



March
2016



FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL SPRING ISSUE





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A day in the life of Gillie Graham

Gillie was born in Hong Kong and lived there until she went to secondary school in England. After school she attended St James's Secretarial College in South Kensington and started work in London. She worked for InterContinental Hotels as a Senior Secretary, but only for two weeks before being drafted into the sales and marketing team, with whom she travelled the world. She worked in the hotel industry for a long time, then joined Gemini Consulting, a firm in London. She took a break when she became a Mum to look after her children, who both attended St Mary's School. They are now in Y13 and Y10 at Kingston Grammar School. Gillie came to St Mary's, firstly as a volunteer reader, then she has done a number of roles including part-time Teaching Assistant and helping doing 1:1 work with a pupil. Helen Batchelor, the previous School Business Manager, saw her CV and persuaded Gillie to apply for her current role, as she thought it would be a great match! Gillie has been the Admissions Officer for St Mary's for over five years. She works 12 - 6 pm Monday to Wednesday and 9 am - 5pm on a Thursday. On Fridays she catches up with everything else going on in her life.



Gillie's role is busy as she looks after all the incoming applications for YN, YR and in-year applications too. For YN there are almost 100 applications, for YR 2-300 applications and there are many more on the waiting lists for each year. Nursery offers are given in mid-March and the Reception offers are in mid-April. It is a nervous time for parents and Gillie's heart goes out to those parents who are not offered places. Occasionally she has shed a tear with those who are disappointed. September and October are also busy times of year as that is when all the application forms are sent out and in October the school hosts an open day. Parents applying for Reception places apply through the local authority and school. The Admissions Policies need to be followed to the letter, to ensure it is fair to all. Gillie inputs the applicants on to a database and they receive letters and information packs. Every week Gillie receives about twenty calls from parents who are particularly keen to be offered a place. Some of the people Gillie gets to know well and she loves it when she calls them and says, "I am sitting here with a big smile on my face," and she is able to offer them a school place at St Mary's. Gillie loves this part of her job and she loves the team with whom she works. They are friends as well as colleagues. She wishes there were longer working hours, as she is so busy because the school is so popular.

When Gillie is not at St Mary's, she spends time with the family, driving her children to sporting fixtures and visiting her Mum in Guildford. That works well as she drops her daughter to the Surrey cricket centre at the same time. Gillie loves to travel and her best holiday was in Rajasthan, Northern India. She helps with a charity, The Victoria League, and her hardest working holiday was when she travelled to Sierra Leone to open a school there. The charity opens its second school this week. She hopes to return next year to see the newest school. When asked what would make her life easier, she said, a new right hip and for parents to use the PACT books more for messages, instead of calling the office. I think we can help with one of those!

Letter from the Head...

I'm particularly looking forward to reading this Spring-time edition of St. Mary's News. For the most part of this term, I have been at home recovering from surgery. As regular readers of 'the News' know, I enjoy putting my feet up at the end of a busy term with a copy of this magazine, looking back and reflecting on the term that was. Although I have been keeping a close eye on what's been happening at St. Mary's, I have not had my usual front row seat and am keen to catch up on all of the exciting activities that have been happening in my absence.

I thank you for your kind enquiries and well wishes – I have really missed everyone and look forward to getting back to normal. Again, I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team for ensuring that all is business as usual in our outstanding school. Many of you will have read in In Touch that Mrs Livingstone has injured her back and is also resting at home. I am sure you join me in keeping her in our thoughts and prayers. As you turn each page of this edition of the magazine I hope you – as I do – will marvel at the fantastic learning opportunities that your children have been exposed to this term. We are very lucky to have such an enthusiastic and hardworking team of teachers and support staff at St. Mary's. I thank them all for their dedication in making sure your child receives the best possible education. I wish them all a restful Easter break!

The team is well supported in this by our parent and governing body who work tirelessly to support the excellent work of St. Mary's. This magazine is very much a celebration of the fruits of our community. Each and every term it reminds us that together we can achieve great things for the children of our school.

As always, my thanks go to volunteers Mike and Sarah for producing this wonderful review of the terms events for our reflection.

Whatever your plans, I wish you and yours a very restful Easter break and hope that we will all be able to enjoy some Spring sunshine before we return for what promises to be another exciting Summer Term at St. Mary's...

Cheryl Payne
Head Teacher



Staff News

Welcome to the following staff who have recently joined the team at St Mary's; Sean Miller Y2 TA, Lynda Donlon Y1 TA, Donna Malumbe YR TA, Joe Wood Y5 TA and Courtney Rinaldi Y5 Teacher

We say goodbye to Leanne Brady Y1 Teacher.

Good luck to Bryony Barron who goes on maternity leave in May.

STARTERS:

Jason Goh - Y4
Aniello Cappiello - Y3

LEAVERS:

Kristie MacDougall - Y3



Young Voices

Young Voices is one of the largest school choir concerts in the world and St. Mary's choir was very proud to take part in this exciting event on January 25th. This year was the 20th Anniversary of the concert and it was held at the O2 arena in London. The Young Voices choir consisted of over 8000 children from hundreds of schools across the country. The aim of the concert was to provide a music experience for children that they will benefit from and remember for the rest of their lives – it certainly did this! Huge thanks goes to Miss Payne for the hours and hours of rehearsal time in preparing the children for the final show, the children were sorry not to be able to share the experience with her on the day. The children all thoroughly enjoyed themselves - dancing with style and singing with passion!





Y3

This term, Y3 have been learning about electricity in our topic, 'Bright Sparks.' We have learned all about how electricity works and have particularly enjoyed making our own circuits. We put our new found knowledge to good use when we designed night lamps for children. We had some amazingly creative designs including a moon shaped lamp and one shaped like a pirate ship.

We studied the similarities and differences between people living in different countries and ourselves. We enjoyed finding out about the different customs and traditions as well as the different weather and climates. We all decided that it would be great to live somewhere a little warmer! Our favourite Power of Reading book this term has been 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We loved following the Iron Man on his adventure from his appearance on the beach to his test of strength against the Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon!

In maths, we have got to grips with fractions and have begun to get the hang of adding 3-digit numbers together. However, we have particularly loved playing shops to learn about using money and working out how much change we should get back!



Y5

Y5 has had two exciting topics this term. First, we headed on our 'Mission to Mars' complete with an astronaut training camp and astronaut food. We learned a lot about the planets in our solar system and details about Mars. Now we have traded our spacesuits for magnifying glasses and have become 'Investigators'. In order to solve a crime in our classroom, we are learning to gather evidence by asking relevant questions and carrying out accurate tests.

In literacy we have explored the narrative poem, 'The Highwayman,' by Alfred Noyes. While it is a challenging poem, the class worked hard to understand the literary devices and even wrote their own poetry. Our current class text, 'Street Child,' takes us to Victorian London where we are exploring what life might have been like for poor people living during this time.

As part of our RE work on Sikhism, we visited the Sikh Gurdwara and enjoyed putting our learning into context.

Y6

In Y6 we have been studying our Power of Reading text 'Goodnight Mister Tom' alongside our topic 'World War II.' One of the highlights of the term was having a German lady in to class to talk about her own childhood memories of the war from a German perspective. The children loved hearing a real life story first hand and will remember the experience for a long time. We are planning to finish off the term with our very own VE Day party. For Number Day, Y6 provided a good number of entrants for the cake competition with Biba winning our class competition with a spectacular Pinata cake which sadly we never sampled as it was sold at auction. Our school trip this term took us to the beautiful Mandir Temple in Neasden where we discovered lots of interesting facts to support our RE learning in Hinduism.



YN Before half term our learning centred on animals. Our role-play area was transformed into a rainforest where we pretended to be both animals and explorers. The classes made a video retelling of "Tanka Tanka Skunk" and loved using drums to beat out the rhythm in the animals' names. We also made our own flap book versions of 'Dear Zoo,' choosing animals to draw and starting to write the letter sounds we could hear. The children loved inviting their parents and carers into the classroom to show them round, carrying out various tasks together, including an interview, painting Elmer and showing off their work. Number Day saw us visiting different teachers, and even thinking about how big a million is! World Book Day was another treat. We came together for a huge Mad Hatter's Tea Party in the classroom!

We celebrated Pancake Day and continued Lent by hearing a few of the Bible recounts of Easter. Alongside this we are learning about Spring and the new life starting to appear. After half term we focussed on plants and flowers. We have been reading and retelling Jack and the Beanstalk together, and planting and observing many different seeds, bulbs and plants. During our first couple of weeks we prepared to spoil our mothers on Mother's Day; the children should be really proud of their fantastic paintings; it was obvious how much their art has progressed since September. Well done everyone!





YR

Reception started this half term with our new topic, 'Food.' We began by reading the story 'The Gigantic Turnip' and learning about where food comes from. After acting out the story the children wrote their own recipes for Turnip Soup. We then followed these recipes to make our very own soup and bread. Within the classroom we created a supermarket role-play area and the children spent time buying and selling, fruit, vegetables and other food products. The class took a trip to Waitrose with their shopping lists and bought the items we needed for a fruit salad. We finished the half term by enjoying lots of exciting activities for Number Day. This half term we launched our topic, 'Dinosaurs' with a dinosaur exploring area. The children have been excavating fossils and creating their own narratives with dinosaurs. The class has also been finding out lots of information about dinosaurs by using the iPads and non-fiction books. We have been busy using this information to make fact books. YR really enjoyed inviting their parents/carers in to see the classroom and the work we have been doing this term.

The class had a wonderful time dressing up for World Book Day and really enjoyed celebrating Mother's Day and Easter at St. Mary's Church and of course, they were excited by the Easter egg hunt!

Y1

Y1 has had another busy term. Not only have we had a great time celebrating Number day, Safer Internet Day and World Book Day, we have also been busy in class practicing our number work, developing our literacy skills and learning new topics. We started 2016 with our 'Time Traveller' topic. This topic taught us all about past historical events and we visited the Science museum where we learnt all about Amy Johnson (the first female pilot to fly solo to Australia). We even saw her plane 'Jason' which is exhibited there. This term we have been planting and becoming green fingered. We have been on plant treasure hunts, we made herb heads and fantastic plant projects and visited the beautiful Wisley Gardens.



Y4

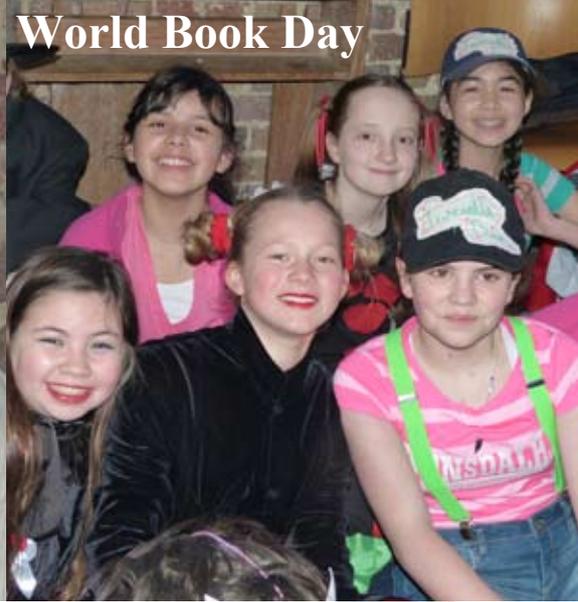
Y4 children have enjoyed studying the topic of 'Chocolate'. From the origins of the cocoa bean to the importance of Fair Trade all the children have shown interest in the lessons. The theatre trip to see 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' was a particular highlight and reading the book by Roald Dahl provided the stimulus to produce a whole range of writing including recounts, diary entries, descriptions and newspaper articles. Using the iPads the children had great fun working collaboratively to produce short film clips of a pretend news broadcast from outside the gates of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. A visit to Cadbury World in Birmingham was another highlight and helped to consolidate the children's learning. Y4 enjoyed their RE topic on 'Judaism' and some of the work produced includes making a model of the Jewish holy scripture, the Torah, and a model of a Mezuzah - a small box that is fixed on the door frame of a Jewish home. In maths the children focused on 2D shapes, symmetry, angles, parallel and perpendicular lines and of course are continuing to tackle calculations in the four number operations. In PE the class enjoyed gymnastics with Mr Ellis.

Y2

Spring term has been a busy one for Y2. We started the term with a new topic, 'The Earth Our Home,' and transformed our classroom into a rainforest filled with trees, vines, butterflies, snakes and reptiles, not to mention the odd monkey. Our learning on the habitats of the world led to an event-packed day at Kew Gardens where we compared desert and rainforest habitats, explored the plant houses and climbed up to the treetop walk. Our new topic, 'The Great Fire of London,' was launched with a mammoth visit to the Museum of London where we tried on seventeenth century fireman's helmets and learnt that, even in the panic and mayhem of the fire, many people performed selfless acts of rescue. Our trip included a visit to St Paul's Cathedral that owes its existence to the Great Fire of 1666, having been built only after the fourth cathedral on this site had been destroyed in the fire. Apart from our climb to the Whispering Gallery where we marvelled at the cathedral's beauty and symmetry, the highlight of the visit saw our whole party of children and adults lying on our backs on the floor of the spire so that we could properly appreciate the ceiling mosaics of the Creation. We all decided we would like to go back soon and find out more about London's most important cathedral.







Music

Children who are learning a musical instrument have been queuing up to perform in Friday assemblies and the sign-up list is getting ever longer! So far we have been treated to performances on the piano, alto saxophone, cello, violin and clarinet and they highlight the thirst for learning an instrument that we have at St Mary's. Well done to all who have played!

M:Tech students have loved putting together their own Bond themes, learning about basslines and melodies; Infant Choir have been singing about baby beluga whales and a chap called Aiken Drum who lived in the moon and had clothes made of cream cheese and haggis bags! Y1-3 gave a confident performance in their concert to show off their developing skills on the recorder or flute through the Wider Opportunities scheme.

In our lessons this term, we have been thinking about different aspects of music making, ranging from Y6 who dispensed with instruments and, inspired by current British composer Anna Meredith, used just their bodies to put together a piece using sounds and movement, to Y4 who used their class book *Varjak Paw* to inspire them to recreate scenes in the story using music rather than words.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) took place on 9th February and the key message this year was to 'play your part for a better internet.'

"Safer Internet Day is a fun day to learn about being safe on the internet." Matilda Y4

The day started with a special assembly that looked at the positives and negatives of the internet and how to be safe online. During the day classes took part in activities that got them thinking about how to be safer on the internet. Then all the children wrote special messages which were compiled into a class book to be shared. The day ended with a fun magic show.

"The show was really good as we were shown magic tricks but at the same time learning about being safe online."

Tommy Y4

For more information about using the Internet in a safe and responsible way please visit: www.thinkuknow.co.uk



Chelsea Boys' Football Tournament

On 22nd January, a group of Y5 and Y6 pupils went to Southfields Academy. The weather was cold, wet and windy but spirits were high as we got off to a great start beating Fulham Primary School 3-0 and then Earlswood 5-0. Charlie, Hal and Yves-Alain all contributed, scoring a couple of goals each. The third match was a lot tougher as we managed to squeeze a 1-0 victory against Trinty St Mary's. A match against Parsons Green Prep who had won all their games followed this. It didn't start well as St Mary's went a goal down but then we managed to equalise on the break. Hal sent the ball down the line to Thomas who went past a player and dribbled it into the box, passing to Charlie who was waiting by the goal to finish perfectly. St Mary's were then in control and quickly scored a second before having a number of other chances. With just minutes to go Parsons Green had a corner which landed just under the cross bar and rebounded. Unfortunately the Parsons Green striker was waiting to this snap up and the score finished 2-2. The next match against Chesterton finished 1-1. This was crucial for us because the draw meant we dropped to second in the group, despite a far superior goal difference. Despite winning our last game against St Barnabus Pimlico, an emphatic 9-0, we didn't progress as only the group winners went forwards to the semi finals. Nevertheless we had a fantastic day and can't wait to play again!

Competitors

Jaydon Lowe, Hal Kennedy, Tobias Davey, Yves-Alain Thecoura, Thomas Chittenden, Charlie Hunt, Rufus Wainman and Jeremy Parsons.

Thomas Chittenden Y5



Y6 High Fives Netball Competition

The team competed in five games in the local 'Y6 High Fives Netball Tournament' on Thursday 3rd March and they played so well that they won every match! The team was a credit to the school, demonstrating great sportsmanship. Overall they came second out of eleven teams as one other team scored only one more goal. A great team effort, well done to all of you.

Mrs Barron



Putney & Wandsworth Sportshall Athletics

On 13th January, pupils were at Latchmere Leisure Centre competing in the Putney Sportshall Athletics Competition. A strong team performance across all disciplines meant the boys placed first and the girls second. Overall St Mary's came second out of the seven schools competing, meaning they progressed to the Wandsworth Sportshall Athletics Final, held at Ernest Bevin Sports College. With increased space all teams were competing at the same time, so it was easier to get a gauge of how things were going. There was no hiding place, again some of the best athletes in Wandsworth were competing and St Mary's found the going tough. Many children were at Young Voices until late the night before, and this had an impact on their form. All competitors fought hard and there were some notable successes: Thomas C and Tomos H teamed up to win the 1 by 1 lap race before Hal and Alex managed to repeat this result in the 2 by 2 lap race. Jaydon won the vertical jump while Thomas C and Rory came first in their javelin events. A team of Tobias, Thomas C, Tomos H and Rory then managed to win the boys obstacle race. Sportshall

Athletics requires so many different physical qualities and it is clear that competing schools have worked hard to develop at this event over time. Hopefully St Mary's can use these experiences and future athletics lessons to improve further.

Competitors

Kate Brearley, Katie Clark, Tomos Harvey, Alice Burfitt, Maeve Kennedy, Jeremy Parsons, Thomas Chittenden, Rory Forbes, Alicia Rose, Ellyse Aspland, Abbie White, Grace Martin, Jasmine Cole, Lucy Mackay-Weed, Hal Kennedy, Yves-Alain Thecoura, Charles Hume, Tobias Davey, Alex Clarke, Jaydon Lowe, Kevin Gymafi



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.



Number Day

St. Mary's celebrated its annual Number Day event on 5th February and once again the school were happy to fundraise and support the NSPCC. The children enjoyed the fun challenge of solving puzzles during workshops provided by The Happy Puzzle Company. "The day was maths-tastic." Tobias Y6

In the classrooms the children busily participated in taxing, but fun Number Day activities, including number hunts, QR code breaking, magic maths, board games and fractions bingo. "I really enjoyed the number hunt as we got to explore the school." Rosa Y1

During the day the children were dressed as digits, they played number games on the playground, and each class had a competition to make the tallest tower of 2p coins (well done to Y4 who raised £26.92)!

The 'Number Bake Off' competition was well received and we had some great creative designs of clocks, dominoes, Sudoku puzzles and fraction cupcakes! Congratulations to all of our winners and thanks to everyone who bought a cake - the total raised was £244.51 - amazing!

"It was number-licious." Thea Y6

The overall total raised from Number Day was an impressive £517.37 - well done everybody and thank you!



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

CALAID

A big thank you to St Mary's for a huge contribution for Calaid, an organisation set up to provide help to the large number of refugees camped out near Calais. Some forty bags of high quality clothing and toiletries were donated by everyone at school to bring comfort to the people suffering in the cold in France. Also a big thank you to Miss Payne and Mrs Livingstone for coordinating the pick ups in the playground, as once again St Mary's demonstrated their fantastic community spirit.

Many thanks

Andy Stewart (Seb's Dad Y4)



FOSMS

Thank you so much to all the parents, carers and enthusiastic children for the fun-filled Spring term at St Mary's. It has been action-packed, as ever. The Quiz in February was very well attended and superbly organised. The family disco in March was a sell-out event again. It is a function loved by children and adults alike and it was great to see everyone throwing some shapes! World book day had an 'Alice in Wonderland' theme this year, and thanks to the FOSMs funds, the children enjoyed a wonderful theatre experience, bringing 'Alice' alive for another generation. As we relax over the Easter holidays, let's not forget there are more adventures in the pipeline, with the Art Fair in April. This event is hugely popular and it will be exciting to see this year's themed display and to find out who will be crowned this year's top artist. The summer term also gives us the opportunity for our major fund raising event, the Summer BBQ. Wishing a happy Easter to everyone and a huge thank you again for making our school events so successful.

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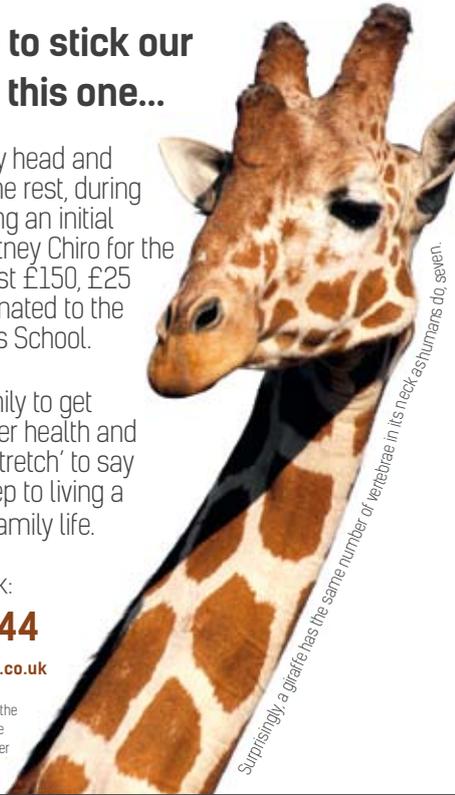
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Amelia De Souza Uncovered

I was born in London, just the other side of the river, and three years away at university in Durham was enough to know I never wanted to live away from a big city again! When I graduated I got a job as a teaching assistant at a school near Sloane Square to see if I liked it, and fell in love with the profession! Since then I have trained as a teacher at the Wandsworth Primary Schools Consortium (SCITT) and progressively worked with younger and younger children and thoroughly enjoyed it.

What do you like best about St Mary's?

I can't believe I am over half way through my first year here! There is such a friendly and warm environment that I have felt welcome and settled very quickly.

What makes you happy?

Travelling to new and different places.

What subjects did you like best at school?

English Literature and History of Art

Which of your habits would you like to change?

My messy desk It's dreadful but there's always something more important to do! Organised chaos?

Who is your favourite actor?

Leo di Caprio now that he has finally won an Oscar.

How do you like to relax?

Wandering around London, catching

up with friends over good coffee, and whiling away multiple hours in a good bookshop.

What things upset you?

People not saying sorry.

What is your greatest extravagance?

A few too many cappuccinos and baked goods from Grind Coffee on the Lower Richmond Road. Being known by name is never a good sign!

What pet do you have or would you like?

A pug called Hamlet (not that I have thought about this) and maybe a dachshund too.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

Many more hours in the day!

What are your favourite pastimes?

I love spending time at my church Christ Church Kensington, and I help out there as much as I can. Besides that I love going to art galleries and the theatre and exploring London.

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

Too many to choose from! "A Bit Lost" by Chris Haughton for it's gorgeous illustrations and classic humour, "The Incredible Book Eating Boy" by Oliver Jeffers for reminding me of the reason I read, "Pete the Cat" by Eric Litwin for the best character, and "Fatou Fetch the Water" by Neil Griffiths, which reminds me of very happy months spent in West Africa a few years ago. And for home maybe "Jane Eyre". I always get



completely caught up in it.

What human trait do you most dislike?

Dishonesty

Describe a favourite meal?

A good steak, béarnaise sauce and fries. Then Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

Which famous person do you most admire?

Nelson Mandela

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

When things are difficult it makes you stronger.

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who really cared, tried her best and laughed a lot. Hopefully not for my constant singing in and out of the classroom!

Quiz Night

The St Mary's Quiz 2016 took place on 4 February, and thanks to the organisation of Y2 FoSMS reps, was a complete sell out. There were eleven tables abiding by a maximum of eight people per team. The questions were very challenging indeed and there were a variety of interesting topics, but all based on the theme of television shows. Both the organising team and the quiz team worked hand-in-hand to make sure the parents had a great night - with no small help from the volunteers manning the bar! Last but not least, we can say that the quiz night was very educational as well, and a lot was learned from questions relating to the arts, politics and history. We look forward to next years quiz, which will be hosted by the runaway winners of this years quiz - "Even Simpler Minds". Congratulations to them and good luck for next year!

