



## **NEWSLETTER: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Dear Parents

### **Parent Teacher Consultations Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

You will have received letters offering you the chance to meet with your class teacher via your child. Please ensure that you child/ren are collected on both days at 2.00/2.15 pm.

### **Quiz club 2010**

Just before half term every pupil in the juniors pit their wits and general knowledge against each other in a classroom quiz. Claudia Bridge, Ethan Newton, Erasmus Kahane and Steven Osgood then went on to represent St Mary's at the regional quiz held at Hampton Hill Juniors. The children acquitted themselves well and really enjoyed the experience. Claudia Bridge remarked "It was great fun and I enjoyed taking part". Well done to all those children and thank you to Mrs Turner for accompanying the children.

### **Staffing News**

Pauline Mullany will be leaving St Mary's at the end of the Spring term to take up a post in Oakland's Special school. We wish Mrs Mullany all the best for the future. Our new SENCO will be Caroline Walker who is coming from a school in Northolt. We have employed a new SEG Lead Teacher for the infant site; her name is Ishara Taliwanth. We look forward to welcoming them both to St Mary's.

### **Meeting for Parents re possible new school site**

A meeting has been arranged for parents on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in the infant site** hall, at which Nick Whitfield, Director of Children's Services and Culture, will be attending. At this stage there is very little firm information to add to our earlier letter and to Nick Whitfield's leaflet. The necessary bureaucratic processes take a lot of time. It is essential, however, to hear your views and concerns.

### **Safeguarding**

May I draw your attention to the recent invitation to Safeguarding and Child Protection training for volunteers in school. This has been specifically designed for parent helpers in St Mary's and promises to be a very useful, informative session. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers at the session and also a chance to provide feedback to enable us to review and improve the course to address parent concerns and queries. This training opportunity is an important part of the school's overall safeguarding responsibilities and I would ask that all parent helpers attend one of the sessions over the forthcoming year. Further dates and venues will be published in due course. The first one is on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> 9.00 – 10.15 in the Main Hall at the Infant site.

## **Guide for Parent Helpers**

These guidelines have been updated and are available at both sites; would all parent helpers make sure they pick up a copy when they are next in school.

## **Closure of gates at junior site**

Feedback has been extremely positive and I am very grateful to all those parents for abandoning their cars and coming to school by other means. The area is much safer and relaxed for everyone. Thank you for your support.

If you do need to bring your car, please do respect our neighbours' property and the parking restrictions. The School and the Council have received complaints about driveways being blocked, parking on yellow lines and parking on the zig-zag lines near the crossing. While Council Officers are not unsympathetic to the problem, they have said that they may have to send in the "Parking Camera Car", especially where the safety of the crossing is involved.

## **Absence Policy**

I am receiving a number of requests for authorised absences for holidays. Regrettably, I am not able to authorise absences during term time. Please refer to our Attendance policy. Thank you.

## **Community Cohesion Coffee Morning**

This was a positive meeting with many good ideas for ways in which the school can reach out to, and support, our local community. Thank you to all parents who attended and we will keep you informed on how we will put these ideas into action.

## **Collection of children after school/informing us your child is unwell**

To ensure the safe handover of your child, please complete a blue slip at the infant site when your child is being collected by someone else rather than ring the office. We do understand that in an emergency you will need to call the school office.

Please remember to call either school office (or email [info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)) if your child is unwell and not coming to school. If we haven't heard from you by 9.30 am we will call you. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Sports Clubs at the junior site**

There will be no football or netball club in the summer term. Next term we will be running an Athletics club for junior children. Details will be sent out before the end of term.

## **ParentMail**

A few parents have said that they do not know where to respond to when they receive an email from the school via ParentMail. At the bottom of every email sent are details of telephone numbers, email address ([info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk)) and our website address.

## **Contact Sheets**

Please remember that it is your responsibility to keep these up to date. Please pop into either school office or email the school with any changes. Thank you.

## **Planting at the junior site**

I am very grateful to Mandy Bullen and Karin Pointon for all their hard work at the junior site. They have 'revamped' the long, thin border that runs alongside the aviary. In order to improve the soil, they bought some organic compost from Richmond Council and have dug it into the area - not quite finished yet as holidays and cold weather hampered work. They have removed the daffodil bulbs and have now put them into pots - again still some left to do! When the weather is suitable, they will plant up the border with a mixture of grasses and perennials which will provide interest for a long period. The daffodil bulbs will be planted in the grass outside the office after they have finished flowering this spring.

Some of the money for this has been provided by the school and we are hoping that FOSM will help too.

## **Linked schools for 2011 secondary transfer**

Please see attached letter regarding our link with Orleans Park which should be self explanatory.

## **Wear something bright - turn off the light for WWF's Earth Hour 2010**

Unite with schools across the UK, and the world, to make a bold statement about the need to care about the people, places and wildlife of this planet - now and for future generations.

On Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8.30pm, people around the world will turn off their lights for one hour, WWF's Earth Hour, to show their support for the planet. WWF is encouraging schools to **Wear something bright - turn off the light!** in the days and weeks leading up to Earth Hour

Climate change is one of the most serious problems we face - changing weather patterns, warming seas and melting ice are devastating for both people and wildlife. Urgent global action is needed if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and safeguard our world. Earth Hour is your chance to lend your voice.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Parents: do you play an orchestral instrument?**

St Mary's parents are getting together a St Margaret's scratch orchestra on Tuesday 23rd March at the Turks' Head (Winchester Hall). Even if you haven't played for a while, do come along (grown-ups only please, rusty grade 5 plus). We will start rehearsing at 8.30pm for about an hour and a half, and then socialise afterwards. Let us know if you are interested, and what instrument you play, by dropping into Mrs Moon yarn shop on Crown Rd (speak to Karen or Susan), email Sue on [sp.jenkins@virgin.net](mailto:sp.jenkins@virgin.net) or call her on 020 8892 0765. Alternatively you can speak to Mary Tregellas (mother of James Driver 2E and Edward Driver 5MA) in the playground.

### **Orange Tree Theatre**

The Orange Tree Theatre have started a new Orange Tree Youth Theatre group for children aged 8 - 11, in addition to their very successful classes for those aged 12-18. Please have a look at their website for further details: [www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk](http://www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk)

### **Marble Hill Playcentres**

The Annual General Meeting of the Marble Hill Playcentres will be held on 18 March. The Playcentres are an important local resource for parents and children and we would welcome interested parents (or teachers) who would like to come and see the place and hear our plans for 2010 and beyond. Details are in the attached note and I would be grateful if you could circulate this to parents and staff. You will see that it says we are also looking for committee members and if you know anyone who might be interested we would be glad to hear from them.

The Playcentres will open for the summer season on Tuesday 6 April. The Adventure Playground will open at 11.00am and the One O'Clock Club at 1.00pm. We'll be sending you more details of what will be on offer nearer the time. Please see notice on school notice board.

Regards  
Tom Williams  
Business Manager  
Marble Hill Playcentres  
Reg Charity No: 1110615

### **Junior and senior Aquathon.**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010  
Pools on the Park, Richmond  
For 8 - 17 year olds

Please see flyer on school notice board for further information.

### **St Mary's University College**

Please have a look at the notice board at each site regarding "Multi Sport Easter Camps".

### **Marathon Mothers!**

On 25<sup>th</sup> April Lucy MacArthur (mother of Silas, Finley and Pip) is running for the charity "3 Wings Trust" and Sue Porter (mother of James) is running for the charity "Children with Leukaemia". They would love to have your support, especially as both charities have direct links with the school through James and the SEN children. If you would like to sponsor them, please click on the links below:

[www.bmycharity.com/jamesdawson](http://www.bmycharity.com/jamesdawson)<<http://www.bmycharity.com/jamesdawson>>.  
[www.justgiving.com/lucy-macarthur](http://www.justgiving.com/lucy-macarthur)<<http://www.justgiving.com/lucy-macarthur>>.

Lucy is also running the London Marathon for charity. Details below:

[\[cid:image001.jpg@01CAB573.565ECB80\]](cid:image001.jpg@01CAB573.565ECB80)<<http://www.justgiving.com/Lucy-MacArthur>>

**Dates for March & April – Reminder**

10 & 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Teacher consultations. School closes early on <b>both</b> Days. 2 pm Infant site, 2.15 pm Junior site
26 <sup>th</sup> March, 9 am	Volunteer safeguarding – Infant site
29 <sup>th</sup> March, 8 pm	Parents Meeting at Infant site re proposed new site
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of Term. School closes an hour earlier on both sites
19 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of summer term

Yours sincerely



Stuart Campbell  
Head Teacher  
**8<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Attachment: Letter re Linked Schools for 2011 secondary transfer



**RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION**

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