



SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARYS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

APRIL 2020 ISSUE



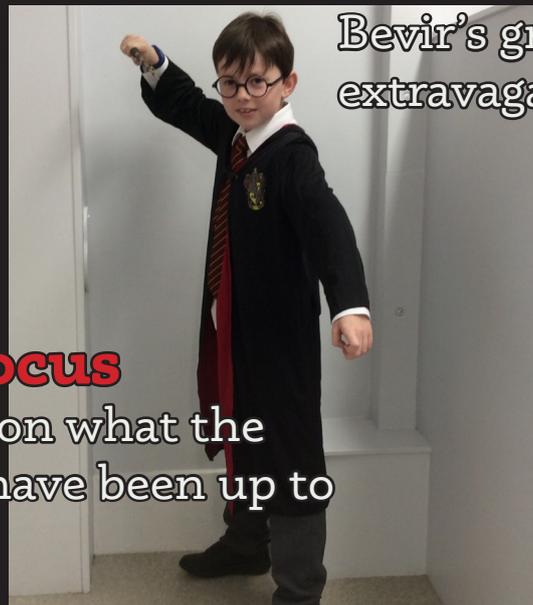
School Governors
New introductions



UNCOVERED
Read about Alison
Bevir's greatest
extravagance



Class focus
Catch up on what the
children have been up to
this term



ART

See some wonderful art
from our students



Letter from the Head.....



What a lovely treat, in this second week of lockdown, to be able to access this term's edition of St. Mary's News. Huge thanks to Lindsey and her team for continuing to put the magazine together. It's good to be able to look back on all the wonderful things that have happened this term and to remember that these times will come around again soon when all of this has passed.

In the interim, I hope that you are all keeping well. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything or if we can help at all. As you know, school is closed but we will continue to open over the coming weeks – to deliver childcare for our amazing key worker families. Over the Easter break, daily learning tasks will cease (I heard that parents) and in their place, teachers will be sending you a collection of possible activities for you to dip into over the holiday. These are designed to be fun and again they are not compulsory. and we offer them as a 'go to' if you need something to fill a bit of time.

We are so lucky as a school to be a part of the St. Mary's community, a place where everyone demonstrates extraordinary compassion for others – we are particularly blessed with the support from our Parish Team and this term has been no exception. The team have delivered a series of worship sessions on Grace and before we closed early, Reverend John came into school to share a prayer with us all. I hope that the team are safe and well and we look forward to seeing them when we are up and running again.

As a school we are blessed with a fantastic staff team who continue to work hard during this time – some of them from home, some of them in school; and I am very grateful to them all for their endurance at this time. I am also thankful for our wonderful governing board – whose commitment and support – especially at this time, is hugely valued.

Finally – we are very lucky to have such wonderful families to work with – we are missing seeing you all. This time of closure has presented some challenges for us all – some of which are out of our control, which is difficult; but



there are also lots of positives. I am sure that you have noticed, as have we, the many little and big things that we take for granted in our daily lives.

I hope that you will find much joy in looking back over our work this term – again it's another term to be proud of and there will be many more in our future to come... Take good care of each other – stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you all very soon. I leave you with this lovely photo of the Key Stage Two Choir all pulling faces before their performance at Young Voices at London's O2 back in February... A very happy memory...

Cheryl Payne – Head Teacher

'Happy are those who take refuge in him.'
Psalm 2: 12

FOSMS

After the busy Autumn term and run up to Christmas it has been a quieter couple of months from a FoSMS point of view. Thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz which we held just after half term; particularly to Andrew and Mike for putting together another set of great questions and to all who helped to organise the evening. Well done to the year 1 team who decided not to buy themselves out of the responsibility and who become next year's Quiz Masters!

We also had the Family Disco this term. At a new venue but with the same brilliant dance master and light show it was a fantastic evening that the children and adults seemed to enjoy despite the current climate and fears amid covid-19. Thank you very much to Nell, Vicky and

Christina for organising this event and to all who volunteered to help on the evening. At time of writing, the school is open but I think it is unrealistic to think coronavirus is not going to have an impact on us all and our plans for next term.

In terms of the proposed summer calendar, we have decided not to hold the Sponsored Walk this year and will be combining the Art Fair with the Summer Fair event. There will therefore be slightly less on the schedule so fingers crossed we can hold these as planned. Look out for the Parent's Football and Netball on 17th May, the Summer Fair on 27th June, the Adults Summer Party (date tbc) and of course the KS1 and KS2 Sports Days at the beginning of July.

Looking ahead to next year, the Committee will be looking for a new Chair. The hope is that this does not become an overly onerous job for one person so the position should be held for one year only. It means it is not too early to be asking for interested parties to come forward!

Finally, thank you to our outgoing sponsor, Chamberland Residential. They have decided not to continue with their sponsorship but we are very grateful for the support they have given us over the last year.

Wishing you all a healthy break. Stay safe St Mary's.

Governors update

This term has brought challenges, the like of which we have never experienced before. Governors hope that the entire St Mary's community is safe and well, and where possible, staying at home. We are deeply indebted to Cheryl for her outstanding leadership at this time and the dedication and commitment of the whole staff team. We are also grateful to all parents, carers and pupils for working with the school so positively through this extraordinary time.

Earlier this term, governors attended the termly full governing board meeting where our two new parent governors Mary Botros (children in YR and Y4) and Giuseppe Rosano (Y2 and y3) were welcomed and the governors received an excellent presentation by Amanda Bishop on the St Mary's pupils' reading journey.

Two of the three governor committees (pupil committee and leadership & management committee) held their Spring term meetings, prior to the school closure, looking at policy and other pertinent

matters. Separately a meeting was held to review admissions. The school budget scrutiny process and termly meeting of the resources committee have been postponed in line with the extension of the local authority budget submission deadline.

We were very pleased to be invited by staff on a series of learning walks in school. We look forward to this opportunity to see even more of St Mary's in action when it is appropriate to do so. Our day to day involvement in school activities earlier in the term included subject lead meetings, battling to compete in the parent quiz, and World Book Day (a variety of photos above).

As this term draws to an unusual end, our core values of endurance, compassion and thankfulness could hardly be more apt. We have a wonderful, supportive and resilient school community who will care for our friends and neighbours, who will bounce back and who will be enormously appreciative of those who have helped us through it. Stay safe and well.



Family Disco

Everyone had a wonderful evening. This year we saw the disco move to a new venue, St Marys Church. It proved to be an amazing venue for the children to show off their impressive dance moves.



CLASS FOCUS

Y2

Our two topics this term have enabled us to investigate the enormous variety of habitats in The Earth – Our Home and to travel back to the London of 1666 during The Great Fire of London.



We started the term by focusing on rainforests, finding out where they were, why they were found in hot, wet climates and discovering how the plants and animals are adapted to these conditions. We transformed our class room into a tropical rain forest with exotic trees and animals and saw the real things when we went on a visit to Kew Gardens. We looked at a range of habitats and the effects on us all of habitat loss. At the end of the topic we invited parents into the school to give them a presentation on the importance of honey bees and the impact of habitat loss. We had an exhibition of models and posters and a talk on what we've learnt. We showed parents the honey biscuits we had made and invited them into the classroom to see our books. After school we gave away our biscuits in the playground in exchange for a pledge that each person would plant bee-friendly flowers.

Our great fire of London topic this half term has inspired each child to research what London was like in 1666 and why the fire was so devastating.

Y4

Y4 children have enjoyed learning about separating materials in their topic 'Shake It'. They turned milk into butter!



From the origins of the cocoa bean in Mesoamerica to the introduction of chocolate in Europe - all of the children have shown interest in the topic of chocolate. Our visit to Cadbury World in Birmingham was a fun highlight! Y4 has also enjoyed their RE topic on 'Judaism' and some of the work produced includes making a model of a Mezuzah - a small box that hangs on the door frame to a Jewish home. In English lessons the children have produced their very own graphic novels - based on the Power of Reading text 'Mouse Bird Snake Wolf' by David Almond. In maths the children focused on finding the area of shapes and improving their calculating skills with multiplication and division problems. In PE the class enjoyed gymnastics and handball with Mr Naughton.

YR

Reception's first topic this term was 'Dinosaurs!' The class became dinosaur experts and found out lots of information and facts by using the iPads, non-fiction books and visiting The Natural History Museum. During our trip to the



Natural History Museum the class took on the role of palaeontologists, the children put together massive 3D jigsaw stegosaurus and examined different parts of the dinosaur's anatomy to understand what they can tell us about Sophie's lifestyle. After returning to school the children created a page for a non-fiction book about Stegosaurus' and each gave a talk to the class about their favourite dinosaur. Dinosaur land was then created along with dinosaur puppets and their own fiction book linking to the story 'If I had a Dinosaur.'

This half term our topic was 'Food.' We began by reading the story 'The Gigantic Turnip' and learning about where food comes from. After acting out the story the children created story maps, wrote recipes and cooked Turnip Soup, which was delicious! The children have planted a range of different vegetables and have been fascinated by watching them grow and learning about the life cycle of plants. Our runner beans are doing particularly well! The Supermarket role-play area was very popular and the children spent time buying and selling fruit, vegetables and other food products.

Reception had a wonderful time dressing up for World Book Day! The class enjoyed sharing their chosen stories with each other and with the children from Year 4.

Y6

It has been another busy and productive term for Y6. The very popular World War Two topic inspired fantastic work and discussion. This topic offered great opportunities to explore this monumental era in our history: how the war started, evacuation, rationing, The Blitz, D-Day and VE Day! Our trip to the Churchill War Rooms was a great end to such an interesting topic. Our study of 'Goodnight Mister Tom' complemented our history work and was enjoyed by all through drama and narrative.

We are now focused on exploring science and the theory of Inheritance and Evolution. Amazing biographies of Charles Darwin have been written and interesting debates I am sure will ensue. Secondary School offers have been made, World Book Day was immensely enjoyed and our DT 'Textiles' project was hugely successful – hope mums thought so too!

I am sure Year 6 will approach their final term at St. Mary's with their usual abundant enthusiasm, positivity and interest.



Y5

It has been an action-packed term for Year 5. At the start of the term, Year 5 hopped in a time machine and spent the day in a Victorian School, complete with dip pens, slates, the dreaded cane and a dunce's cap. Oddly, everyone enjoyed getting punished! This day helped us to better understand our class text, *Street Child*, about the hardships of a boy during Victorian times. Along the way we have also become confident writers of poetry, biographies, persuasive arguments and writing from another character's perspective.

We kicked off our science-based topic, *Bake It!*, by going to Pizza Express to make our own pizzas. During this unit we learned about the properties and changes of materials. For our exit point, we baked homemade bread and explained the types of changes that occurred. After half term, our second topic, *Weather and Climate*, focused on geography. We can now find locations using longitude and latitude; explain the water cycle; identify wild weather forms; and make our own weather instruments to measure wind.

During our Junior Citizens trip, we acted out scenarios and learnt how to keep ourselves safe in challenging situations. We also started each day running for 10 minutes in a bid to improve our physical fitness.



Y1

Year 1 have had a fantastic term full of fun and learning. We have had a great time learning all about history and how we find out about history in our *Time Travellers* topic. We particularly enjoyed our visit to Putney Library where we learned how we can use books and computers to find out about the past. We have also loved our *Green Fingers* topic through which we have learned all about plants and growing. We had a great time digging and planting as well as conducting experiments in order to find out what helps plants to grow and what might stop them from growing.

Our highlights of the term have been World Book Day and having an entomologist visit us. During World Book Day we had a great time sharing our favourite stories and learning about the characters that other people had chosen to dress up as. We adored sharing stories with the children in Year 6 and having them read to us. Being visited by hissing cockroaches, stick insects and bees was a fantastic experience and we loved learning about the different insects! Some of us were brave enough to hold the stick insects!



YN

The first half of the Spring Term was filled with learning about different traditional tales, from *Little Red Riding Hood* to *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. One week *Goldilocks* even came into our Nursery and messed up our role play house! We had to work out who had committed the crimes of breaking a chair and eating the porridge, and then pretended to be policemen putting her in jail! We loved seeing the children retelling these stories in their play afterwards.

We also thought about the people who help us, and the jobs we might have in the future. We had a visit from a police officer and a doctor who told us all about what they did!

Since half term we have been learning lots about plants, flowers and growing! The children have been fascinated as we have done lots of planting, and we have even started to make a bean tee pee in our outdoor area. We started our topic by getting on the bus and visiting a garden centre! Children investigated all the different things that were sold there, and each group bought an item from the class shopping list. There was even time to buy a babycino each in the cafe, practising the exchange of money for ourselves! When we got back to school we set up our own role play garden centre and everyone got busy selling, writing price labels, and buying.



Y3

This term Year 3 have been actively engaged in numerous activities (far too many to list!) enjoying discovering and exploring ideas within our learning.

We visited St Mary's Church for our first *Godly Play* session where they were given plenty of opportunities to be inquisitive and ask questions, making connections and meanings about the "Parable of the Pearl" forming an understanding of who Jesus is.

"We learnt about a man who gave up everything for one tiny pearl. This reminded me that Jesus gave up everything for us"
Abigail

Another highlight of the term has been our trip to The Natural History Museum, where the children gained an insight of volcanoes and how it might feel during an earthquake.

"I liked watching how much damage was caused when the earthquake erupted in our workshop."

William

"I am looking forward to learning more about *Scavengers and Settlers* and especially visiting Chiltern Open Air Museum to see a Stone Age or Iron age village and hopefully bones!"

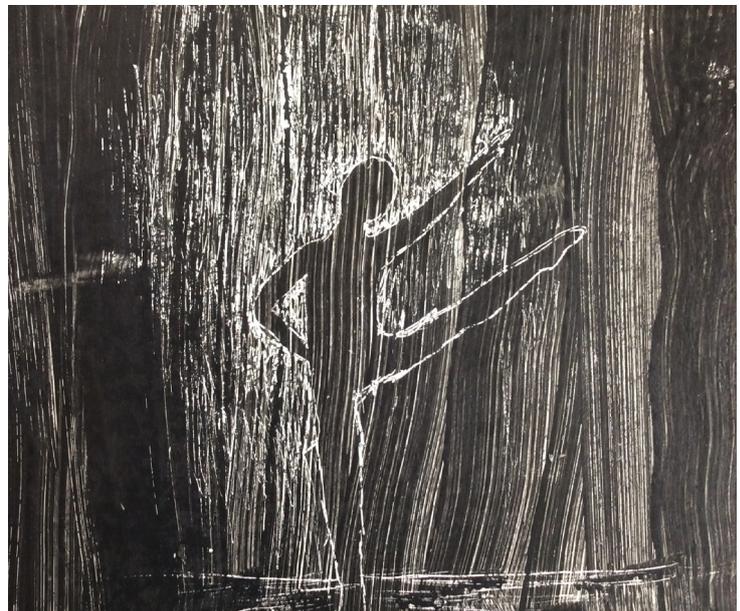
Rupert



ART News

This term St Mary's children have created an impressive range of 2D and 2D work; enthusiastically exploring new materials and developing their skills with familiar resources. Years 1,2,3 and 4 submitted artwork for the Wandsworth Arts week brochure competition. Years 4 & 5 took on a challenge to decorate an oar for the 'Oarsome Putney' initiative. They will be installed outside Putney Station in time for the Boat Race.

Year 6 finally completed their stunning self portraits. Delicious lifelike doughnuts were created by Year 5. Chocolates and sweets have inspired Year 4. Year 3 made volcano prints in contrasting styles. Bold Cacti paintings revealed Y2's success with blending. Buildings have been the focus for Y1's drawing projects. Reception enjoyed working with paper mache to make dinosaur eggs and Nursery continue to impress with their creativity and enthusiasm for model making.





World Book Day

World Book Day had a slightly different focus this year. In feedback from a Y6 School Leader (Bibi) it was suggested that the day be devoted to purely reading and sharing books with one another. This was certainly put into action!

At the start of the day Miss Payne shared her childhood favourite story and certificates were handed out to children demonstrating a real love for reading.

It was great to spend time sharing favourite stories from different genres with another class. Each class also spent time sharing thoughts and ideas about the character they came to school as, as well as playing games and having fun 'in role'. Year 6 even recreated an eerie classroom with candles and creepy music and listened to spooky stories written by the children themselves!

It was a fantastic day!
Coral (Y6)



Extreme Read

All the children were challenged to read a book over half term in an extreme location. We have had some amazing photo's sent in that will be displayed in the top corridor outside Year 4!



Sports News

The Y6 Mixed Netball team won all 6 games to become the tournament champions. Well done Y6 Netball what a great time on the court.

At the Dover House Road tournament the Y4/5 Football team won two out of their 3 games.

The Netball Rally at Burntwood School saw the Y5 Netball team come second in their heat, with Y6 coming in third place overall. Well done both teams, fantastic skills.

Sadly the Cross Country was re scheduled and then postponed due to flooding. The team will continue training for future cross country events.

Both the Gymnastics tournament and Girls Football league were cancelled this term.



UNCOVERED

Alison (Ally) Bevir



Background

I grew up in Surbiton and moved to the Borough of Wandsworth in 1990. When I was a small child I loved all animals but unfortunately I was allergic to most of them. Happily I no longer have an allergy so I can spend as much time as possible with my furry friends!

What do you like best about St Mary's?

I love the community feel to the school and the friendly staff and children.

What makes you happy?

I love walking in beautiful countryside. I try and do at least two long distance walks a year.

Where was your best holiday?

Yosemite National Park in California. I saw a brown bear chasing some ducks, amazing!

What subjects did you like best at school?

Geography, English and Art.

How do you like to relax?

Walking, reading, seeing friends and drinking coffee.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Buying original art and handmade jewellery.

What pet do you have or would you like?

Sadly my cat died before Christmas but he was a good old age. I would

love a dog but I need to wait for the right time.

Which are your favourite books?

All Harry Potter books, To Kill a Mockingbird, I'm reading Brideshead Revisited at the moment by Evelyn Waugh. Too many books to have a favourite.

What human trait do you most dislike?

Deceit

Describe a favourite meal?

Any good food with family or friends.

What's the most important lesson life has taught you, so far?

There's nothing more important than having good friends and always try to be positive even in difficult times.

How would you like to be remembered?

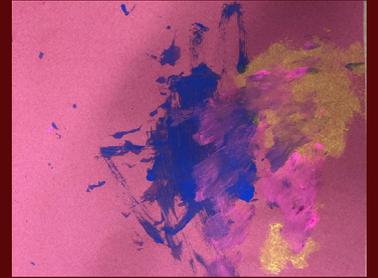
Encouraging, fun and inspiring to others.

School trip Cadburys World

Year 4 had a chocolatey filled experience at Cadbury World on their trip to the famous chocolate factory in Bournville, Birmingham. They had a great time exploring 12 different zones all about chocolate! The class very much enjoyed their time - especially eating chocolate bars!

"Cadbury World was awesome, amazing and really good fun!"
Alice





#Londontogether

