

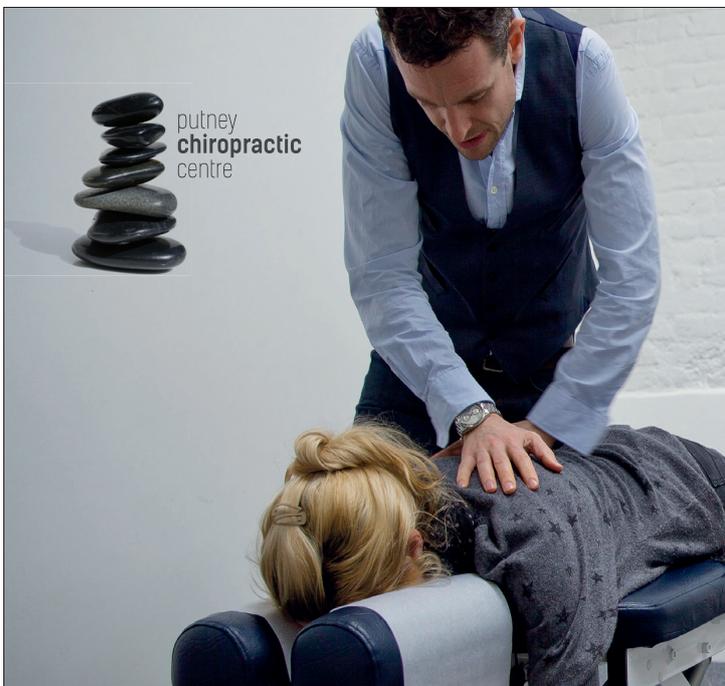


SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARYS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE





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Letter from the Head...

As I write, the Christmas tree has just gone up in the Hall and children are beginning to cover all available surfaces with glitter! It's a privileged time to be a school teacher and I don't think Christmas would feel the same in any other job!



It's been a very busy term – as is usual at St. Mary's - it's hard to believe we started the term with sunshine and are now wrapped up in our winter woollies!

There have been many highlights, I personally enjoyed taking some of the older members of the Choir to sing at the Thames Festival celebrations on the South Bank in early September. Seeing all the children really inspired and excited by our visit from Andy Instone at Urban Strides was another highlight; as was visiting Sayers Croft on the Tuesday to see Year Five and Year Six learning in a different way outside of school.

Although academic results are not all we are about here, we were pleased to see that we are still sitting in a good position in the various league tables this year. The Sunday Times had us in 13th place and the results of the Key Stage Two tests last year were amazing. Considering that nationally only 53% of children achieved the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths, we were delighted that 90% of pupils achieved the standard in RWM at St. Mary's and that 20% reached a higher standard (compared to 8% in the Borough and 5% nationally).

Close links with St. Mary's Church continue to be a priority for us. We are well supported by the Parish Team. Ailsa has been in to lead assemblies, communions and to be interviewed by Year Two on her work as a Vicar and we always receive a warm welcome when we visit the Church.

We continue to be well supported by our parents and governors. The Friends of St. Mary's (FoSMs) have been busy this term organising a range of events including the Christmas Party and the Christmas Fair. A very big thank you to all of our parents who have supported the work of the school this term. Another huge thank you also goes to our Governors who will have met twice by the end of this term as well as attending one or two of the three committee meetings and a governor working day! I would like to say a very big thank you to our Chair and her merry band of Governors who keep us on our toes here at St. Mary's.

All in all, it's been another great term and before I go I would like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas surrounded by family and friends. It won't be long before we are all back here to do it all over again in the Spring Term! Enjoy the break!

Cheryl Payne - Head Teacher

Governors update

It's a demanding but rewarding job being a school governor. On the rewarding side, one of the perks, is the chance we get to visit the school and see all the hard work going on in the classroom. This term a group of governors visited St Mary's to see RE teaching in action and look at the school's Christian distinctiveness.

After joining Key Stage 2 for an assembly which focussed the importance of valuing our friends and thanking them for the support they give us, we took part in a learning walk. Starting in the nursery, we saw RE lessons being taught in each of the different year groups. It was inspiring to see such a wide range of Christian themes being covered from the harvest thanksgiving, to baptism to Christian values in action to the challenging concept of the Trinitarian nature of God being tackled in Year Six.

We very much liked the prayer corners in each of the classrooms, especially in Reception where the class can record their prayers on a special prayer recorder.

We also had the chance to meet with Mrs Thomas, the subject leader for RE, to discuss the new curriculum being introduced. As a Church of England school, RE is a key subject, so it was good to see a rich and varied curriculum on offer that engaged the different classes, enabling them to talk knowledgeably about Christian values and the various themes being taught.

Our thanks go to all pupils and staff for letting us visit, we very much enjoyed our morning in school.

Sally McGeachie - Chair of Governors



FoSMs News

Here at FOSMS HQ we have had a sensational start to our fundraising efforts for the year, which culminated in our smash hit Christmas Fair.

This term we have seen the children's creative juices flowing as they designed their own Christmas cards for us to purchase – who needs M&S when we have our own artist's impressions to enjoy, so thank you Nina Parsons for organising! We had the Christmas Party organised by Y6 and the parents had the pleasure of a wonderful evening out getting to know each other and starting the season's festivities.

The Christmas Fair was loved by all and encompassed our St. Mary's community feel perfectly. The children's faces lit up as they met the real Father Christmas in his grotto and the joy it gave them reinforced the meaning of what we do. Y3 reps did a superb job with something for everyone at the fair and it had a wonderful feeling throughout.

So, as we relax over the Christmas holidays let's not forget there are more adventures in the pipeline, with the first event being our ever-popular Quiz night...how competitive are you feeling this year?! We then have an exhilarating calendar of events for next year so get ready for more fun and frolics and make sure those dates are in your diaries...you don't want to miss out! Wishing you all a Happy Christmas with many blessings for a peaceful and Happy New Year.

Michèle Williams - FoSMs Vice-Chair



Classroom Close-ups

YN

This term in Nursery the children have settled in really well and made a fantastic start at St Mary's! We have seen great progress with the classes becoming increasingly independent and enjoying school more and more.



During our 'All About Me' topic we heard about what makes us the same and different. We measured ourselves, created self-portraits in various ways, and took part in our first circle times, sharing facts about ourselves, and showing special objects from home. The children have worked on differentiating sounds to develop Literacy skills, playing games, going on a 'listening walk' about school, and making sounds with instruments.

This half term we have learnt more about animals, talking about the similarities and differences between them. We have listened to a whole range of stories, including "Tanka Tanka Skunk" which has given us a focus on rhythm and rhyme. We also made our own "Dear Zoo" flap books!

We investigated the change in the seasons, learning about the weather and collecting Autumn objects from around the school, finding as many colours as we could. Using leaves, we even created a hedgehog collage! We have also marked special occasions together, representing fireworks night in paint, learning about Remembrance Day, and, of course, eagerly preparing for Christmas, hearing the story of Jesus' birth whilst learning songs, creating stars, writing cards and making Rudolph cupcakes.

Y1

We have been lucky enough to have several trips as well as visitors to accelerate our learning both in and outside the classroom. The children began the year thoroughly enjoying exploring materials with a trip to the Victoria & Albert museum and completing a Tower Challenge with their parents managing to create paper towers over a metre tall!

They have visited St Mary's Church as part of our R.E topic; Revd. Laura Fawcett led us through a Baptism Ceremony and actress Ellen Chivers visited class to discuss the story 'The Snail and the Whale' from page to stage production. The children relished learning about the set and how the viola was used to create different effects and were lucky to hear a live rendition of Ellen playing some of the music from the production.

This half-term we have ventured into our topic 'Let's Celebrate' with much vigour! Highlights include; learning why Bonfire night is celebrated, making edible fireworks and even a trip to Eddie Catz to celebrate Ramble's first birthday.



We have enjoyed learning all about celebrations and Christmas, and learning 'Away in a Manger' for the Christmas service; We really enjoyed performing it at church!

The class would like to leave you with a quote from one of our favourite authors;

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened - Dr. Seuss

YR



Reception have settled into school life really well and have made a fantastic start at St. Mary's! During the first half term Reception's topic was Nursery Rhymes. The class learnt lots of different rhymes and how to continue a rhyming string. They explored the school environment looking

for spiders and drainpipes for Incy Wincy Spider, created clocks for Hickory Dickory Dock and developed their counting skills with Once I Caught a Fish Alive. Independently they furthered their learning around rhymes by acting them out, creating pictures and exploring the sounds made with different instruments.

This half term we have been learning about 'Bears' and have particularly enjoyed our Power of Reading books. The class brought, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to life by acting it out through role-play, dance and music. They have visited the Polka Theatre and watched a production of the story, which was retold using puppets. Back at school Reception created wonderful story maps and collage scene pictures. The class then joined 'Biscuit Bear' on his adventures in the kitchen by designing and creating their very own 'Biscuit Bears.' Reception have been busily preparing for Christmas by reading the Nativity story, creating the advent calendar pictures, making decorations and practising 'Little Donkey' for the Christmas Service.

Y4

Year 4 have had a very productive and positive start to the term. We became budding archaeologists for our topic of Temples, Tombs and Treasures and the class uncovered many Egyptian artefacts hidden around the classroom. Good fun was had by all. We also had a wonderful exit point where the children got to walk like an Egyptian in their headdresses.



In English, we have been reading Varjak Paw. The children have produced some great descriptive work, immersing themselves in the story and embracing their inner cat!

They have used some ideas from the journey of our hero, Varjak, to produce some very creative poetry.

In Maths, we have covered addition, subtraction, place value, time and fractions. We have also been exploring measurement, and the class ventured into the playground equipped with trundle wheels, tape measures and rulers and found that they were amazing at making accurate estimates of some very large areas!

Year 4 are also lucky enough to have Group 64 work with us this term, which has been an amazing experience for all of us. The children have all contributed to an amazing script - which promises to be a real treat. We can't wait to perform!

Y2

As usual, we have crammed so many activities and experiences into this term including: visits to the Florence Nightingale Museum and St Mary's Church, a Famous People party and parade and a recorder concert, but we particularly wanted to tell you about our new Super Humans topic, where we are learning about how our amazing bodies work. Two parents came to help with our topic launch: Mrs Evison, a qualified phlebotomist, spoke to the children about the importance of blood and explained how the heart pumps the blood around our veins and arteries. Mrs Heath showed the children how to keep their bodies fit and healthy with a yoga session for the whole class. She finished the activity with an all-important relaxation exercise. The children are also learning about their five senses and becoming experts on how our ears and eyes work.

Our new Religious Education topic is about the Light of Christmas. We started the topic with a visit from a Hindu priest who came to tell the children about the Hindu festival of Light - Diwali. Sancha said, "Rabhi came to tell us about Diwali. Some children got to dress up as Ram, Sita, Lakshman, Hanuman, a deer and the evil Ravan and act the story." The children wore beautifully decorated costumes and everyone enjoyed the drama. Thomas said, "I was the baddie and Joshua (Ram) shot me with a bow and arrow."



Y5

The beginning of September found us transported back to Ancient Greece where we learned about Greek Gods, Greek City States, Alexander the Great, the Persian War, and finally Roman Britain. Our topic culminated with a trip to the British Museum, where we applied our knowledge to solving the mysteries found in the Elgin Marbles taken from the Parthenon. Alongside our topic work, we read *The Adventures of Odysseus*. Here we developed our writing to include ambitious and appropriate adjectives to describe a character. Our skills of persuasion were put to the test in a lively class debate entitled, *Odysseus: Hero or Zero*. After half term, we began our new topic, Look Hear, with a light and sound party allowing us to explore different types of lights and a variety of instruments. We made string telephones, soundproof shoeboxes and explored how our eyes and ears work.

In Maths this term we have worked on mental strategies for all 4 operations, 12 and 24 hour time, equivalent fractions, and written methods for longer multiplication problems. In RE we have looked at the creation story from different religions' perspectives. As Christmas draws nearer we will explore how art and music convey the Christmas story. The most exciting thing this term, was our trip to Sayer's Croft. We can't wait to go back next year.



Y6

Year 6 - what a fantastic start! Everyone has made a successful transition into their final year here at St. Mary's. They have shown responsibility, produced neat and accurate work and have stepped up to the demands of being the oldest children in our school.



In English the class have enjoyed the Power of Reading text *Skellig*. Written work produced has included descriptions, recounts, poetry, non-chronological reports, e-mails and letters. The children have also been developing their understanding and use of grammar and punctuation.

In mathematics the class have worked on number and place value, mental and written addition and subtraction, mental multiplication and division, perimeter and area, 3D shapes, fractions and algebra! The topic on electricity - 'Full Power' - was really enjoyed, particularly the following tasks: finding out about people who discovered electricity; making circuits using different components; comparing series and parallel circuits; thinking about the use of electricity in the future; and making an electric wire-loop game. The topic called 'What a Wonderful World' is currently being studied and the children have so far enjoyed finding out about the earth, its different biomes and how rivers have shaped the earth's landscape.

PE lessons have focused on developing basketball and football skills, in art and design the children have looked at scientific developments in the visual arts, whilst in music lessons the class have learnt about syncopation to create their own jazz melodies! Wow - what a lot of learning!

Y3

This term, Year 3 have been learning all about Early to Iron Age Man in our topic, Scavengers and Settlers. We have learned all about how the first people lived, how they changed and developed over time and how the first settlements were created. We particularly enjoyed solving the mystery of the death of Ötzi, an Ice Age hunter, who was found in the preserved in ice.

We have also learned all about our bodies – how we hear and see, how to keep healthy and all about our bones – in our topic *How Humans Work!* We particularly enjoyed testing our sight in our home made eye tests and carrying out various investigations to find out how exercise affects our bodies.

Our favourite Power of Reading book this term has been *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We have loved hearing about the Iron Man and his story – from a fearsome creature to champion for Earth against the Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon! We have produced some fantastic pieces of writing, art work and especially enjoyed role playing the reactions of the citizens of the Earth on the arrival of the dragon.

In Maths, we have got to grips with telling the time and have begun to add to get the hang of finding fractions of shapes. We found this most fun when we cut up cakes and biscuits to illustrate fractions!



Sayers Croft 2016



"Sayers Croft is amazing - lunch and dinner were delicious!" Rory

"It has been a jam packed day of fun - from the amazing views at the top of Pitch Hill to the weird and wonderful mini-beasts found in the river - I have enjoyed every minute." Tom

Day 1

Year 6 safely arrived at Sayers Croft at 11am. All of the children were very excited and after unpacking their luggage and making their beds they were all ready to get stuck in...

Highlights of the day included:

- Playing on the adventure playground
- A lunch of macaroni cheese or spag bol
- Orienteering
- Woodland compass activity
- Team challenges
- A dinner of chicken or beef, with potatoes and greens, followed by peaches with cream
- A night walk to visit a Celtic roundhouse to explore artefacts

Day 2

Year 6 had a busy full day of exciting activities at Sayers Croft.

Highlights of the day included:-

- A breakfast of cereal, toast and pain au chocolat
- River study
- Natural art activity
- A lunch of chicken bites or fish fingers or cottage pie with chips and salad, followed by Rocky Road!
- Countryside walk to Pitch Hill
- A dinner of lemon chicken or beef stroganoff with potatoes and greens, followed by fruit crumble
- Campfire with marshmallows and songs

Day 3

The penultimate day at Sayers Croft has been great - lots of exhilarating activities for all of Year 6 to enjoy and remember.

Highlights of the day included:

- A cooked breakfast of sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, grilled tomatoes and baked beans
- Archery
- Climbing Wall
- A lunch of lasagne and garlic bread or chicken slice and potato wedges and salad, followed by lemon drizzle cake
- Abseiling
- 'Earthwalk' sensory activity
- A dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding or turkey and stuffing, with potatoes and greens, followed by ice-cream and fruit salad
- Tuck shop
- Disco with MC Letty!

Day 4

The final day at Sayers Croft arrived with everyone waking up early to clean and pack for departure.

Highlights of the day included:

- A breakfast of cereal, toast and croissant
- A walk through the village of Ewhurst
- A visit to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church
- Celebration assembly
- A lunch of fish and chips or chicken bites and chips and salad, followed by sponge cake

Year 6 safely arrived back at school at 3.15pm, and although looking all very tired, everyone was full of happy memories of their time on the school trip. Well done Year 6 for an awesome trip!

"You learn so much about people you think you know whilst you are at Sayers Croft - it's a remarkable adventure." India

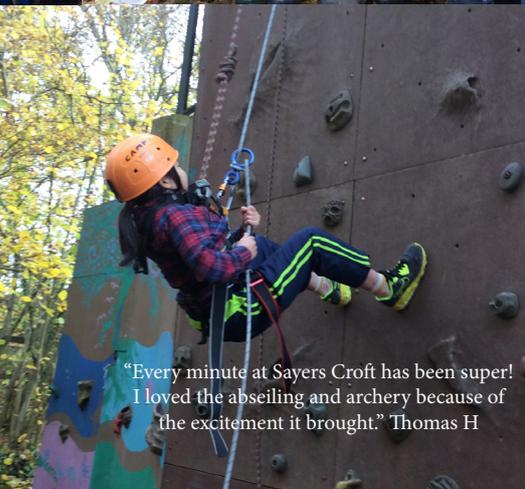




"Sayers Croft has been a fun adventure and today I really enjoyed the nature art task and building a bridge across the stream." Jacob



"Sayers Croft is a jaw-dropping experience! Today I really enjoyed the archery and taking part in the holiday jet set challenge." Thomas C



"Every minute at Sayers Croft has been super! I loved the abseiling and archery because of the excitement it brought." Thomas H

Autumn Term Music at St Mary's

This is possibly our busiest term in the Music calendar, especially with Christmas just around the corner! In school the children have been busy learning their class carols for the Christmas Nativity Service and we are enjoying the fact that they are all traditional carols. Infant Choir have been rehearsing hard for their Christmas engagement at the Platt Centre, as well as at the end of term assembly in school and Miss Payne's Choir have been busy rehearsing for Young Voices coming up in January at the O2 Arena.

Elsewhere, the task in M:Tech this term has been Project Planets: Blast Off! The sessions are almost full again this term as this continues to prove to be a very popular club. Everyone is striving to win the coveted Gold Disc for being the best all-round pairing – under wraps at the time of writing...

Our Friday assembly musicians continue to entertain us with a variety of instruments, which definitely started the term off with a bang as Rory (Y6) treated us on the drums.

Finally, Years 1, 2 and 3 showed off their new skills in playing the recorder or flute by performing at the Wider Opportunities Concert. 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.

Mrs Le Prevost



Platt Centre Visit

On Monday 12th December the Infant Choir went to the Platt Centre on Felsham Road to sing Christmas carols to the clients before their lunch. The children practised very hard in their rehearsals and it was a great opportunity for them to perform in a different venue. The clients at the centre very much enjoyed the children singing and even joined in! The Choir will be singing again in Assembly on Friday 16th December and you are warmly invited to come and see them perform.



Starters & Leavers

Hello...

Victoria Rosales Acevedo - Y1
Sancha Evison - Y2
Joshua Kolver - Y2
Callum Rotteveel - Y2
Aksel Solpuker - Y2
Elodie Van Der Veen - Y3
En Mu Hu - Y4
Holly Pelser - Y4
Louis Bridgeman - Y5
Emily Kuramatsu-Neave - Y5
Emese Parti - Y5

Goodbye ...

Chloe Corcoran - Y5
Gillian Graham

Poppy appeal

This year children in year six sold poppies to raise money for the Royal British Legion. We ran out of poppies by the end of the week such was the demand.

This year the children raised £72.92. Many Thanks to all who donated.



"Lest We Forget"

A Day in the Life of Hannah Baines

Nursery Teaching Assistant

Mrs Baines has been working alongside Miss De Souza, as Teaching Assistant, since September this year. Prior to becoming a teaching assistant she ran the breakfast club at St Marys. She lives in Putney with her husband and twin boys, Joseph and Jacob, who are currently in Y6.

Mrs Baines was born in Derby and has spent some time living in Nottingham. Her husband's career brought them to London many years ago. Mrs Baines' husband is in the Armed Forces, he is currently working at Clarence House for Prince Charles. For most of Mrs Baines' career she has been involved in child care. Her roles have included being a Senior Nursery nurse, a nanny and family support worker.

The day starts early for Mrs Baines, after dropping her boys off to their childminder she is at the school ready to start at 8am. Life as a TA is always busy and fun. Each day she helps set up the classroom ready for the Nursery children to start their day of fun and learning. After this it's on to playground duty and helping to settle the children into class. During the morning activities she deals with the PACT books and daily class admin where they document the children's achievements. Then she is back into the class to interact with the children during their play and activities, carrying out group activities with the children. At lunchtime it's a quick sandwich before heading back to the classroom to set up activities for the afternoon session. Mrs Baines enjoys the afternoon session, the children get to enjoy lots of different activities; painting, cooking, arts and crafts. She also leads maths and literacy activities during the afternoon sessions. After the fun it's tidying up and planning for the next day in a team meeting. Mrs Baines loves the variety of her job and the interaction with the children. The most enjoyable part of her role is listening to all the stories the children tell. Her latest role working in the Nursery is one of the most rewarding roles she has had to date.

After a busy week at the school Mrs Baines loves nothing more than relaxing with her family. She is a keen baker and on the weekend can be found curled up on the sofa enjoying a good movie. Christmas will be spent with close family and friend both in Putney and up north.



ART

This has been a busy term for art and artists with all the children designing their Christmas cards ready for going to print and making all the wonderful decorations for the various festivals, commemorations and celebrations which took place throughout November and December.

Alongside these preparations, Nursery children have been learning all about the patterns and textures found in nature. In Reception this term we have been researching and responding to 'animals' giving special attention to bears, their various colours, shapes, textures and patterns through painting and drawing. Year 1, have been focussing on 'festivals' and learning how different cultures celebrate. Year 2 and 3 have been investigating 'how humans work' looking at the ways in which artist's knowledge of the human skeleton and underlying structures has helped them with the drawing and painting of people throughout history. Following the topic 'living together', Year 4 have been learning how and why we create everyday objects that are entertaining and beautiful, as well as functional. Year 5 and 6 have been 3D designers looking at contemporary theatre in particular, the stage sets of Andrew Lloyd-Webber (Cats), Julie Taymor (the Lion King) and the painted backdrops by David Hockney. In art and art history club, we have jumped forward from the Renaissance to the Impressionists and Post Impressionists of 19th century western Europe.

Harvest

Our Harvest service took place at St Mary's Church on Friday 7th October after a visit from Liz Burrell who led an Assembly looking at the work of the Wandsworth Food Bank.

This year we brought donations into school and had a virtual altar at church showing our collection. On Monday 10th October, a group of children escorted by Mrs Livingstone delivered the items to the foodbank and saw first-hand how our donations were distributed to needy families. We collected almost 300kg worth of donations with an estimated 700 meals being provided.



Year 6 trip to the Crystal

On Wednesday 9th November Year 6 went on an exciting school trip to 'The Crystal' building over at the Royal Docks. The Crystal is one of the world's most sustainable buildings and is an exhibition on the future of our cities.

Year 6 visited The Crystal because their topic on electricity called 'Full Power' requires the children to think about the future of electricity. The children learnt about renewable forms of energy and discovered the latest technologies being used to produce and manage electricity in a sustainable way. The children went on a tour of the building and took part in many of the fun and interactive exhibits. A workshop gave the children the opportunity to make a model of their very own sustainable building. A particular highlight of the day for the class was travelling to and from The Crystal by cable car! The Emirates Air Line cable car took the class up to a height of 90 metres to travel across the River Thames. Despite the rain and wind, which caused a bit of a wobbly journey, the class were treated to some fabulous panoramic views of London. What a great experience for the class!



SPORTS NEWS

Wandsworth Girls Football

On Tuesday 18th October our girls were competing in the Wandsworth 5-a-side Competition at Wandle Recreation Centre. For many of the team last year's competition was their first opportunity to represent St Mary's in football. Pupils left this tournament enthused and desperate to play more. After a year of working hard on their skills, both in girls club and out of school, the improvement was there for all to see. The girls qualified from their pool of teams and were unlucky to lose narrowly in the quarter finals. Keep working hard and see what you can achieve next year!

Competitors

Arwenna Harvey, Imogen Wainman, Holly Seabrook, Caitlin Menzies-Gow, Alice Burfitt and Libbie Turnbull.

Boys Football

Congratulations to the boys football team who played in the PPSSA league and won the league!!

Competitors

Charlie Hunt, Rory Forbes, Jeremy Parsons, Tomos Harvey, John Tudor-Price, Rufus Wainman, Thomas Homes, Sebastian Stewart, Thomas Chittenden, Jack O'Connor, James Herrington



PPSSA Cross Country

Hot on the heels of the Wandsworth Cross Country was the PPSSA competition, held at Richardson Evans Playing Fields, on Saturday 15th October. Another excellent team performance saw St Mary's awarded the trophy for winning school. A big thank you to the children and parent volunteers who made themselves available.

Competitors

Arwenna Harvey, Imogen Wainman, Hugo Parsons, Holly Seabrook, Katie Clark, Kate Brearley, Tommy Burfitt, Tomos Harvey, Daniel Roberts, Alice Burfitt, Maeve Kennedy, Milly Burn, Jeremy Parsons, Charlie Hunt, Thomas Chittenden, Thomas Homes, Jacob Baines and Joseph Baines.



Wandsworth Cross Country

On Wednesday 5th October, St Mary's pupils attended the Wandsworth Cross Country. Held at Tooting Bec Common on a bright sunny autumn morning, children had to run for 1500 metres!!! With close to one hundred competitors in each race, pupils excelled as they all finished in the top half of their respective fields. This meant that, from twenty-two schools, St Mary's came fourth in the team competition. In addition the Year 6 boys' team finished as the strongest school in their category. Individually there were fourth place finishes for Alice Burfitt and Charlie Hunt while Holly Seabrook got the bronze medal in the Year 5 girl's race and Jeremy Parsons took silver in the Year 6 boy's race. Congratulations to all who took part.



Competitors

Year 5 Girls Team:

Holly Seabrook, Kate Brearley, Caitlin Menzies-Gow, Arwenna Harvey and Imogen Wainman.

Year 5 Boys Team:

Tommy Burfitt, Tomos Harvey, Hugo Parsons, James Herrington and Daniel Roberts.

Year 6 Girls Team:

Alice Burfitt, Maeve Kennedy, Katie Clark and Milly Burn.

Year 6 Boys Team:

Jeremy Parsons, Charlie Hunt, Thomas Homes, Rory Forbes and Tom Kessell.

Putney Mixed Tag Rugby

On Tuesday 8th October Year 5 and 6 pupils were at Dover House Road for the Putney Mixed Tag Rugby. This event is always popular with most schools entering two teams. St Mary's blue team did themselves proud. In defence pupils worked brilliantly as a unit. In attack well directed running and passing meant some beautiful tries were scored. St Mary's red team won all their games and will now go on to play the winning school from Battersea in the Wandsworth Mixed Tag Rugby Final. Good luck!

Competitors

Kate Brearley, Katie Clark, Avni Bakre, Emily Kuramatsu-Neave, Tommy Burfitt, Tomos Harvey, Noah Holdsworth-Hunt, Daniel Roberts, Alice Burfitt, India Jubb, Maeve Kennedy, Elena Roberts, Thomas Chittenden, Rory Forbes, Thomas Homes, Charlie Hunt and Rufus Wainman.



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Enter St. Mary's CofE Putney as your cause and join the other parents who have signed up.

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

We have raised £1700 in this way so far which contributes to more whiteboards, computers and other facilities for our children.

Reading Workshop

We will be holding a workshop on *'How to support your child with reading at home'*

This is aimed at YR and Y1 parents/carers and will take place on **Monday 23rd January** at school from 1.20pm to 2.50pm and is led by the charity 'Learn to love to Read!'

If you would like to attend please sign up in the office.

Many thanks
Wendy Livingstone



St. Mary's Church

St Mary's Christmas Crib Service 4:00 pm Christmas Eve. A family Service where children read and act out the Christmas Story.

Midnight Mass 11:30 pm Christmas Eve

The first Holy Communion of Christmas with carols by candlelight Christmas Day 10:00 am. A service of Holy Communion for children and adults (There will be no 6pm Caritas on Christmas day and New Years day) Carols by Candlelight 6:00pm Sunday 18th December. Not suitable for young children.



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Mrs Thomas - Y2 UNCOVERED



Many years ago in a town far, far away (Aldridge in South Staffordshire) I lived with my parents, two pesky younger brothers and a wonderful long-haired dachshund called Gus. My childhood was spent riding bikes and sometimes ponies, running around the fields next to our house, building dens and reading voraciously. I went on to study French and Linguistics at Essex University and had a brilliant time, including one year spent teaching English in a huge, rural French lycée which was more like a boarding school.

I moved to London for my first job after graduation, a Management Trainee in the Manpower Services Commission, where I worked for a few months each in a Job Centre, Benefits Office, Department of Education HQ and Training Division before working as a Marketing Manager for government training programmes.

I married the lovely Philip and moved south of the river to Putney, which I absolutely love. In 1990 I decided the time was right to change my career to teaching (something I had always intended to do). I studied for a PGCE at Roehampton Institute (now University) then worked for four years as a class teacher at a Primary School in Epsom. Our daughter, Helena, was born in 1994 so I took a career break to look after her and my husband, who became ill and died in 1998. Once Helena had started school I volunteered to help out at St Mary's and was asked to teach for half-a-day a week, then a day. The rest is history!

What do you like best about St Mary's?

I love the children; they constantly surprise and amaze me, make me smile and laugh, and they teach me so much. The staff are wonderful too. And it's only a five minute walk from home!

What makes you happy?

My fabulous daughter

Where was your best holiday?

It's difficult to pick just one. I'm addicted to the sea and love the coastline of Devon and Cornwall, and the Northern beaches of Sydney, where we have a lot of family, but I'll pick last year's trip to Rome with my daughter as she is a classicist and I'm really interested in Ancient Roman history.

What subjects did you like best at school?

Everything except Domestic Science and Chemistry, although my best subjects were languages, Maths and English.

Which of your habits would you like to change?

I bite my lips

How do you like to relax?

Definitely going for long walks in the countryside and in the city is therapeutic. On less energetic days I'll have a meal with friends or watch a boxed set with my daughter.

What things upset you?

Unkindness

What is your greatest extravagance? My hair is high maintenance; trying to disguise the grey is like painting the Forth Bridge.

What pet do you have or would you like?

Our beautiful cat, Milly, died at the age of 16 this summer and we really miss her. We're in a big debate about whether to get another so watch this space...

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

I can't decide between a live-in handyman and a daily head and shoulder massage. Can I have both?

What are your favourite pastimes?

I love going to the theatre, studying philosophy and visiting historical sites and buildings.

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

I absolutely love the Hillary Mantel books on Thomas Cromwell: Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies and can't wait for the third part of the trilogy. I am slightly obsessed with all things Tudor so I also love CJ Sansom's Matthew Shardlake series. To return to more contemporary stories, I've enjoyed everything written by Kate Atkinson because of her fascinating characterisations and her plot twists.

What human trait do you most dislike?

Prejudice

Describe a favourite meal?

Anything with fish and a creamy pudding like crème brûlée

What's the most important lesson life has taught you, so far? Everything in life changes (except God!) so be prepared, and learn from it.

How would you like to be remembered? As a good friend.



Early Years and KS1 School Council

Summary of the minutes for the meeting 3rd October. In attendance: Wendy Livingstone, Leo Chandler, Charlotte Bonehill, Emmeline Hume, Ewan Johnstone, Scarlett Jones, Kian Wimble, Nojus Skrabulis, Betty Chidgey-Trofimov.

1. Playground equipment - New playground equipment needed: basketball nets for EY/KS1, swings and monkey bars. Action: Y2 Reps to speak to Mr Ellis about basketball nets for KS1.
2. Lunchtimes - It was felt that perhaps the lunch hall was too noisy at lunchtimes. Action: Y1 Reps to speak to class Teachers about a noise gauge in the hall (like they have in Y1)
3. A better range of equipment and resources in class writing corners are needed. Action: All reps to speak to their class Teachers to source new equipment.
4. Y2 suggested spending time in each others classes to read and play together. Action: Y2 Reps find out from other classes if they would like to pair up for some activities (paired reading, wake and shake etc.) If this is the case Wendy Livingstone to speak to class teachers to arrange times.



Christmas Jumpers



Friday 16th December is going to be a busy but fun day.

Following our festive Christmas lunch, a visit from Father Christmas is planned and class parties will take place. We will be finishing school early at 2.30pm to start the Christmas holiday.

To support the work of 'Glass Door,' a homeless shelter in Wandsworth, we will be holding a 'Christmas Jumper Day.' Simply bring in a donation and wear your best Christmas jumper or hat. The money raised will support the Christmas Appeal to provide a homeless shelter every night of the week across Wandsworth, from November to March.

Ho! Ho! Ho! And here's to a relaxing and enjoyable countdown to Christmas!

