antibiotics should be kept away from school for at least the first 48 hours of treatment. A child who has been sick should be clear of vomiting or diarrhoea for at least 48 hours before returning to school. As a general rule, a child who is not well enough to be in the playground should not be at school.

Please note that pupils are not covered by insurance for personal accidents whilst at school and we do not have a nurse on site. *Please refer to the "Absence and Sickness Policy" on the school website www.st-marys.richmond.sch.uk*

ParentMail Questionnaire

Thank you for returning this Questionnaire. 38% of parents responded as follows:

- 92% feel well informed by the school
- 90% did not wish to receive permission slips via email
- 86% of parents (who had received one or more) found the text messaging service useful
- 81% found the calendar reminders useful
- 71% appreciated receiving correspondence from the school at home and work
- 67 % check their emails every day
- 98% agreed with "FOSM Friday"

Please note that all emails sent by the school are always relevant to you or your child. We send emails to parents as required and to specific groups when appropriate. If we send an email to the whole school, you will only receive one email even if you have more than one child in the school. In future, Calendar reminders for the week will be sent out on a Monday.

ShelterBoxes

Following our magnificent Harvest collection which enabled Twickenham Rotary Club to sponsor two ShelterBoxes, we have heard that these have been tracked to Manila in the Philippines.

Met Track – a message from PC John McGann

Met Track is a Metropolitan Police initiative with British Athletics to get more children into sport.

It is aimed at the 10-17 year old age bracket (poster on junior notice board) and so will be suitable for years 5 & 6. Training takes place every Wednesday evening between 4.30pm and 6pm on the athletics track at St Mary's University, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham and is absolutely FREE.

If you are interested or have any queries, please contact John:

John McGann PC 509TW
West Twickenham Safer Neighbourhood Team,
Twickenham Police Station,
41 London Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex. TW1 3SY

Tel: 07977 116790
email: john.mcgann@met.police.uk

Dates for November/December – Reminder

10 th December	VARSAITY MATCH. School closes early: 2.30 pm Infant Site, 2.45 pm Junior Site
14 th December	Junior Carol Service St Mary's Church 7 pm (All welcome)
15 th December	Swifts Parent/Teacher Consultations: 1.30 pm onwards
18 th December	Last day of autumn term. School finishes an hour early 2.10 pm Infant Site 2.30 pm Junior Site
4 th January 2010	First day of spring term

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell
Head Teacher
26th November 2009



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

St Mary's CE School is a member of the RFU Education Partnership