



**FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL WINTER ISSUE**



# Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year



From FoSMs

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#### CLASSES START BACK

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week term.



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## Letter from the Head...

Harvest is always the first celebration in the diary each year and this one was no different as we learnt about CALAID and collected items for the refugees in Calais. As well as the Harvest Service, we have celebrated two Holy Communion in KS2. We have been well supported by parents in Friday assemblies and at our Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church. On the last day of term we enjoyed wearing our bobble hats in aid of the NSPCC.

We continue to be well supported by the Parish. Ailsa, Laura and Tom have all been into school to work with us and Y1 & Y2 have visited church on school trips.

The Choirs have been busy practicing and performing. Wider Opportunities music lessons have continued this term, with Y3 children learning the flute and performing in a concert in front of KS1 and parents. As the reports and photographs in the magazine show, we've been very physically active too this term; we have taken part in the Wandsworth Cross Country, Y5 & Y6 Girls Football and mixed TAG Rugby as well as friendly sports fixtures with All Saints' and Hotham Schools.

Earlier this term, some of us got to throw some shapes with Springs Dance, Christian dance company. Transport for London came into school to talk to Y6 pupils about their transfer to secondary school. Mrs Barron organised a workshop to support parents in talking to their children about sex and relationships and The Mayor of London encouraged us all to get involved in volunteering. Y6 pupils and their parents took part in an e-Safety workshop organised by Mr. Lett and Mrs Bishop. Mrs Lake invited a mosaic artist into the school - the work in progress looks amazing. We have also held another electricity free afternoon, representatives from Childline have been into school to work with Y5 & Y6 and all classes have invited parents into class to show their work.

FoSMs have been in action this term hosting the Welcome Tea for new (and old) parents as well as the AGM and two extremely well supported meetings - huge thanks to all the parents who have attended these. By the end of term all classes will have held Cake Sales, raising money for the class. Other major fundraising events include the Sponsored Walk, the Christmas Fair and the Christmas Party. A huge vote of thanks goes to Michele and the fabulous FoSMs team for their magnificent work.

Let us hope that as we celebrate Christmas 2015, the World will remember that on a cold winter's night over 2,000 years ago, an innkeeper took in two complete strangers from a foreign place and the greatest story every told began to unfold...

Cheryl Payne  
Head Teacher



## Early Years and KS1 School Council

Summary of the Minutes for the meeting 9th November. In Attendance: WL, Ananya Guha, Joe Kessell, Betty Chidgey-Trofimov, Nojus Skrabulis, Kian Wimble, Scarlett Jones, Emmeline Hume, Euan Johnstone

1. Friendship-stop broken. We now have a bench but JK thought that it often got wet and to sit on it when wet made you feel even more miserable. Action: To find a sheltered place for a new friendship stop.

2. Following on from whole school assembly and Y2 class workshop, the two areas where children particularly wanted to make a difference were;

\* Litter

\* Pollution/Road Safety

Council reps are to discuss these issues in class and come up with ideas. Reps were instructed that the ideas had to be Achievable/Fun/Inclusive/Make a difference.

3. Some of the issues from classes to discuss -

\* YR: KW thought a swimming pool in the playground would help everyone get fit. After discussion school Council thought that this would lead to a lack of playground space during playtimes and maybe we should be encouraging children to use Putney Leisure Centre itself.



## Anti-bullying

The anti-bullying team was prepared, ready and very excited for their first anti-bullying day, with our new anti-bullying ambassadors. In the assembly, we wanted everyone to know: who we are, what we do and our morals. We also wanted everyone to know what to do if they were bullied.

On the day, we promoted a really fun idea called compliments day! The feedback was great, everyone enjoyed giving and receiving from each other. I really loved the day and wish to have more opportunities like this!

Remember, "Don't be a bully, be an anti-bully!"

Grace M Y6  
Yves-Alain Y6



### STARTERS:

Betty Chidgey-Trofimov Y1  
Faris Mehmood Y2  
Harry Seabrook Y2  
Sebastian Sexton Y2  
Bianca Rosales Acevedo Y3  
Alici Saldanha Abbott Y3  
Vance Wilkinson Y3  
Jack O'Connor Y4  
Abia Khan Y5

### LEAVERS:

Mrs Brady  
Mr Pearson  
Miss Carling  
Rudy Farrow Y1  
Lily Spencer Y2  
Isaiah Lake Y3  
Lara Precious Y4



# YR

What a great start to the school year!

Reception have settled really well into school life and have made an excellent start at St. Mary's. We have been very busy this term, "learning, having fun, reading." Scarlett. In the first half term our topic was 'Family and Friends.'

We talked about different family members and had a special visit from Mrs Game's baby, Austin.

"He was so small and crawled." Niamh

"I love my family and friends." Max

We launched our 'Bears' topic with a fantastic and fun teddy bears picnic in the classroom. Everyone had a very jolly time, especially the bears! Over the last few weeks we have enjoyed reading lots of stories about bears. After our picnic we began to read and explore the story 'Biscuit Bear.' We came up with our own ending to the story, created a story map and designed Biscuit Bears. We moved on to the much-loved story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' and have re-enacted the adventure around the school.

"We've been on a bear hunt. We found the Bear!" Rudy

We have also been finding out facts about real bears, using variety of sources from non-fiction books to iPads.

"Polar bears have black skin and they can swim." Hugh

Finally, we have enjoyed getting ready for Christmas, practising our song for the Church service and celebrating the Nativity story.



# Y3

Our first topic was Scavengers and Settlers. We learned about Early Man to the Iron Age. We started by finding out how fossils were formed. We learned about carbon dating and how it helps to see how old a fossil is. Then we learned about Otzi the Ice Man and Lucy the first type of person. They came from different eras.

In Maths we started by learning number bonds and went all the way up to fractions. Then we pretended to do some Christmas shopping for the other people in the class to learn about money.

In RE we looked at Faith In Action. We first learned about William Booth then William Wilberforce and last of all we learned about Mother Teresa.

Our most recent topic is 'How Humans Work' about the human body. To start we learned about how well our eyes work in different amounts of light. Then we learned about how we hear and how sound travels to our ears. Then we learned about teeth.

We have just finished reading The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. It was very exciting!

Beatrice & Sam

# Y2



"We have had parents coming into cook with us. We made chocolate biscuits that were yum. We have been learning about people who lived in the past. I liked Edmund Hillary the best because he was so cool climbing a giant mountain. He might have died because it was so difficult and so cold. I liked our Super Humans topic because we looked at how we taste food and we had to eat crisps blindfolded and guess the flavour." Daniel

"I liked our history topic on people from the past. I liked Mary Seacole because she tried to help soldiers in the war. I liked the Florence Nightingale Museum trip because we got a chance to dress up. This week we made angels to decorate the school Christmas tree which was fun." Coral



# YN

We asked the children what they had enjoyed doing this term, a popular answer was "playing!" We are playing, and through play the children are learning and

developing across all areas of the curriculum.

We have covered the topics of 'All About Me' and 'Let's Pretend'! This has involved learning lots about our friends and ourselves and making paper plate self-portraits. We have read and retold many different traditional tales. We have learnt about puppets, and even made our own to use in our theatre role play area.

Our weekly cooking sessions are also popular! In our carpet sessions we have been doing lots of counting and listening. This term we have introduced our first few letter sounds. The children are getting really excited spotting the sounds we have learnt in the text. We learnt about Remembrance Day in November. Above all we have been learning the 'reason for the season' and understanding some of the details of the Christmas story. All in all a fantastic first term for Nursery!





## Y6

Y6 has been action packed this term. Our topics have ranged from 'Full Power' – exploring electricity to 'What a Wonderful World' – finding out about the wonders of our amazing planet! The children have been engaged and curious throughout. Amazing work has been completed in Maths and English too – children have written and published their own books and investigated number and shape through a range of problem solving activities.

"At the beginning I was nervous and my hands were really shaking but when I opened the door to the Y6 classroom and got welcomed by the teachers I knew I didn't need to worry any more." Jasmine

"Standing proudly with my own published book was my best moment – I love writing even more now!" Grace M

"My favourite trip was to Thames Explorer because I love getting muddy and it was great to see Mrs Caseley." Fiza

"I found out that Y6 is not my nemesis – I'm actually loving it!" Algie



## Y1

Our topic has been 'Let's celebrate.' We went to Eddie Catz and had a party there. We played party games and pass the parcel. There were face paints and grown-ups used lots of different colours to decorate. We went inside the room and there were lots of balloons and we had party food. We did the Eddie Cat dance with Eddie. Celebration is a happy time. We've made sandwiches, jelly and paper chains. We used paper and put it in a circle and looped other ones around it.

We are getting lots ready because we are going to have a party.

We have learnt about celebrations from around the world, the day of the dead is celebrated in Mexico. People celebrate the dead souls and their lives. We drew pictures of different celebrations that happen in the year

Our first topic was The Great the Bold and the Brave. During this we explored the Roman and Greek history. To kick start our project we made models of Greco-Roman buildings. Also related to our topic we read the book 'Adventures of Odysseus' set in Greece. In English we did work on the book such as trying to describe a character (The Cyclops, Polyphemus) and writing in persuasive language. In maths we did a variety of different things like different methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

## Y5

In RE we looked at the Biblical creation story and the significance of the seventh day of rest. On the days leading up to Christmas we looked at the Christmas story and to show all the main events, we created a comic strip.

Our most recent topic is Look Hear, and to start the project we had an amazing party to experiment with different things about sound and light. We all thought the strobe light was really cool. During the topic we made string telephones and found out how they work.

We have just finished reading the book 'Clockwork.' It was our favourite book so far because it was full suspense and the preface was mysterious. A while ago we went to Sayers Croft where we did lots of activities and stayed up all night (sshhhh!) We all had loads of fun and were sad when we had to leave.

Libbie & Thomas C



Y4 is really fun. Our first topic was 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures.' We learnt all about ancient Egyptians, which included Gods and Goddesses, hieroglyphics and why the River Nile was important. Then we made Egyptian headdresses. It was super fun. We had to think about how the Egyptians made the pyramids. Mr. Lett gave us sheets to fill in about all the steps to make pyramids, for example, first they had to level the site and at the end they had to put all the blocks on top. In English we have been reading Varjak Paw. We had to complete many writing tasks on Varjak Paw including writing a newspaper report. In maths we have learnt about decimals, fractions, measuring weights and now we're looking at handling data.

## Y4

In RE we have been learning about 'Signs and Symbols'. We visited St. Paul's Cathedral. We took the tube there. When we got there we had lots and lots of fun. Near the end we got to go up in the Golden Gallery. It was the highest point of the Cathedral and the view was amazing.

Jack & Caitlin



## Governor Update

Time flies when you're having fun, or so the saying goes. Well the governors must be having a ball, as it's been longer than I thought since we last wrote in School News.

There have been a number of changes in the governing body since then and as I hope you will see more of us in school over the coming months, I thought a few words about who we all are might be in order.

Many of our governors are well known at the school. Katie Turnbull (Y2&Y5), Alex Lowe (Y3&Y6) and Andy Lillywhite (Y1 & YN), Ted Wainman (Y3&Y5) Judith Kennedy (Y5&Y6) and Richard Brearley (Y4) all have children at St Mary's. Others, Angela Attah, Annette Watson, Miriam Pearson and I, had children in the school some time ago.

New to the governing body and to the school are Pat Matheson, Simon Ho and Ashleigh Helm. Pat has considerable expertise in education and in particular Special Educational Needs, (SEN) heading up SEN at Hammersmith and Fulham Council until 2013. Simon has a financial background and is an experienced director and brings expertise in budgets, finance and property. Ashleigh is the newest member, a local GP, bringing medical training and management experience to the team. Our staff member on the governing body is Mark Lett, who adds invaluable perspective and insight to the work that we do.

We will be putting more information about our work on the school website – on the 'Meet the Team' tab. As governors visit the school we will be talking to children to get their views on life and learning at St Mary's. We are also keen to hear from parents and hope to find opportunities to canvas your views in the coming months.

Sally McGeachie - Chair of Governors

## FoSMS

Wow, what a start to the school year we have had in FoSMs. It has been packed full with fabulous events and laughter a plenty! We saw an amazing turn out to our first FoSMs meeting of the year and it has been great to see such a mix of new and old faces getting involved throughout the term. The FoSMs team were on hand to talk about the future at the AGM over wine and nibbles, as we thanked Theresa for her incredible hard work as she has led us for the past two years. The money we raised in Sept 2014-2015 will be used to replace the KS2 Interactive whiteboards and computers, as well as sheds and core support activities.

The Sponsored Walk saw the highest ever turn-out as we were blessed with blue skies and dry feet! The walk raised a staggering £2431 and it was a hugely enjoyable and rewarding event. By now you will all have the stunning artwork of your children's Christmas card designs and I'm sure you have all been beaming with pride as you have sent them to friends and family. The terms events culminated with the spectacular Christmas Fair; buzzing with joy, filled with cheer and wondrous sights. Father Christmas in his Grotto was definitely the highlight. We look ahead in 2016 to our first event in February with the infamous Quiz night, followed closely by the Family Disco in March. The Giving Machine has seen a steady increase, which family group will be crowned champion of users in January?

We thank YOU for all your efforts; past, present and future, as without YOU we cannot make a difference to our children's school. Please look out for the new FoSMs newsletter and website, which will keep you updated throughout the year. I look forward to working with many of you in 2016!

Michèle Williams - FoSMs Vice-Chair



## A recount of Sayers Croft

When we arrived, we settled into our dorms (and unpacked the sweets). We went orienteering and afterwards went on the blindfold trail and maze. Gloria and I did well on the maze as we overheard some people saying the answer, so we finished earlier than we would have (please don't tell). We did better with finding the symbols and didn't overhear anything. On the trail I went first and Gloria managed to let me fall on a high hurdle before the giant tyre. It was Gloria's turn and I did well guiding Gloria. When she felt a knot in the rope, she kicked it into mid-air, thinking there was an obstacle in front, (it looked hilarious!) We had an animal show and saw lots of cute animals and had a bonfire, with two marshmallows each (perfectly toasted). The lights went off and the sweets came out that night, no one slept that much. For breakfast we had sugar on toast and it was amazing. Next, we went on the ropes, it was the most fun I'd had since choir on Friday. I loved the Tarzan swing and the leap of faith. Overall I can't wait to go next year!

Farah Y5

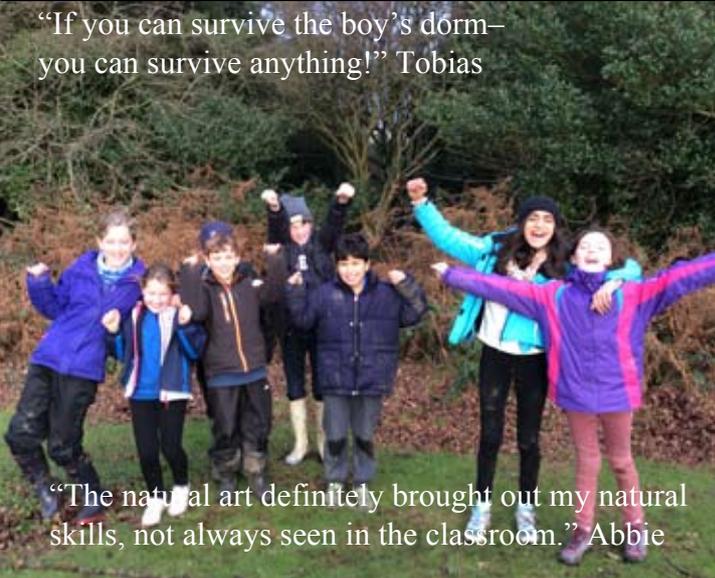


# Sayers Croft



"If you can survive the boy's dorm—you can survive anything!" Tobias

"Cracking adventure!" Algie



"The natural art definitely brought out my natural skills, not always seen in the classroom." Abbie

"The natural wonders of Pitch Hill were beautiful." Hal

"WILD!" Andrew

"Putting out the dance moves tonight!" Kevin

"Naturally amazing!" Jacob

"Mr Walker kept stealing my After Eights!" Thea



"I thoroughly enjoyed singing around the campfire." Lucy

"The leprechaun cocktail party rocked." Grace M



Y5 should start getting excited NOW! Y6



## Harvest

Harvest Service at St Mary's Church on 9th October. Our service this year focused on 'Thankfulness,' Ailsa Newby gave a thoughtful sermon on food and the children interpreted the theme in different ways; from dance and poetry to songs and art work.

We supported the work of 'Calaid,' a group of volunteers collecting urgently needed donations for those living in the Calais refugee camps. They believe that no person should be without access to basic human rights like shelter and warmth, and by collecting donations they can work to improve these conditions.

The situation in Calais is part of a wider migration crisis in Europe - caused largely by the displacement of people from war-torn countries such as Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan and Eritrea. Our thanks to Andy Stewart (Sebastian's Dad Y4) who took all our donations of warm clothing, shoes, tents and sleeping bags down to the Calaid Centre in Kent.

Mrs Livingstone

## PPSSA FOOTBALL at Dover House Road

After a shaky start to the season our Y6 pupils gradually pulled together and were able to demonstrate some fine football skills and excellent teamwork. The league was decided over a 7 week period during which time the team played better and better and eventually we secured the 2015 title with victories over all the other Putney schools. In the crucial final 2 weeks of the competition we conceded only 1 goal and remained unbeaten in 6 matches.

Our team was: Alex (Capt), Jaydon (Goalkeeper), Hal, Tobias, Andrew, Jacob, Jack, Yves-Alain and Kevin. We are also very grateful to Lucy, Nicholas and Algie Y6 as well as Thomas C, Jeremy and Charlie Y5 all of whom helped us in various games along the way. We would also like to thank all the parents for their support and the brilliant coaching of Mr Walker.

Alex & Hal Y6



## A day in the life of Monica Read

Mrs Read is a born and bred Putney resident. She is a twin, her sister lives up in Scotland and she has seven siblings!

Mrs Read's first association with St Mary's school was back in the 80s, when she was looking for a place for her children to go to school - Jamie and Jenny (now Mrs Game). When she applied to the school for her son, there were only thirty applications for reception places and the school was not the great place it is today. Luckily a new Head teacher had just started, Mr Tim Marwood and from the moment he arrived at the school, it started going places! In September 1989 her son arrived at the school and Mrs Read was a parent on the PTA, which was to become FoSMs. She was a founder member.

Their first event was a jumble sale that raised £55 and they were delighted. Mrs Read did some voluntary work in school and was then employed as a part-time TA (Teaching Assistant) in 1994. At that time, one of her duties was to do a tea round to all the teachers in the afternoon. I wonder if it would be good to bring that back?

Mrs Read's role grew into being the IT specialist in school. This includes everything from fixing any glitches with the equipment, to asking for quotes and meeting with contractors when the school needs more equipment. She is currently helping with the project for interactive white boards for KS2. Mrs Read orders all the stock for the school, so next time you grab a piece of paper or a pen, remember Mrs Read has checked the prices with her suppliers and got a good deal for St Mary's! The official hours of the job are 1:30-3:30pm, although she can often be found in school after 3:30pm. Things come up! You will have met Mrs Read in the office where she is based for some of the time, dealing with 'phone calls, queries, pupils, teachers and parents.

Mrs Read has another job in the mornings, she is the Estates Service Officer for a local Housing Association. Another job that requires query management and also site visits in Putney and local boroughs.

Mrs Read lives nearby and she relaxes with the crossword and by reading autobiographies. She LOVES her grandson, Austin who calls her 'Nonie' (a bit like Moni for Monica and also the Italian word for nanny).

During her time at St Mary's Mrs Read has seen lots of changes; Y5 & 6 used to be together, nursery didn't exist and the playground was different. What hasn't changed over the last 25 years is the ethos of the school. Mrs Read loves the school atmosphere and loves the attitude of those who are part of the school community.

If she could change one thing about her job, she would have more time. Even with the best plans for the day, things crop up which take her away from the task!



## Netball

The Netball Club had another successful term with all the children competing in the PPSSA High Fives Netball tournament during the term. This year a few new schools from the borough took part, making it exciting to meet new faces as well as playing against new teams. The competition was tough, as usual. There were thirteen schools in the league and St. Mary's came an incredible joint third. This was a great achievement as some of our members had never played netball in the club before this year!

There was also a one-day High Fives event with 8 local schools taking part and our exceptional team won every match they played, all receiving certificates and badges to celebrate their success. I am very proud of all members of the Netball Club.

Mrs Barron



## Wandsworth Cross Country

On a cloudy Wednesday in October, we made our way to Tooting Bec. Despite the weather, everyone had a great time and ran their hardest. There were 26 schools in the competition and 2 heats per race, the fastest time won. In the Y5s races Alice and I ran ahead of the other runners winning our heats easily, I came first overall. In the Y5 boys race all our yellow t-shirts came in the top 10 fastest runners. The Y6 girls ran well, with Abbie leading them into the finish. In the Y6 boys, Yves-Alain and Hal stuck together all the way round, close to the leaders and finished in the top 15, with Yves-Alain beating Hal on the sprint. All in all, a very successful day. Thank you for all the teachers and parents that helped in the competition and made it possible for us to go.

Jeremy Y5



## Tag Rugby

On Tuesday 10th November, pupils from Y5 and Y6 took part in a mixed tag rugby tournament at Dover House Road playing fields. We entered two mixed ability teams: the reds captained by Hal and the blues captained by Tobias.

Both teams had great success in the opening games, with some audacious tries scored. We played very well and performed a pitch perfect defence against some cracking teams. The blues made a valiant effort but unfortunately missed out in the semis, just coming fourth in their group. The reds stormed through the group stages and semis but were narrowly beaten in the final. The tense match went into nail-biting extra time but we fell short of victory against Brandlehow, losing the game seven tries to five.

Both teams should be justly proud of their achievements. Special mentions to Alex Clarke, Yves-Alain, Jeremy Parsons, Algie Holdsworth-Hunt, Kate Brearley and Lucy Mackay-Weed who played some awesome rugby. We must also thank Mr Ellis and Charles Roberts for their great coaching and steadfast support and Mrs Brady for her passionate enthusiasm and encouragement from the sidelines.

Hal & Tobias Y6



## Wandsworth Girls 5-a-side Football

On Tuesday 20th October, 'Girls Club' pupils played in the Wandsworth Girls 5-a-side football. This gave pupils the opportunity to put the skills they have learnt this half term into practice. The team defended excellently and maintained positions really well, conceding only the odd goal in most games. Unfortunately, they were up against older, more experienced players. This meant they struggled to maintain possession for long enough periods to trouble the opposition at the other end. The girls really enjoyed competing for the school and had big smiles when they drew the last game against Hillbrook. After this they enjoyed watching the knock out matches and observing how other teams play. The team progressed through the experience, which helped to develop both knowledge and skills. This should stand all in good stead for future competitions.



## Year 4 Trip to St. Paul's Cathedral

Y4 visited St. Paul's Cathedral to reinforce their learning on 'Signs and Symbols' in RE. Here are some observations from the class;

"It was amazing! I found out the cathedral is very old and the beautiful pictures on the walls were mosaics." Chloe

"St. Paul's is a great, enormous and amazing place to visit." George

"I had lots of fun at the cathedral because it was educational, spectacular and there are stunning views of London from the top of the Dome." Matilda

"The whispering gallery allows you to whisper to each other from opposite sides of the dome." Amber

Y4 has been working enthusiastically alongside Group 64 Theatre for Young People to help write a play script and create a drama performance. The children have enjoyed drama workshops which have helped them develop their drama skills in freeze framing, acting, use of facial expressions and using voice effectively. Using their imagination the children came up with ideas for stories and characters. They then contributed elements of their story to collaboratively write a play script called 'CODE 24125'.

"I think Group 64 has helped me to unlock my writing skills and have the confidence to perform." Michael

The class took part in rehearsals for the performance at the Putney Arts Theatre. The final performance to parents was fantastic. All the children enjoyed their theatre experience and it helped many of the class develop their self-confidence. Well done to everyone in Y4 and thanks to all the staff from Group 64.

"I believe Group 64 has helped me to be more confident in my writing and the acting is a lot of fun." Kate



## Code Club

Code Club is a brand new club that started in September. It is run by Mr Lett with the help of Mr Wood. This club is where we use computers to program our very own computer games and have the chance to play them. It is a really fun club because we learn new skills on the computer (called coding) whilst letting your imagination run free. Code Club is quite challenging because you have to create a code that can get quite complicated. If you get it wrong the games do not work and then you have to debug it!

Tomas, Joseph & Oliwia Y5



## School Council

School Council is a great opportunity for everyone to be heard, whether you're passing on the information in meetings as a representative of your class, or giving your input and ideas to the reps and knowing you're making changes. I've been on the council for the whole of Y5 and I have seen small, but sure changes in the school community. The basic reason I think we have the school council is to give everyone a voice. Every single meeting we have is recorded and we always find solutions to the issues brought up (well...mostly)!

Abbie (Secretary of School Council) Y6

## Autumn Term Music at St Mary's

M:Tech has continued to thrive here at St Mary's as the new Y3s joined and kept numbers at more than 50 children in KS2 grabbing the opportunity to be creative using the latest in music technology. This term the children have been putting together their own versions of soundtracks to well-known films, for example Star Wars, Ghostbusters and Pirates of the Caribbean and they also worked towards their next grade certificates in understanding music theory, keyboard skills and technology, so Grade 2 for those who started last term, and Grade 1 for newcomers this term. At the end of term, all the children took home their composition on a special CD and we were treated to hearing the prize-winning compositions in assembly when we were amazed at how much they had learnt and progressed in such a short time.

Wider Opportunities Concert: back to more traditional musical learning, all the children in Y1-Y3 showed off their new skills in playing the recorder or flute this term by performing in front of Y4 and parents. They all demonstrated how much they have learnt in only a few weeks and we look forward to hearing how much they have progressed again in next term's concert.

Infant Choir: each week we have been rehearsing hard on Mondays after school as especially with Christmas coming and public engagements to fulfil, we had a lot to learn! Before half term we concentrated on Autumnal songs like 'Conkers!' where we used real conkers to put our actions to, and 'Sunshine in my Heart' to give us a particularly warm feeling. Then after half term it was hard practice of Christmas carols so that we could put on a festive performance at the Platt Centre on Felsham Road. Being double in numbers compared to last year, the patrons thoroughly enjoyed our lively renditions of Jingle Bell Rock and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, and a gentler performance of a favourite of many – Away in a Manger. We were also delighted to be invited to St Mary's Church to sing at their Christmas lunch, and we particularly enjoyed singing in beautiful surroundings to such an appreciative audience.

Mrs Le Provost

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# Cheryl Payne Uncovered

I was born in Suffolk, but grew up in Cambridgeshire. My love of theatre drew me to London to attend Drama School and I remained in London and worked as an actress shortly thereafter. I have had a variety of different jobs: shop assistant, play leader, bar maid, hotel receptionist, workshop leader, actor-musician, musical director... Following completion of a PGCE I taught in Cambridgeshire, Westminster and Islington and I'm now in Wandsworth. Who knows where the job will take me next... Hopefully somewhere hot!

## What do you like best about St. Mary's?

The children!

## What makes you happy?

Spending time with family and friends – especially my nephews, acting, music, being creative, enabling children to learn, seeing children excited about learning, kindness, thoughtfulness, generosity, people who go the extra mile, trips to the theatre and cinema, holidays, yellow roses, books, freesias (they remind me of my Nanna), Wales, Arsenal winning, concerts, trips to Ireland, holidays anywhere and everywhere, hot places, sunshine, a tidy and organised environment, peace and quiet, A 'to do' list with lots of things ticked off, a hot water bottle, my onesie(s), someone cooking me dinner and of course... Dolly Parton!

## What subjects did you like best at school?

Drama, Music, Art, English and RE.

## What was your best holiday?

It is so difficult to choose from the amazing places I have been, but it would be a draw between a trip to the Southern States of America and Thailand I think!

## Which of your habits would you like to change?

I wish I could stop talking so much!

## Who is your favourite actor?

There are so many great actors it is too difficult to pick just one. I was brought up on Porridge, Only Fools and Horses and Open All Hours etc. I love Ronnie Barker and David Jason – I think comic actors are often overlooked. I am awed by the ability they have to make you laugh one minute and cry the next!

## How do you like to relax?

By the sea, somewhere warm, on a sun lounger, under an umbrella, with a good book and a beverage!

## What things upset you?

Injustice. Suffering. Cruelty to children or animals. Loneliness. Upsetting other people.

## What is your greatest extravagance?

Mulberry handbags.

## What pet do you have or would you like?

I am allergic to most things with fur. I really like dogs and have a great respect for living things, preferring to admire them in the wild. I don't like the idea of domesticated animals.

## What single thing would improve your quality of life?

New knees.

## What are your favourite pastimes?

Watching theatre/cinema/TV, going to gigs, reading and walks.

## What human trait do you most dislike?

Self-centredness.

## Describe a favourite meal?

Take away fish and chips from The



Celtic in Aberaeron.

## Which famous person do you most admire?

William Booth.

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

Your health is the most valuable thing you own.

## How would you like to be remembered?

For something funny so it makes people laugh or smile!



## House Captains for 2015/16

Yellow: Hannah and Hal  
Green: Alex and Isabella  
Blue: Jack and Lucy  
Red: Jaydon and Grace F



Last week Georgie Forbes, ex St Mary's pupil, competed at the Junior World Tumbling Championships in Denmark. She did really well to win the bronze medal in the 11-12 age group.

Georgie said "I had an amazing time in Denmark and I am so pleased with my bronze medal, it's a dream come true!"

