



SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARYS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

APRIL 2019 ISSUE



ST. MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



BICENTENARY 1819 - 2019



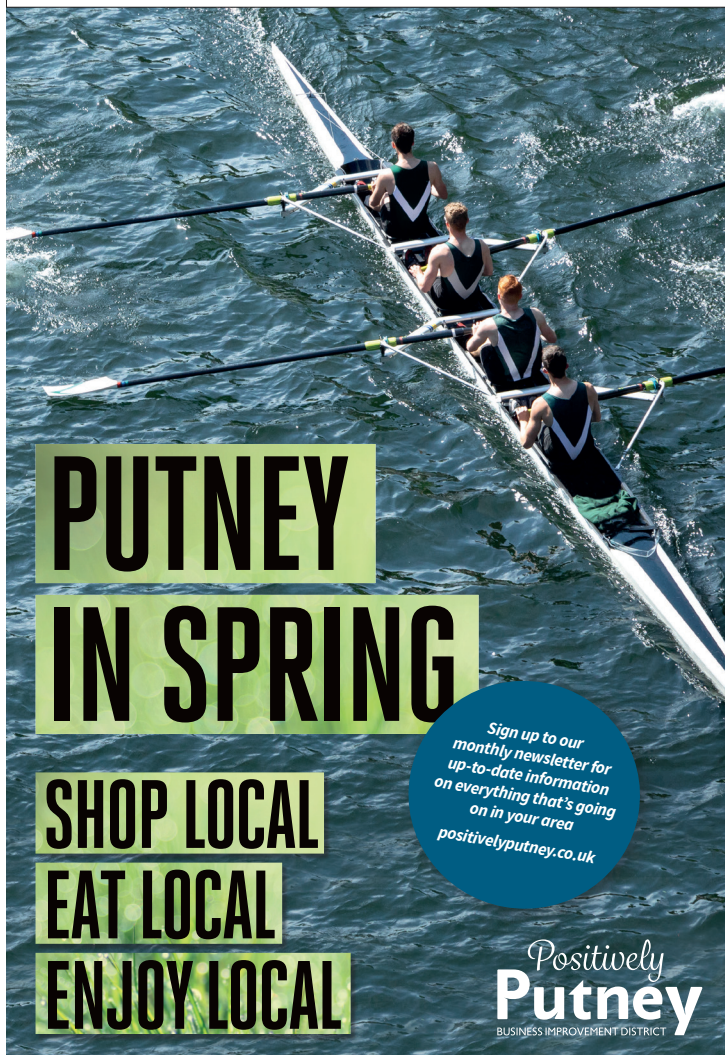


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Letter from the Head.....



What a wonderful time we have had celebrating our Bicentennial year so far! You are in for a real treat with this extraordinary edition, which is packed with information about our special Bicentennial week.

We had a fabulous time celebrating in school. We followed a special timetable of events which was hugely enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. Huge thanks to Mr Lett, Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Thomas, our Bicentennial Committee, and to all of the staff team for all the hard work they put in to ensure we had an unforgettable week!

At the end of the week we held a service of commemoration and thanksgiving in St. Mary's Church, led by the Bishop of Southwark, Christopher Chessun. As always, we are very grateful to Reverend Whittaker and the team at the Church for their support and hard work to make this a very memorable occasion. We were joined by parents, pupils and staff both past and present, as well as Wandsworth's Mayor, Councillor

Piers McCausland; our Local MP, Justine Greening; former Head Teacher, Reverend Marwood and the Director of Education, Mr Colin Powell and RE Primary Adviser, Mr Shaun Burns from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education.

We topped the week off with a lavish Ball, also in St. Mary's Church, organised by Jane Farrell and team. I don't know that we will see the like of this event in our school again for a while. It was truly special and really lovely to see families past and present celebrating together. Huge thanks to our amazing parent body for organising and delivering such an unforgettable event.

For me, one of the most memorable things about the celebration, has been hearing about past pupils and their amazing achievements since leaving St. Mary's. It was lovely to talk to many parents at the ball and to see some past pupils at the Open Afternoon. Four generations of one family joined us on Friday afternoon in school and we were all delighted to hear their stories about St. Mary's over the years. I know many people, myself included were particularly delighted to hear Mr Uphill's words at the Church Service.

Throughout our celebrations we have had exceptional support from our parent body who were involved right back at the planning stage many moons ago and since then have supported the school in a magnitude of ways; collating a fantastic history

of St. Mary's, making a wonderful film about our school (which can be viewed on our website), and planning, ordering and selling memorabilia – which continues to raise funds for our Playground 200 Project, to name but a few. I am extremely grateful to all of our parents for their fantastic support.

Our Bicentennial year will come to a close in February 2020 (the 20th was our Foundation date back in 1819). During this year we are hoping to raise funds to transform the outside areas of our school. If you feel particularly inspired looking through this edition of St. Mary's News and would like to contribute to this project, please make a donation via our website or come along and support the FoSMS events yet to come.

I hope you enjoy this edition immensely – we certainly have had fun creating these memories and we hope that the work we do today continues to secure the future for many more St. Mary's families yet to come.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been involved in making this time so special, you know who you are and we could not have done it without you. Now is the time to sit back, relax and enjoy the memories we have made...

Cheryl Payne
Head Teacher

Governors news

One of the undoubted perks of being a governor is the chance to be part of the school's celebratory events; this term, it was a pretty special one, our bicentennial celebrations on March 1st.

It really was a joy to be at the service which was both moving and a fitting tribute to the school; to all that it has achieved over the past 200 years and will continue to build on for the future. Hearing the memories of past pupil Michael Uphill was both educational and entertaining.

More than the words however, were the outstanding contributions from all the children who sang, read, performed, danced and celebrated so brilliantly. You really are a talented bunch. Speaking with some of our guests at the reception afterwards, I heard nothing but praise.

During the afternoon I helped show guests around the school, some neighbours, some former parents, even some former pupils. All loved what they saw.

The celebratory activities in the run up to the service sounded great fun and I think it fair to say that those of us who attended the ball had a brilliant evening.

Having been at some of the initial meetings I know how much work was involved, so huge thanks go to all the staff, pupils, parents and carers who contributed time, effort and considerable expertise into turning everything from bright idea to highly successful end result.

We are blessed as a school to have such commitment, enthusiasm, dedication and support in so many quarters - it is what makes St Mary's such a very special place.

With thanks to all those making this such a great celebration.

Sally McGeachie
Chair of Governors

FoSMS NEWS



FoSMS continues to go from strength to strength and this is directly attributable to a highly engaged and proactive parent body, who support the school. Since taking over as the Chair of FoSMS, I have been amazed at just how many people there are beavering away in the back ground to help make St. Mary's such a special place. From Christmas Cards to the School Magazine, from Jam Jars (full of goodies) to Football and Netball Tournaments - there can hardly be an excuse not to be involved. The FoSMS Committee have been hard at work bringing the new FoSMS Constitution up to date (a copy is now available on the FoSMS page of the School website - see the drop-down menu under 'Parents'), creating a new FoSMS logo as well as creating a database of FoSMS members

to help with communications of forth-coming events. If you have not yet added your details then simply point your smart phone at the QR code below (or ask your kids how to do it!) to add your details. A big thanks to those who organised and/or helped out at the Christmas Fair, Quiz Night and Family Disco. And a massive thanks to the team behind the Bicentennial Ball who pulled off a real cracker!

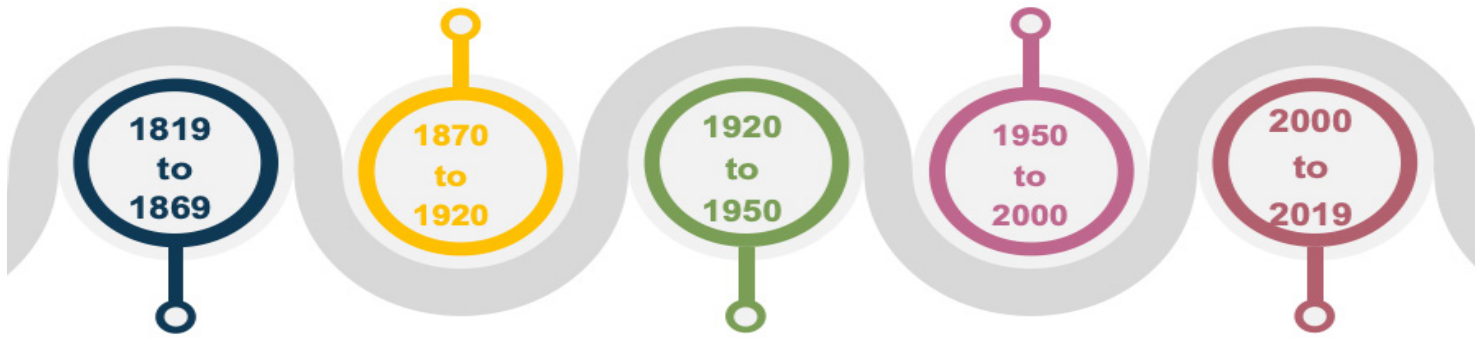
The summer term sees a plethora of FoSMS events to keep your calendars busy: Football and Netball Tournaments for the adults, the Art Fair, a Sponsored Walk, the KS2 Disco, the Summer Fair and the KS1 & KS2 Sports Days. These events only happen because a small group of highly committed and enthusiastic parents put their hands up and get stuck in. They can only do this with the loyal support of the wider FoSMS community. So if you receive an email from your Class Rep asking you to do a stint on the Candy Floss Stall at the Summer Fair, please don't ignore it - this is your chance to get involved and help out.

Finally, this summer will be my last as the Chair of FoSMS - and my last at St. Mary's. We are always looking for 'new blood' to take over from some of the old(er) hands on the FoSMS Committee. If you are interested in learning more about any of the roles - from Treasurer to Class Rep, from Secretary to Committee Member - then please do drop us an email or catch us in the playground (or at one of the many events). Remember - FoSMS is our parent body. It is only as successful as we make it. Please don't expect someone else to do all of the hard work for you (that is my job!).

Ted
Chair, FoSMS
stmarysfosms@gmail.com



St Mary's School, Putney - 200 Years of history



1819 to 1869

The First 50 Years

The history of St. Mary's reflects the changing times, beliefs and laws in Britain; starting from limited education typically reserved for the wealthy through to comprehensive

education for all.

The first 50 years of St Mary's School saw major changes across the country. Within the first 50 years there were 3 Kings and 1 Queen of England.

King George III - 1760 - 1820
King George VI - 1820 - 1830
King William IV - 1830 - 1837
Queen Victoria - 1837 - 1901

It is a time of rapid change including in English literature, engineering, medicine and social reform (1819 - 1869)



Charles Dickens, the author of many classic novels, including, *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations*.



Isambard Kingdom Brunel was one of the most famous and ingenious mechanical and civil engineers in history. He built bridges, railways tunnels and steamers. His designs revolutionised public transport and modern engineering.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a Scottish writer and doctor, born in May 1859 in Edinburgh. He is best known for creating the world's most famous fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes

Charles Babbage was an English inventor, engineer and mathematician. He is best known for devising the first mechanical computer which led to modern advances in computers.



Thomas John Barnardo, from Dublin, was so appalled by the poverty facing children in London that he opened his first 'ragged school' in 1867, in the East End of London, to educate and care for poor orphans and destitute children. By his death in 1905 it is estimated that his homes and schools cared for over 8000 children in more than 90 different locations.



Joseph Lister was a British surgeon who made surgery safer for patients by introducing sterilization techniques.



John Cadbury is famous for creating the modern chocolate bar by developing a process to harden chocolate. In 1875, his company produced their first Easter Eggs, filled with sugar coated chocolate pieces.



Putney in Mid 1800

In the early part of the nineteenth century, Putney, although only six miles from London, was a small rural village. Like other villages, it had Sunday Schools for the poor run by the Church. In 1836 the old St Mary's church was knocked down and a new one rebuilt.



Dramatic changes in the education of the children in England

In the early nineteenth century education for children especially the poor was very limited and nothing was organised by the government on a national scale.

Sunday schools held at church or chapel provided some children from poor families with an

opportunity to receive some basic learning, usually the ability to read.

Initially education for the poor was organised through societies rather than government-led.

What was school like in the early Victorian period?

In the first half of the 1800s, classes were massive. Sometimes there were more than 100 pupils in every class. The Victorian classroom was often referred to as the schoolroom. Victorian pupils sat at iron-framed desks. These were usually bolted to the floor in rows facing the front of the classroom. The walls of a Victorian school were often completely bare.

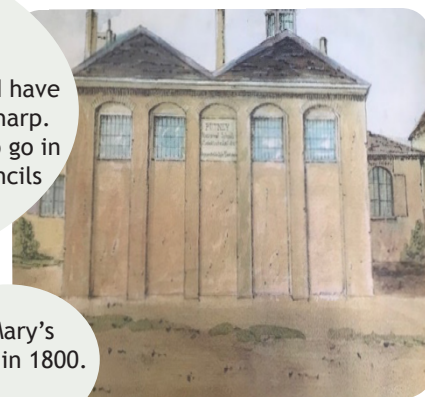
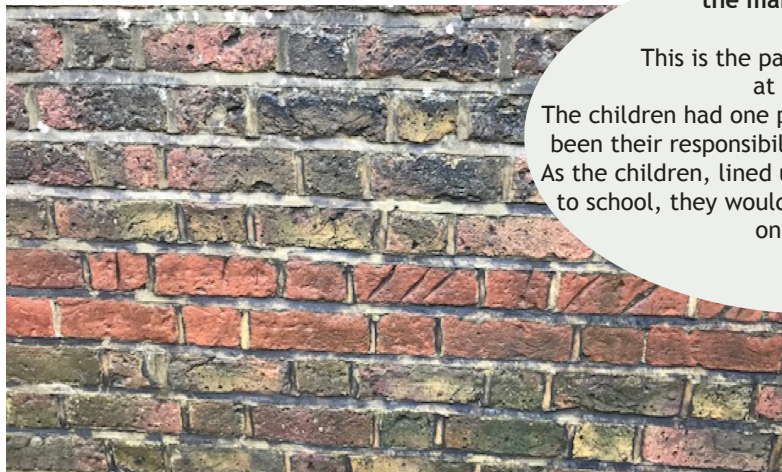
The floor of the schoolrooms were tiered (a bit like in a cinema). The children sitting at the back of the room were higher up than those sitting at the front. This meant that all of the children had a good view of the teacher and the blackboard, but it also meant that the teacher had a good view of them. The windows in a Victorian classroom were high up (to stop pupils looking out of the window). The rooms were lit by gaslights. As a result, the schoolrooms were gloomy and often stuffy.



Look at the marks on the red bricks!

This is the part of the oldest wall at St Mary's.

The children had one pencil each which would have been their responsibility to keep, and keep sharp. As the children, lined up in single file ready to go in to school, they would sharpen their slate pencils on the wall.



St Mary's School in 1800.

01

1819 St. Mary's Church of England School was established from an existing Sunday school, making St. Mary's the oldest school in Putney.

02

The School dates from a Deed of 1819 when it was 'situated in a part of a field of two acres in the back lanes of Putney'.

03

St Mary's as built on what is now known as Felsham Road on land donated by Earl Spencer 'for the labouring classes of Putney'.

04

The oldest part of the building is the Hall block fronted by a garden on Charlwood Road.

05

1849: 276 pupils attended St Mary's CE School

06

1869: Miss Williams of Wandsworth left St. Mary's a large sum of money. This money was used to provide new classrooms for girls and infants.

1870 - 1920

Years of rapid industrial growth and the expansion of the Empire give way to blood bath of the First World War

What happened at St Mary's between 1870 and 1920?

1891: St. Mary's becomes a Penny School charging each pupil 1d a week to attend.

1903: John Temple Leader, the famous Putney benefactor, donates a market

garden to St. Mary's' School as a playground.

During the First World War: In spite of air raids and drills for the pupils, St. Mary's tried to live life as normally as possible. Prize days and Sports days were observed. Christmas, Easter and Empire Day were all enjoyed, although an entry for March 1915 records 'No coal'.

February 1915: Private Brown visits the school to thank the children for the

parcels they had sent to his regiment. November 22nd 1918: St. Mary's' pupils are given the afternoon off to see the King and Queen drive through Putney. June 26th 1919 - School closed to celebrate the end of the war and the Peace Treaty. Procession of all Putney schools with bands to Putney Park Lane followed by sports, amusements and teas. Each child was given a mug and a plate by the Member for Putney.

St Mary's school life in 1900 - 1920

School hours: Many 10-13 year old pupils worked part time.

A 'half-time' system had been devised to allow children to continue to work, whilst also attending school.

For these children this meant working from 5am until 9am, then going to school and then returning to work from 5pm until 10pm.

Curriculum: Girls did housework, raffia and needlework. Boys did woodwork and reading. Past children have remembered that they learnt the names of Kings and Queens and about everyday objects from a box. These were called 'Object lessons'.

Classrooms: Between 1910-1920. St. Mary's, boys and girls were in different classrooms. They sat with their hands behind their backs. The cane was in regular use.

Awards and medals: To encourage attendance at school, medals were awarded.



St Mary's school in Felsham Road was built in 1867, and survives. An earlier school was built on this site on land acquired by the parish in 1819. The small chalked board announces 'St Mary Boys, Putney, The Regulars 1904'. The pupils are all wearing a school or prize badge and each is holding a prize volume. The writer of this postcard has added, rather uncharitably, 'Don't they look a lot of wrecks?'

1920 - 1950

Society was changing. London had expanded, cars were more common and the first television broadcasts occurred. Meanwhile, the dark shadow of war was about to fall over Europe yet again.

St Mary's school during WWII

All children shared 2 items in common a name tag and a gas mask. Second World War was a traumatic time for everybody at St. Mary's School and there was sporadic deadly bomb damage across Putney.

Sunday 20th February 1944: Bomb badly damaged the Girls' Upper School at St Mary's school, crashing through the roof

and setting the building ablaze. Drinkers at the nearby Half Moon pub formed a chain with fire buckets to try and douse the flames. The whole neighbourhood turned out to stare in horror or to try and help. Some pupils of the day remember their shock and sadness, but also their elation at being able to miss school.

With the destruction of much of the Girls' Upper school, classes continued at All Saints School and at a Mission Hall near the High Street.

The Eileen Lecky clinic (on Clarendon Drive) was originally known as Children's Health Centre. During the Second World War, their Infant Welfare

Services temporarily moved location, as the Clinic was repurposed to offer gas decontamination and first aid support. The Infant Welfare Services moved some of their services into 2 classrooms in the Girls Hall at St Mary's School. But when the school was damaged in 1944, the services returned to Clarendon Drive building.

Eileen Lecky, was the school and community nurse. The Children's Health Centre on Clarendon Drive was renamed to bear her name. The Raffia Room was converted into a kitchen for school meals.

St Mary's life - Health and Meals

In 1934 milk and meals were provided free on medical grounds. The meals were served at school and at soup kitchens nearby.

Ill health was a major concern. At one time the playground had to be turned into an outdoor TB ward. All pupils were given a big spoonful of Virol (a delicious sticky malt syrup that was still sold in the 50's.) and concentrated orange juice everyday to help their well-being. The school nurse of the time, Miss Eileen Lecky, regularly dipped her metal comb in disinfectant and ran it through every head in the school.



1950 - 2000

After the end of World War II, London was a city in desperate need of large-scale rebuilding. As ever after a period of destruction, architects and planners saw the opportunity for remodelling at the same time. And while all this was going on, the population reorganised and rejuvenated itself.

During the 50's and 60's, St. Mary's started to take the shape we recognise today. One of the first innovations was school dinners. Before the war children

went home for lunch. In the early 50's dinners, cooked at school, were introduced. At first they were free. Later, a nominal sum was charged.

1952: Headmistress Miss Shaw



1952: St Mary's became a mixed school. In the 1950s Mr Blake was deputy head, then became ordained and moved on to headship at All Saints.

Mr Ching was Head Master then in 1989 Tim Marwood became the Head Teacher.



2000 - 2019

In the 21st Century, Britain has experienced a higher standard living than ever before - by 2008, 79% of the population had a mobile phone, although this prosperity is not shared by all. Britain's population has risen to around 66 million in 2018. The Internet is now part of daily life with 90% of the population having access.

St Mary's expanded in 2003-2004

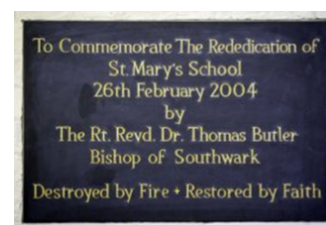
In 2003 work began on an extensive expansion of the main school building. This resulted in a new first floor

equipped with 3 new modern and spacious classrooms and larger staff room.

During the extension work our Key Stage 2 classes temporarily moved to Hotham Primary School for 6 months. Restoration of other parts of the school saw the addition of a dedicated IT suite. In February 2004, the expansion and restoration work of the school was complete.

St. Mary's School was rededicated by the Bishop of Southwark. A

commemorative plaque was unveiled and makes reference to the fire that destroyed the school earlier during World War II.



Investment and Changes in the school continue at pace

Under the headship of Andrew Evans - the main school offices and the Head Teacher's Office were relocated to the front of the ground floor.

Under the headship of Miss Payne - creation of the Music room, installation of the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), our all-weather pitch situated at the far end of the playground, installed in 2016. This was made possible through a grant scheme sponsored by Sport England and successfully gained by FOSMs, Jane Farrell, Alex Lowe and team.

In 2018, St Mary's had further works completed, with the dismantling of the temporary reception prefab classroom, which took up part of the playground.

And the extension and renovation of the main school building enabling new Nursery and Reception classrooms and adding an additional classroom which Year Six moved in.





What a fantastic start to our Bicentennial year! I am so delighted that all of the plans

to commemorate the 200th anniversary of our school's foundation have come to fruition with great success. As Chair of the Bicentennial Planning Committee I am so proud of what has been achieved so far. The hard work, dedication and effort (as well as quite a few late nights) put into organising events and initiatives has really paid off. I would like to thank the whole of the staff contingent of the Bicentennial Planning Committee for their contributions, particularly Mrs Thomas and Mrs McCarthy, who have both supported the idea of a bicentenary celebration since November 2017. I would also like to thank Miss Payne for putting her trust into us and supporting our decisions. Likewise a huge thanks to FoSMS and the parent contingent that have contributed enormously to our celebrations - there are just too many names to mention here, but you all know who you are - so thank you!

I think our Bicentennial Week at the end of February will be a memory I will personally treasure for ever! It was such a joy to be part of all the fun that took place in school across the week. I especially enjoyed watching the excited faces of children releasing balloons in the hall, dressing myself up as Winston Churchill, helping the children to bake wartime carrot biscuits and joining in with the dancing in the hall to party music! The Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church on Friday 1st March was something really special and I am still smiling with wonderment at such an extraordinary occasion. The service, led by The Bishop of Southwark, was a truly great event to commemorate St. Mary's School and give thanks for everything that we love about our school. We were so lucky to be joined by special guests and I was fascinated by the contribution from Mr Michael Uphill, a pupil back in the 1950s, who entertained us all with his fond memories of the school. The service was also a chance to showcase what amazing children we have here at St. Mary's - I loved watching the children perform and it was real treat having the organ play some of our

favourite hymns. The school bicentennial song - 'Shine St. Mary's Shine' - was written by my Year 6 class and was another personal highlight.

There is so much else I could mention - the alumni open afternoon, the bicentennial ball, the money raised for our Playground Project 200 - it has all been so interesting and exciting! There are also the bicentennial events to look forward to in the summer term - it really is all happening this year at St. Mary's, so make sure you are part of it and enjoy!

Mr Mark Lett
Chair of the Bicentennial Planning Committee



Commemorative Welcome Sign

St. Mary's has a new welcome sign to greet visitors through the doors of our historical school. The sign features the school's anniversary logo to commemorate its bicentenary and includes the words 'Proud to serve the Parish of Putney'. This sign was dedicated by The Bishop of Southwark, The Right Reverend Christopher Chessum, during our Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration at St. Mary's Church on Friday 1st March 2019. It is hoped that this special welcome sign will be a reminder to all of this special bicentennial year. Make sure you get the chance to take a closer look when you are next visiting the school.



St Mary's School Bicentennial Celebrations Open Afternoon

After our Celebration Service in St Mary's Church and birthday lunch, the children went home and the school was open to visitors including former members of staff, alumni and our nearest neighbours.

All staff enthusiastically welcomed our visitors and reminisced about their connections to the school. Fabulous homemade cakes were provided by parent volunteers and many visitors bought bicentenary memorabilia. Everyone was enthralled by the fascinating



History of the School display and keen to look around our school.

Former staff including former Head Teacher, Reverend Marwood; former Deputy Head Teacher, Angela Cox and former teachers Mr Spikeman and Mrs Gompels were keen to see the changes we have made to the school. We had a visit from a family of four generations who had attended this school, who brought in

a school photo of two of the sisters, Margaret and Ann Richardson, taken in 1956. It was interesting to see how the school uniform has changed. One lady remembered arriving at school during the Second World War to discover that a bomb had blown off the school roof. The whole school had to relocate to All Saints' School until the damage was repaired.

It was a treat to meet former pupils and find out how their lives have developed since their schooldays. One former pupil had travelled from Loughborough to see the school. She left the school nearly twenty years ago and enjoyed meeting Mrs Cox and Mrs Bishop again.

We also met several of our lovely neighbours on Charlwood Road who have been patiently throwing our footballs back into the playground; some for over forty years!

Tina Thomas.

Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration

On Friday 1st March we held a special Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration to mark the bicentenary of our school.

The service took place at St. Mary's Church at 10am, it was a formal service led by Bishop of Southwark, The Right Reverend Christopher Chessun. In attendance was The Worshipful Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Piers McCausland and The Right Honourable Justine Greening, MP.

"I'm a pupil in Y6 and during the Bicentennial Service of Thanksgiving I was one of the acolytes. It was amazing to serve with Bishop Christopher! The whole experience was just phenomenal. Scarlett and I received a 'Diocese of Southwark' badge from the Bishop... It was definitely worth it." Arwenna, Y6



"I felt truly honoured to be chosen to stand next to former headteacher Reverend Canon Marwood during the Bicentennial Church Service of Thanksgiving. I felt the blood of the past rush through me as I shook his hand and imagined what it must have been like at St. Mary's all those years ago. As he wished me a great future I felt that it would be thanks to my time at St. Mary's. It was unreal, yet amazing." Maya, Y6

"We felt honoured to be part of the school choir when we sang a beautiful song about looking after the Earth called 'We are the world'. We would like to thank Miss Payne for all the hard work she put into helping us to learn the words and do sign language with us. It was a really special moment to perform in front of everyone at the Service of



Thanksgiving, particularly as we had some very important guests in the congregation!" Alici and Nathaniel, Y6

"My name is Ruby and I was incredibly privileged to be able to write a prayer for my school's Bicentennial Service of Thanksgiving. I was given the task of writing a prayer on behalf of all the students that attend St. Mary's now and to pray for how we will all progress in the future. I felt very proud reading aloud the prayer alongside a former student and former deputy headteacher." Ruby, Y6

"We had the wonderful opportunity to dance with some other children from KS2 at the Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate 200 years of St. Mary's School. We learnt some awesome choreography (that Mr Lett brilliantly taught us) over weeks of lunchtime practice. We had so much fun taking part and Immy even got the chance to include a small gymnastics routine into the dance!" Amanda and Imogen Y6



ART

Our theme for this half term is still-life drawing and to celebrate the St. Mary's Biennial we worked with materials used by artists in 1819. Each class drew traditional English spring flowers using a dipping pen and ink. As the pens have no reservoir of colour they slow down our drawing and train our eyes to look at what the flowers shape very carefully. The results from all our young artists at St. Mary's are very impressive and the project was a wonderful start to the rest of our work this half term.



Balloons



Our Bi-Centennial week kicked off to a 'flying' start when every child and member of staff

released a balloon in the school hall. Each balloon was named and the challenge was set as to which balloon would stay up for the longest. The coveted prize of a first edition



Bi-Centennial School T-Shirt was eventually won by Emily in Reception Class. Well Done Emily and may you keep the winning balloon as a reminder of our Bi-Centennial week and hopefully bring it to our next celebration when we reach 250 years old!!



Bicentennial School Song



The question was put to me early in the Autumn Term – what could we do for Music to celebrate our Bicentenary in March? I immediately suggested that we write our own School Song, knowing that we have a very talented and creative Year 6 class and I did not come to regret that decision. Armed with our Core School Values, the history of our school and knowing what we love about day-to-day life at St Mary's, we dedicated our Music lessons from January to writing the lyrics to our song. We knew that we did not have enough time to write our own melody, so we voted early on which tune we could possibly borrow so that we could write our lyrics to fit and very kindly

Graham Kendrick gave us permission to use his tune for the service from his hymn "Shine, Jesus, Shine", a favourite of the children's. We pooled together our lyric ideas for the verses and chorus then spent some time refining what we had to produce the final song. In Bicentennial week itself, we taught the song to the rest of the school, and it was lovely to see the proud glances between the Year 6s as they sang the lines that they'd personally contributed and the rest of the school were now singing. As a final touch, the Year 6s learnt a harmony for the song, which they really impressed me by learning it in such a short space of time and then performing it so well on the day. Well done all!

Mrs Le Prevost

Shine, St Mary's, Shine

Shine, St Mary's, Shine
Our school was a gift from Earl Spencer,
He donated the farmland to build it on,
1819 the first brick was laid down,

School came to life and ours to be proud of,
St Mary's, St Mary's...

Chorus

St Mary's, Church of England and Putney's oldest,
St Mary's, we are here to learn,
Guide, teachers, guide, help us learn through the years to come,
Shine, pupils, shine, helping others on our way.

Love of learning and love for all,
This works so well at our primary school,
With endurance, compassion and thankfulness,
These are the values that give us our brilliance,
St Mary's, St Mary's...

Chorus

Standing here for over 200 years,
Always in our hearts, it's a special school,
Through the years we have grown and developed,
Persevering so all can achieve well,
St Mary's, St Mary's...

Chorus

Bicentennial Patchwork Quilt

The whole school took part in a special Design and Technology project for the school bicentenary: helping to create a patchwork quilt! Patchwork quilts have been made for hundreds of years, all over the world. They are often made by whole communities. We hope our quilt, when pieced together, will become a real picture of St Mary's on our 200th birthday.

Each child from Nursery to Year 6 designed and decorated a square of fabric. The Early Years classes glued on pieces of material to form a pattern, whilst Key Stage 1 and 2 created their designs with stitching and applique. It was a great chance for many children to try their hand at a completely new side to DT, and many learnt how to sew for the first time. We can't wait to see the whole work hung in the hall when it has been sewn together by some kind volunteers!



Bicentennial Skipping, Fencing and assault course action

Skipping

All St Mary's children from Reception to Year 6 took the opportunity to take part in a 'Skip2Bfit' workshop in the playground. We were given beautiful blue skies and excited



children.

The stimulating challenge with 'Skip2Bfit' workshops is that the children not only learn to skip but they are given ropes that count each rotation they do! All children had a warm up skip with tunes from the 80's and 90's blasting out across the playground to motivate them through the two minute skip challenge. All children were able to see how many rotations they did which sparked a healthy level of competition and camaraderie across the classes. The children were given another chance to

beat their previous 2 minute score... and I am thrilled to say every single child improved their score which showed determination, focus and growth mindset which at St Mary's we are very keen to grow in our PE lessons.

We shall now be setting up a weekly class 'Skip2Bfit' challenge after the Easter holidays for all children and staff to be involved in! And parents are welcome to compete at home...



Fencing

Year 6 was extremely lucky to have a visiting Fencing Teacher, Professor Kent who coaches many of the children and teens who represent the GB Fencing Team. The class were



divided into two and both groups received an introductory lesson to Fencing. They showed a keen interest, balance and focus.

Nursery

Nursery experienced a very sunny, fun and challenging morning whizzing around a carefully constructed assault course in the playground. There was lots of crawling under parachutes, balancing along beams, climbing and sliding down the fireman's pole as well as jumping over hurdles and stepping on magic spots. The final challenge was to take their favourite hand puppet on the adventure with them, making sure they took good care of them along the way.



Bicentennial Ball

The Bicentennial Ball topped off the week of celebrations. In our glorious St Mary's Church, 250 people enjoyed fun, frivolity and fundraising resulting in a fantastic £22,000 towards the Bicentennial playground redevelopment. The church looked amazing as did all who attended - resplendent in their finery!

It was great to see Reverend Marwood and the teachers dancing the night away to FakeTan who had the glitterball revolving all night. I only heard of one dancefloor fracas involving deadly stilettos - the wounded party was left in agony in A&E at 1am whilst the nurses worked on the real mystery: was there indeed any undergarments under the kilt of the patient's tall husband?

labour setting tables), and with putting the church back at 1am in the morning ready for the service on Sunday. Thanks go to all involved.

A brilliant evening enjoyed by all.

Jane, Bicentennial Ball Committee



Those of you who partook of the photo-booth will for once be delighted with GDPR. It means we can't really share all the wacky and wonderful photos that were taken, well maybe just a couple!

There is a lot of work that goes into running a ball along with the fundraising part of the Silent Auction, and it came together so well because there were an army of people prepared to help - both at the setup (including some Victorian style child



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PUPILS MEMORIES

Attended: Started at 3 years old, 1922 - 1933

Headmistress: Miss Mondrew

Punishment: Miss Franklin was not nice, she used to bang the children's heads together or on the desks. There was also hand slapping.

St Mary's had infants, girls and boys. At a certain age the girls from All Saints came to St Mary's and the boys from St Mary's went to All Saints.

School day: 9-12 and 2- 4.30pm

Homework - no homework

School meals: Went home to eat but some stayed at school

Favourite playground game: Rounders

After St Mary's: Left St Mary's at 14 and started work at Harvey

Nichols as an apprentice to dressmaking. Some people won scholarships and went to another school.

*Elsie Bedwell
(Winifred)*

Attended: 1934 - 1936

Headteacher: Miss Long

Teachers you remember: Miss Shaw, Miss Tribe

Mixed classes - younger brother came too.

Favourite memory: buying ice creams from a vendor outside the school gate.

Paid 3d to learn elocution

*Eileen
Lehmann*

Attended: Started at 5 years and then later at 7 in 1941 interrupted by the Blitz,

Headmistress: Miss Dowdall

Favourite teacher: Mrs Mitchell who was inspiring and the best teacher I ever had- never forgotten!

Lunch was at Mrs Cheney's dining room at the end of Felsham road - tasteless but free.

After the WW2 bombing, we moved to Hotham and then All Saints still as a self contained school.

Jim Slade

Attended 1927 - 1938 (aged 3 until 14) Whole family came to St Mary's - including her father and 5 aunts in the late 1800s Paid 1d to come

After St Mary's: At 14 I left St Mary's to go school in Hammersmith where ladies went to learn upholstery.

Headmistress: Miss Parsons

Teachers: Miss Tribe and Miss Collis when 3 years old and then at 7 years old you moved upstairs to be taught by Miss Long

Uniform: There was no uniform

Meals: Children went home for lunch

Health: Eileen Lecky was the school nurse and also had visits from "Nitty Nora" the nit nurse. Ill health was a problem - there was a marquee in the playground where children with breathing problems slept in the afternoon - most had TB.

Fond memory: Empire Day danced round the maypole and wore red white and blue.

Putney memory: Remembers the Henry Jackson Building being built in 1939. Families gradually moved out of slum dwellings into the flats as they were built.

A young Gordon Goody attended the Infants School and went on to be one of the Great Train Robbers in 1963.....!

Joan Green