



ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2013





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Head's Christmas Thought

'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more.'

Dr. Seuss

One of my favourite children's authors is Dr. Seuss and I make a point of reading *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, every year. When I was a class teacher, I would look forward to sharing the story with my pupils and since the Ron Howard film in 2000, watching *The Grinch* has become a part of the Christmas ritual in our house.

Each time I watch the film, I find the song: *Where are you Christmas?* particularly poignant. As a child I thought carefully about the Christmas story as we re-enacted it at school and church and knew that the celebration was really about the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus. I felt Christmas was there. As an adult it is easy to forget this important message. I am so busy making sure that everything is ticked off the list, so that I can breathe a huge sigh of relief. It is almost as though Christmas is 'done' and to be ticked off the list too.

On the big day though, smiles appear as parcels are opened, jumpers are the right size, I've got the correct Lego set and the turkey tastes good, I can finally relax. It's round about that time that *The Grinch* goes on and as Cindy Lou searches for Christmas and strives to show her fellow Whos and *The Grinch* what it's all about I too am reminded of what Christmas should be;

'...And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2: 10-11

I hope that all of us, as part of our family rituals will take time over the coming weeks to truly find Christmas.

I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and a wonderful start to 2014! I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Very best wishes

Cheryl Payne
Head Teacher

So what exactly do the Governors do?

It's always good to be asked such questions every now and again as it's surprising how much it focuses the mind. As I pondered the answer, it occurred to me that asking questions is, in fact, the main purpose of the governing body.

Any well-run organisation asks questions of itself: can we do that any better? How do we know this is working? Can we save money? What impact did that have? Schools are no different. Much of the discussion at our meetings focuses on a similar, if considerably longer, list of questions. The aim is to help Miss Payne and the senior leadership team to make the best decisions for St Mary's.

Schools come under a lot of scrutiny, which isn't really surprising as educating the next generation is a vitally important job. Parents, visitors, inspectors will usually have a list of questions as long as your arm. Our job as governors is to ask these questions first, that way, we can be sure that the school has the right answers; and as we all know, having the right answers makes life a lot easier!

Sally McGeachie
Chair of governors

Council Members



KS2

This term YN, YR, Y1 and Y2 have elected their own class reps to be on the KS1/EY school council chaired by Mrs Livingstone. We had our first meeting in September when the children discussed issues such as play equipment, toilet etiquette, the school building, school lunches and the possibility of having a 'water feature' in the playground! The children then shared the outcomes of the meeting with their classes. Eddie and Lara encouraged Y2 to make posters to display in the toilets to remind children how they should behave. Mrs Dex was invited to our next meeting in December to discuss the possibility of putting 'sushi and lobster' on the menu. Only in Putney!

Mrs Livingstone

Starters / Leavers

Hello

Anya Jain Y1

Antoni Krzosa Y1

Nathaniel Carson Y1

Holly Seabrook Y2

Charlie Hunt Y3

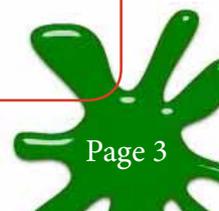
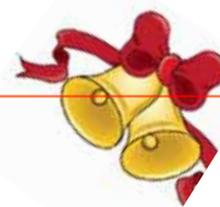
Sophie MacDougall Y3

Isabella Veliu Y3

Fiza Ali Y4

Yves-Alain Thecoura Y4

Amelie Hunt Y5





Classroom Close-up

YN

The Nursery children have had a wonderful first term and have quickly settled in at St. Mary's. They have been very busy learning new routines and making lots of new friends.

This term our topics have been 'ourselves' and 'people who help us'. The children have created lovely work around these topics. As part of our 'people who help us' topic we had a special visit from two police officers. They explained all about their role in the community and how they help people.

We are very excited about Christmas and have been busy making advent pictures, decorations and calendars. We really looked forward to the church service and practised our parts and song for the 'Magical Christmas Jigsaw.' We hope you enjoyed it!



Y2



Our history topic this term has been 'What are we remembering on remembrance Day?'. We brought in objects from home (teddies, photos and rings) that help us to remember a special event. We then looked at what poppies help us to remember. Children made their own poppies and watched a clip of the remembrance service at the Cenotaph. Many of the children attended the service at St Mary's church too. We devised questions and asked Mrs Livingstone's Dad about his memories of being a child during the war. Finally we visited and sketched the Putney War Memorial. We went into the church to see the record of soldiers from Putney who had died in the war.

YR

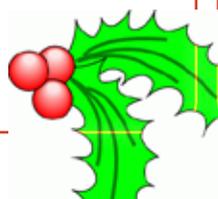


YR have settled in really well and we are enjoying our topics. This term, we have visited Putney bus garage to further our learning about journeys and transport. We had a ride around South London and even went in a bus wash.

We have also had many visits to Putney library which has taught us all about how to care for books and all the different types of books to be found in a library. This term we are studying toys and are look forward to making puppets in art.

Y5

In Year 5 we have started the year off with a BANG! Some of the highlights so far have been having a groovy look back in time with our study on John Lennon and the Beatles and making our way through the gruesome tale of Clockwork. We have also been having a blast exploring exciting new ICT software and being involved in all the fantastic workshops at St Mary's. We are looking forward with great excitement to the rest of the academic year!



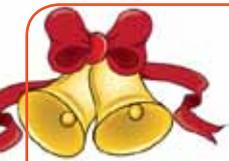
Y3

In History, Year 3 have enjoyed learning about amazing Ancient Egypt! We have found out about Egyptian burial chambers and many interesting burial traditions. We all designed and made beautiful sarcophagi using Egyptian patterns and hieroglyphics.



Y4

Year 4 have had a wonderful start to their new class and have been impressing Mr. Lett with their hard work and dedication. The children have enjoyed reading their Power of Reading text Varjak Paw and have written some great descriptions and poems. In maths the children are showing better mental arithmetic skills and have applied their skills in everything from shape and fractions to time and subtraction. The class are now eagerly awaiting Number Day. A few weeks ago the class had a very informative and enjoyable Anti-Bullying Week. They participated in numerous activities that highlighted the effects of bullying and how best to deal with bullying issues. In RE the class have been looking at 'signs and symbols' and went on a delightful school trip to Southwark Cathedral. The children took part in a symbols trail and made fabulous representations of Christian symbols in clay. In our history lessons the class have been studying 'The Tudors' and have learnt many interesting things ranging from King Henry VIII's wives through to understanding how Tudor homes were built. A trip to Hampton Court Palace this term will consolidate their learning and everyone is excited to be visiting the home of King Henry VIII.



Y6

It has been an action packed term for Year 6, including our eagerly awaited residential trip to Sayers Croft in Surrey. The term began with the setting of clear expectations for the class – these being; to work hard, try your best and have fun being at the top of the school!

Some of the highlights

At the start of the term the children all worked incredibly well planning, writing, editing and publishing their very own novels which are now the 'top reads' in our Book Corner.

As we prepare for Secondary School we had a fantastic visit from the Transport for London team who taught the children how to safely and cheaply travel more independently around London. Invaluable lessons were learnt!



Y1



Year 1 have made a good start to the new academic year and are working well together. We are very pleased to have Miss Martin as part of our team and have helped her settle in to life at St. Mary's. In the first part of the Autumn term we visited St. Mary's church as part of our R.E. topic; Rev. Gilly Pawson led us through a Baptism ceremony. We were also lucky enough to participate in a Mary Seacole workshop as part of Black History Month. We worked together in small groups to act out significant moments of Mary's life. This month we have been working hard to learn our song for the Christmas service in December and really enjoyed performing it at church.





From the moment we got on the coach for Sayers Croft we were really excited and loved the time we spent there. We liked the the food, the accommodation, the maze, the blind fold course, orienteering and most of all the rope course. We are looking forward to spending more time there next year.

Sienna and Jessica Y5





Years 5&6 had the excitement of a trip to the residential centre in Surrey that the school has been visiting for many years. Y5 went for a night, Y6 for three nights. Here are some fond recollections....

Dear Sayers Croft....

I am really enjoying myself here. The autumnal scenery is mesmerising. My favourite activity was when we climbed the hill, with the leaves crumbling at our feet. The night walk was a challenge, letting our eyes 'adjust' to the darkness as we were told not to use our torches. I loved toasting marshmallows by the crackling flames of the campfire. Thank you making my stay such a great experience! Rugba Y6

I am having so much fun here. My best part was the campfire. I got really hot and we had a good old sing-song. I am looking forward to the disco. Kyra Y6

Thank you very much for letting us stay here. I am very grateful and I'm sure everyone else is too. My favourite bits were the campfire and abseiling. This is my last year here but in both years I've had a great time, I don't remember a time when I was bored, I have had a wonderful time. Maya Y6

The activities were fun. I especially liked the compass points in the forest; it was exciting. I had an excellent time, thank you. Tohma Y6



A day in the life of Mrs Brady

Mrs Brady has been with the school for 19 years. So what jobs has she done over the years? The answer is, nearly all of them! She was a pupil at the school, as was her mother and so were her children – including Miss Brady. Mrs Brady started at the school as a volunteer reader and then ran the playgroup that used to operate on a Thursday morning. Next she became a Learning Support Assistant and she has worked with a large variety of children with differing needs requiring specialist skills. She has learnt sign language!

After a stint in the office and as a treasurer to the Governors, she now works as a TA (Teaching Assistant). For most people this is a full-time job, but the dynamo, Mrs Brady manages also to be the founder and supervisor of 'Breakfast Club'. At 11:30 am each day, she puts on her playground leader hat and is responsible for the lunchtime supervisors and the smooth transition of the children through lunch and playtime. She gets a break at 1:30 pm when she catches up with herself and may do some errands in Putney. The afternoon stint as a TA for Y6 is followed by after school club that includes a great variety of activities to appeal to the diverse age group. Mrs Brady has taught in every class, her studies have included the HLTA standard (higher level teaching assistant) meaning she can cover in teachers' absence.

She likes to keep busy and relaxes by decorating, walking in Richmond Park and spending time with her three children (two of whom live with her). In the 19 years, she has worked with three head teachers and hundreds of pupils and teachers. She loves the variety of the job and the opportunity to work closely with the children. She brings an extra element of fun (and hot chocolate!) to the trips to Sayers Croft and to school productions. Over the years she has seen the school continue to improve, going from 'better to fantastic.'

Sarah Brearley



FoSMS

It has been a very busy and fun-filled term for FoSMS. We have a brilliant group of class reps this year combined with an enthusiastic lead team and many wonderful, talented parents leading events and projects.

I am often asked how I am finding FoSMS, I am genuinely enjoying it! I feel proud to be at St Mary's and to be part of a lovely group of parents and teachers.

This term we have been busy, with our second Sponsored Walk in Richmond Park, an all forms Christmas Party, Christmas Fayre, spectacular Christmas raffle and special cinema treat to see 'Frozen' – not to mention book, tea-towels, Christmas cards, second hand uniform and cake sales. We have also had parents doing the school magazine, Mums' netball, Dads' football, parenting skills workshops and many parents donating time, money and goodies all along.

There have also been many behind the scenes involved in 'just giving', funding opportunities, bar licenses, photography, shoe boxes, finance, finding venues, sponsorship etc.

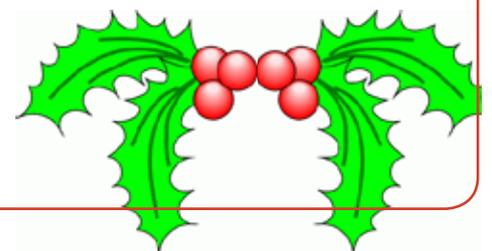
Thank you so much to everyone who has organised, donated or helped, making these events and FoSMS such a success.

Looking forward to next term, we have the Family Disco run by Year 2 coming up at the beginning of February, and the parents and staff Quiz night run by Year 1, and an exciting new event, a Fashion Show in March.

Many thanks to everyone who has been involved, and contributed to the fundraising efforts this term. All your help is so appreciated! We have a new FoSMS web site where everything can be found www.fosms.co.uk

Have a very happy and healthy Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Theresa Hawkins
FoSMS Co-ordinator



River Trip

Year 6 enjoyed a sunny, autumnal day on the banks of the River Thames giving us a practical experience to add to our 'Rivers' topic this term. We measured the speed and depth of the river and learned about the ecological problems faced by the River Thames today as well as in the past. We also spent some time discussing solutions to these problems.

After lunch we searched the foreshore looking for living creatures and any interesting artefacts embedded in the mud around the river's edge. We found many fascinating objects from the present and the past but sadly nothing that would be of any interest to a museum!



Shoe Boxes

On November 21st a large van arrived to pick up all the shoe boxes which families of St Mary's had so kindly put together and wrapped for Eastern Europe's poorest communities. Link Romania is now called Link to Hope as they now also seek to help poorer communities in Moldova, Ukraine, Albania and Bulgaria. Pete the driver takes the boxes to these families and he was able to tell us some lovely stories from his deliveries in previous years. He told us how wonderful it was to see faces light up when they opened the boxes and the delight of the extended families as more and more goodies appeared from the box and was shared around the family. He also said the genuine thanks and gratitude shines through in their eyes and one old lady told him "Thank you for these things, we will remember you in our heart". As you can see Billy Y1 had great fun helping to load the boxes - can you spot yours? Thank you so very much to everyone who contributed to putting a shoe-box together - I hope these little stories demonstrate just how much they are appreciated by these families.

Kirsty Wilkinson



Police Visit

As part of anti-bullying week Nursery and Reception had a special visit from the Police. They explained all about their role in the community and how they support people in Putney. They also talked to us about stranger danger and how important it is to keep ourselves safe. After their visit we looked at information books about the police and created some lovely pictures. We really enjoyed our visit from the police!

Art

We have had a fabulous start to the new school year. The first half term was dedicated to DRAWING and the children produced fantastic work using a range of different tools and techniques. The second half term's focus is PAINTING and COLOUR and the children are producing amazing artwork inspired by several artists. We also held a very exciting Christmas card competition. Every child in the school worked very hard and produced a nativity themed design. The quality and creativity of the entries were outstanding and Miss Payne and I found it very difficult choosing two winners from each year group. We then chose the overall winning design from Ella in Year 6 to be the St Mary's Christmas card. Well done to all the finalists!

Miss Lake



Number Day

On 3rd December St Mary's celebrated the NSPCC's national Number Day. We all walked into Mr Lett's assembly wearing a wide range of different digits, eager to start the busy schedule ahead. In each class there were an amazing number of activities waiting to be done. It was fun rotating the classes as most of us had not seen certain classrooms in years. Whilst walking round the school to go to your next activity, every member of staff was wearing a number which had to be collected up, adding a unique twist to the whole day. Y6 was then given extra responsibility as the younger years queued up to play games organised by Y6 during break times. This gave an early insight into taking control of things.

Throughout the entire day the whole school had a goal to make the instantly recognisable NSPCC full stop from 2p coins. It was a tough challenge, but a huge success as hour by hour we built up a big full stop. It was nearing the end of the day, we walked into the hall and were stunned by the fantastic number show. As we packed our bags, we had two final treats left. First of all we had to estimate the number of hearts on Mrs Bishop's scarf. Miss Clark won, guessing 2000 hearts and winning a bar of chocolate but the real total was 2518!

Now we awaited our final treat, the Number Day bake sale. Almost everyone had baked a number-themed cake. They had been judged {eaten} by Miss Payne, Mrs Livingstone and Mr Lett and the remainders had been sold. Overall everyone had a fantastic time and Number Day is a day to be remembered.

With special thanks to Mr Lett for all his hard work in organising!

Isaac & Natasha Y6



RUNNING

What can I say? St Mary's are fast! This term we took part in Tooting Bec Cross Country event with 17 other local state and independent primary schools. We had some fantastic runs by the whole squad, notably; Rebekah Riches coming first in Y6 girls race, Clemmie Boyd second overall in Y5 girls race, James Dashper and Caspar Parsons 4th in their respective events. We narrowly missed out on first place for the final team position, but are still the top state school in Wandsworth for Cross Country.

To make the point, St Mary's then went on to achieve first place at the PPSSA Cross Country event in November. It was another huge team effort, seeing some of our Y4 children taking part for the first time in a competitive race. Once again, Rebekah Riches ran straight into first place for Y6 girls, with James Dashper in second place for Y6 boys. Clemmie Boyd and Natasha Watts took first and second places respectively for Y5 and Y6 girls and Alex Forbes took second place in the Y5 boys category.

A huge thanks to our cross country coaches, Mark White and Mark Livingstone because without their dedication, commitment and expertise these achievements would not be possible.

Onwards and upwards, we now prepare for our next challenge, the Wandsworth Mini Marathon trials in Battersea Park on Sunday the 2nd February. Please come along and support or for more information contact me via the office.

Mrs Livingstone



Unbeaten at the Oval!

On Wednesday 13th November, ten Y6's went to the Oval in South London to take part in the first round of the Maurice Fulcher Cricket tournament. We arrived with hope, courage and excitement. We were shown to the Oval and sat on the seats overlooking the pitch, hungry for victory (and lunch!)

We found out there were two groups, we were in group A. We were told there were four schools in each group and that all the teams in the group had to play each other. The teams with the most points would go in to the final in January. The first game we weren't playing in, we just watched. The second game we played against Hilbrook Primary. We tossed a coin and Jonny, the captain, elected to field. This was a tricky game and they had some great players but we kept our cool and won the game 224-211!

Our second game was against Dulwich Hamlet, we won the toss and decided to field again. They had strong batters but they were no match to our all-round play. We won 224-216. Our final game was against Sheringdale Primary. We needed to win to ensure we topped our group and we won with style, by 235-216.

Thanks to Mr Walker for organising a great day and thanks to the parents (Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Youngman and Mr Rees) for driving us to the event. We look forward to the finals in January and hopefully bringing back the trophy. The team was Jonny Brearley (Capt), Ewan White, Freddie Hawkins, Tohma Hulmes, Joe Bishop, Sophie Rees, Annabelle Youngman, Kitty Donnelly, Rugba Attah & Rebekah Riches.

Sophie & Jonny Y6



Athletics

On Tuesday 3rd December, some excellent athletic superstars all went out to practice for the real event next year. When we got to the venue in Battersea we saw lots of other talented children but we knew all we had to do was to try our hardest. The activities were standing jump, javelin, relays, two lap run, six lap run, triple jump and speed bounce. Although we came fourth out of four schools, we all had a great time.

Molly Y6



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C Classes start - Tuesday 7th January 2014.

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V Vault, bars, beam, floor, mini rebounder.

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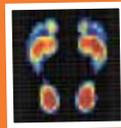
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Mrs Lake - Art Specialist Teacher

I grew up in a seaside village called Heybridge Basin, in Essex. I attended Heybridge Primary School and then on to St John Payne Secondary School where I got 12 GCSEs and 4 A levels in Art and Design, Psychology, Biology and General Studies. Art has always been my passion so I moved to London and enrolled at Roehampton University to study for a BA in Art and Design, during this time I worked to fund my studies and one of the jobs I had was in a local primary school. As a result of this experience, I developed a passion for teaching and went on to complete a PGCE in primary education. Once qualified, I taught in Wandsworth for 5 years before joining St Mary's. I have now lived in London for 10 years with my husband.

What do you like best about St Mary's?

The staff at St Marys are incredibly warm and welcoming, and the children are amazing and always willing to give 100%.

What makes you happy?

Having fun with my family and friends and travelling to new places.

Where was your best holiday?

I have been lucky enough to visit many wonderful countries and it is hard to narrow it down, but I have two favourite holidays; the first was in Thailand and the second was my honeymoon in Hawaii, which was truly magical.

What subjects did you like best at school?

I have always loved learning and being creative, at school my favourite subjects were

Art, Music and Science.

Which of your habits would you like to change?

I'm not sure this is a habit, as such, but I would like to change the fact I worry far too much.

Who is your favourite actor?

I have many favourite actors and actresses as I love to watch a huge range of films. I think Brad Pitt is incredibly talented.

How do you like to relax?

A nice bubble bath, listening to music, watching a film and painting or craft making.

What things upset you?

People treating others unkindly, I strongly believe in the saying 'treat others the way you would want to be treated.'

What is your greatest extravagance?

It has to be buying my first home. Then purchasing many different vintage/antique pieces to customise and use to furnish each room.

What pet do you have or would you like?

I have two map turtles and a pond in the garden with our beloved fish.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

I feel very lucky and that I have a good quality of life.

What are your favourite pastimes?

I like to fill my time with as many new experiences as possible; I regularly visit galleries, exhibitions and the theatre.

Which are your favourite books and what appeals to you about them?

I particularly like to read autobiographies as I like to learn about people's lives and how



their experiences have helped them become the people they are today. I have many favourites, one I have read recently is Oprah Winfrey, which was very inspirational.

What human trait do you most dislike?
Rudeness.

Describe a favourite meal?

I love a home cooked chicken roast dinner with all the trimmings.

Which famous person do you most admire?

I admire people that dedicate their lives to helping others.

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

Never limit yourself. I really like this quote 'go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.'

How would you like to be remembered?

Caring, kind hearted, creative and ambitious.

Football

St Mary's had a great start to the football season. We had a tough group, however, we won three, lost two and drew one. We qualified to the second division: we have played three of our six matches and won two and lost one. We are confident that we will win our division. The team was: Joe, who helped stop many goals and moved the ball up the pitch very well, Jonny who ran his socks off every game, Billy, who was the best goalie St Mary's has seen for a long time and James who did some brilliant passes and completely controlled the midfield. Zach and Molly played well and both scored great goals. Lots of Y5s also played over the weeks.

Thanks to Mr Walker and all the parents who supported us. We can't wait to get back to Dover House Road and play football.

Joe Bishop & James Dashper Y6

Anti-Bullying Week

St Mary's school spent a week in November on anti-bullying. The whole school community joined in the workshops and activities. We had this important week, it helped us to know what bullying is, how to stop it if somebody is being bullied and if you are being bullied.

The first thing we did was the leaflets. They were really good and it taught us so much. We enjoyed them a lot and most people found it quite hard. The second thing we did was the workshop with Mrs Brady all about peer pressure, it taught us exactly what it was. We also did acting about the peer pressure and that was exceptionally good.

Thank you to Miss Brady who organised it and

now we know all about bullying!

Tom Kessell Y3

