



SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARYS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

DECEMBER 2018 ISSUE





Mention St Marys School and we'll give you £50 off your first visit.

Call us on 020 8785 6144

health@putneychiropractic.co.uk putneychiropractic.co.uk

Putney Chiropractic Centre 2b Weiss Road, Putney, London, SW15 1DH



020 8789 4362

Acupuncture

Ancient Wisdom For Modern Living



20 Lower Richmond Road

Putney SW15 1JP

well4ever.com @well4everclinic

SPECIAL OFFER - 5% DISCOUNT
AVAILABLE TO ST MARY'S PARENTS



LOCAL FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS
OWNED BY CURRENT ST MARY'S PARENTS
WITH EXPERT, TRUSTED ENGINEERS



PLUMBING



ELECTRICS



GAS



DRAINAGE



BOILERS



HEATING

WWW.H2PROPERTYSERVICES.CO.UK

020 7751 3344



sportingfeet

✓ Great service and expert advice

✓ Free gait testing/running analysis

✓ Footwear for all major sports

✓ Free foot scanning

✓ Adult and kids sizes

✓ Specialists in sports insoles



RICHMOND

9 King Street
Richmond
TW9 1ND
020 8948 6059

PUTNEY

3 Lacy Road
Putney
SW15 1NH
020 8780 0558

📞 sportingfeet

🌐 facebook.com/sportingfeet

www.sporting-feet.com



MULTI-SPORT HOLIDAY CAMPS

Putney Common



Fun-filled holiday camp for children aged 5-11, All school holidays (excl. Christmas holidays)

Sports: Netball, mini-tennis, cricket, tag rugby, football, dodge ball, athletics, swimming, rounders, ultimate frisbee and mini-golf. You will need to bring water, snacks and lunch. Plus if you think your child(ren) will need a change of clothes.

Time: 9am – 3pm

Cost: £20 per day | £85 per week (5 days)

www.hakinakina.co.uk

info@hakinakina.co.uk

07713139698

Letter from the Head...

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Everything is covered in glitter and carols are being practised for the upcoming Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church. I'm really looking forward to the service this year, as many of you know we are celebrating 50 years of the Christingle Service and I can't wait to see what the staff and children have prepared for us.



Speaking of St. Mary's Church, it has been wonderful to welcome Reverend John Whittaker to the Parish this term. It has been a real pleasure to meet John and I am really looking forward to continuing to work with him over the coming years. John has already been into school to lead worship several times and has contributed to our services at the Church. I am really grateful for his support in planning collective worship for the upcoming spring term and really appreciate his contribution to the work that staff and governors have been doing on our vision, mission and values. He has certainly got stuck in at the deep end straight away! Thank you John!

It continues to be a pleasure to work with the children of St. Mary's. We are so fortunate to work with children who are so interested in and focussed on learning. A huge thank you to our staff team, who have worked hard this term to ensure all children continue to progress and achieve to the very best of their ability. We know that we don't do this on our own and we welcome the partnership we have with our parent body and also the challenge that comes from our governing body. Thank you all for your support throughout another busy but fun term of learning.

I would also like to say a very big thank you to Ted Wainman for leading FoSMS with such enthusiasm and energy this term. I am delighted that Ted has come forward as a lead so that we have been able to keep FoSMS events going this year. Thank you to all parents, staff, governors and friends who have contributed to our FoSMS events this term and a special mention to Michelle McDermott and her team for organising a truly wonderful Christmas Fair.

One of the highlights of the term was, of course, our bicentennial launch evening. It was so lovely to see so many faces past and present at the event and hopefully we will see many more as we head into our official bicentennial year 2019. The school was founded on the 20th February 1819 and in 2019, we will be kicking off the celebrations with a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church on the 1st March at 10am. Planning for a special week of activities for the current pupils of St. Mary's is currently underway. It's going to be a very exciting spring term!

We are still looking for leads for some of the bicentennial initiatives. Please contact Mr Lett, via the school office, if you are able to lead one of the key areas of next year's celebrations.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of St. Mary's News and hearing about the wonderful autumn term we have had. Huge thanks to Lindsey, Nicola and Amber for another wonderful edition.

Before I sign off for another term, allow me to wish you all a very blessed and relaxed Christmas time surrounded by friends and family. I'll see you all on Tuesday 8th January for more fun and learning!

Cheryl Payne
Head Teacher



Governors update

Over the course of the autumn term, governors enjoyed several opportunities to meet parents both socially and in a more formal setting.

The Bicentenary launch evening was a roaring success with so many current and returning friends. Thank you to everyone involved in both that evening and all the varied festivities to come. The funds that you contribute to our school through the numerous Bicentenary events will significantly enhance the daily life of every child at St Mary's. And as the launch event proves, we will have a lot of fun on the way! Governors will look forward to the Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration on 1st March.

A number of governors attended the recent parents' evening. This was a valuable opportunity to garner your feedback and we are grateful for all the comments received. They will be shared with the full governing body and discussed at our next meeting in January. We do of course welcome your feedback throughout the year and an envelope marked to governors' attention will always reach us via the office. Email contact details are also on the school website.

With the help of the dynamic team at 'Sycol', governors are working with staff to engage in a rigorous programme of continuous innovation. We have been discussing our vision, mission, core values and how our learning culture can drive our strategy and whole-school improvement. Look out for more Sycol news and initiatives over the months ahead.

For all the dedication and hard work across the school this term, we send our thanks and wish everyone a very merry and restful Christmas so that we all return refreshed and ready for a year of celebrating our school, its vibrant history and its contribution to our community over the next 200 years!

Judith Kennedy – Chair Resources Committee

Classroom Close-ups

Y5

This term Year 5 really enjoyed our topic, 'The Great, The Bold, The Brave', exploring Ancient Greece and Rome. During this we visited The British Museum and had fun learning all about the Elgin Marbles. We also looked at how the Romans helped England to become what it is now. Linked to our topic, we read The Adventures of Odysseus. It told the story of a mythical hero who travelled around Greece after fighting Troy in a vicious battle.



Our next topic, 'Look! Hear!', was filled with fun science investigations such as making string telephones, shadow puppets and our own instruments showing different pitches.

In R.E. we learnt much about Sikhism, such as how the 10th guru changed and improved Sikhism and the 5 Ks that every Sikh follows. As Christmas looms closer, Y5 will be learning about Christmas, through art and music, and will be visiting the National Gallery.

One of the best things we have done this term has been going to Sayers Croft, where everyone had a blast, even though it was raining at times. It was very fun seeing what it was like living in the country side in Surrey. Our favourite activities were the blindfold obstacle course, the ropes and the animal show.

Let's hope next term will be as fantastic!
Written by Elodie, Callum, Amelie, Alec, Florrie, Adam and Ines

Y3

This term Year 3 have been actively engaged in numerous activities (far too many to list!) enjoying discovering and exploring ideas within our learning.

We recently visited St Mary's Church for our first Godly Play session where we were given plenty of opportunities to be inquisitive and ask questions, making connections and meanings about the design and purpose of items within the church and forming an understanding of Advent and the Christmas story.

"What stuck with me about Godly Play is that they had nearly everything to represent Jesus' life" Samuel

Another highlight of the term has been Parliament week, where the children gained a glimpse of how it might have felt to be a woman 100 years ago by the girls in the class being excluded for a class vote! Many facts were learnt about the Houses of Parliament and democracy. We voted again (all included this time!) for the best poster campaigning for votes for women.



"During Parliament week I have learnt that the seats in the House of Commons are green and the seats in the House of Lords are red. Also when you are under 18 you are not allowed to vote" Kemmie

Y1

This has been a busy term for Year 1. We've had a lot of fun finding out about how we learn and exploring the difference between knowledge, skills and understanding in our Brainwaves topic. Keeping to the topic of learning, it was great reading all about Ada Twist in our Power of Reading book Ada Twist, Scientist and we all decided that we too would like to be scientists and find out about the world around us.

We had an amazing DT day, during which we learned how to make 3D structures and really enjoyed practicing the skills we learned to create our own constructions.



In the second half of term, we read Where the Wild Things Are. We had great fun pretending to be Max and the Wild Things and having a "wild rumpus". Through this story, we learned how to write sentences using full stops and capital letters and how to infer a character's feelings, using the illustrations as clues.



On one of our favourite days, Faustine Charles came in to tell us the story of The Selfish Crocodile and talked about what we can learn from the story. We loved his storytelling and really enjoyed playing the game that he taught us.

Our topic was Celebrations and we loved learning about various different festivities and how they are celebrated. We especially enjoyed planning a Christmas party and finding out about how Christmas was celebrated in the Victorian times.

Y4

Year 4 have made a great start to the year. The children have loved reading their Power of Reading text Varjak

Paw and have written some thoughtful reflections and descriptions on the text and the characters within it. In maths the children are beginning to demonstrate quicker mental arithmetic knowledge and have been applying their skills efficiently in everything from addition and subtractions to time and measures. The Year 4 topic has been 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures' and this really captured the children's imagination. They enjoyed being explorers and learning about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation through the completion of a range of interesting tasks. These included exploring the 'dark tomb', investigating the mummification process and making versions of a Pharaohs headdress. It was great to welcome parents and carers to our Exit Point and share our learning together.

After so much hard work and concentration Year 4 enjoyed the run up to Christmas with enthusiasm and enjoyment contributing well to the school's Advent calendar, Christmas tree decorations and Christingle Service. We all look forward to 2019 and the adventures that lie ahead of us!



Y2

In Year 2 we have had a busy term with so many activities and experiences including: visits to the Florence Nightingale Museum and The Hindu Mandir, a Famous People party and parade, a Super Humans Topic launch, A DT Architect day making structures and a recorder concert, to name but a few! We particularly wanted to tell you about our new Super Humans topic, where we are learning about how our amazing bodies work.



Two books we have been looking at in depth this term are Grace and Family and The Princess and the White Bear King. Not only have we enjoyed reading and listening to these stories but we have undertaken a range of writing activities and related artwork, one of which was designing and making crowns (like the Princess' that 'are brighter than the sun itself'!



YN

Our new Nursery class have made a super start to life at St Mary's! As the children settled in to a new setting and routine, they learnt all about themselves during our "All About Me" topic. We drew, painted and created our faces from loose part objects, and children shared details about their lives during circle times together.

After half term we spent time learning about Autumn – we looked closely at the world around us on an Autumn walk around school, thinking about why the leaves and weather were changing. We even made hedgehogs out of the spikey leaves we collected.



We also started our "Animal" topic, and this has included looking at a real range of different story and non fiction books. Both classes have loved our exploration of "Tanka Tanka Skunk" by Steve Webb which has helped us learn about rhythm and syllables. We have been developing children's recall of familiar stories, and each child made their own flap book version of "Dear Zoo" by Rod Campbell.

Of course we have been preparing lots for Christmas, and learning about 'the reason for the season' from the Bible. We have been focussing on the special star God put in the sky at Jesus' birth, as we think about how special baby Jesus is.

Nursery particularly enjoy their weekly cooking, and this term have made pizza faces, bird feeders and cheese straws to name a few! These sessions are building so many different skills from cutting and mixing, to turn taking and sharing!

Well done everyone!

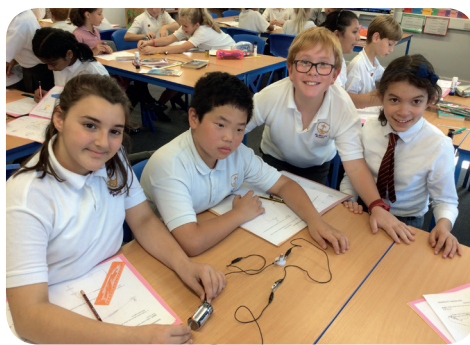
Y6

Year 6 got off to an electrifying start with their topic work - 'Full Power' - proving to be both interesting and enjoyable. The class really enjoyed making the circuits for their model of a car so that they had functioning headlights, fan and car horn! The trip to The Crystal was very enlightening and gave everyone the chance to consider the future of generating electricity and the challenges of making this sustainable. Making the electric wire loop game was also great fun and it was lovely to see so many parents join us for that session.

In English the class have been thrilled by the Power of Reading text Skellig. Written work produced has included descriptions, recounts, poetry and non-chronological reports.

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!

PE lessons have focused on developing basketball, netball and hockey skills. This term the class have also enjoyed yoga sessions! In art and design the children have looked at renaissance artists and developing their drawing skills, whilst in music lessons the class have learnt about body percussion!



In RE the class have considered religious beliefs relating to death and in French the children have been revising the days and months of the year, as well as going over the weather and saying what they like or do not like!

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 skill 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 Reception 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. 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 and acting out the story of the Nativity. The class have also been busy learning about and creating Christingle for the Christmas Service.



Sayers Croft 2018



"Everlasting fun - I wish my first day didn't have to end! A fantastic day." Vance

"I loved experiencing new things such as the climbing wall and visiting the roundhouse. A fantastic first day!" Daisy

Sayers Croft School Journey

Day 1 - Tuesday 20th November 2018

Year 6 left St. Mary's at around 9.40am and excitedly waved goodbye to their parents as the coach drove away. An hour later they arrived at Sayers Croft and stepped off the coach into the pouring rain! So after a wet welcome everyone unpacked and made their beds! Then a fire drill was rehearsed, followed by a tasty lunch served in the canteen. Year 6 were then split into three groups to take part in either archery, high ropes or climbing. Later that afternoon the whole class took part in the woodland compass trail. The rain eventually stopped and, after some time writing in their diaries, it was soon time for dinner! The evening was filled with a 'night walk' into the woods and the class had the opportunity to explore a replica of a Celtic roundhouse. The first day ended with a nice mug of hot chocolate and some games in the lounge.

Day 2 - Wednesday 21st November

Year 6 awoke to get ready for a country walk to Pitch Hill. After breakfast the class set off at 9.45am for the long journey by foot through woodland and fields. The class arrived at the top of Pitch Hill around 12noon to enjoy the viewpoint. Everyone took in the wonderful panorama and then had lunch. Afterwards the children took a gentle stroll

back to the residential centre. In the evening Year 6 created some clay works of art and then took part in the team challenges. After dinner the class filled in their diaries for the day, visited the tuck shop and enjoyed Mr. Lett's fun quiz!

Day 3 - Thursday 22nd November

Year 6 had an action packed day ahead with the continuation of the three activities that got everyone excited: archery, high ropes and climbing. The children had so much fun and for many the high ropes proved to be the most challenging! Nevertheless, the class showed great resilience and team work - well done to everyone! After lunch Year 6 conducted a study along the Coneyhurst stream. The children drew sketches, measured the depth of the stream and looked at the water quality by identifying the mini beasts found. Then it was time for the traditional face painting using the wet clay from the banks of the stream. Early evening saw everyone participate in an "Earthwalk". This allowed opportunities for the children to focus on nature - thinking about natural sounds and colours. Later that evening the class received letters from home and spent some time writing letters back. The night concluded with the Sayers Croft disco - which saw all of the children hit the dance floor and sing out to the beat of their favourite songs!

Day 4 - Friday 23rd November 2018

Friday was the last day of school journey at Sayers Croft and so the children packed their bags and stripped their beds! After breakfast Year 6 walked through the village of Ewhurst to post their letters back home and to visit the local church. Here the class listened to a presentation by the lay minister, followed by a special worship assembly led by Mr Lett which reflected on the school journey experience and the achievements of the children. Lunch was eaten when the class got back to Sayers Croft and it was then nearly time for our coach journey back to school. After saying our goodbyes and thanks to the amazing staff at Sayers Croft we departed and arrived safely back at St. Mary's just before 3pm. Another successful school journey completed - well done to everyone for such a memorable week!





"I enjoyed discovering the mini beasts in the stream. I had a blast doing archery and playing the fun games. An amazing experience!"
Imogen



"A lovely time and relaxed morning going to the church to round off a perfect week with Year 6."
Ms O'Connell



"The walk to Pitch Hill was long and tiring but it was certainly worth it. The views were flabbergasting!"
Arthur



"The walk up to Pitch Hill was so exhilarating and we got to see lots of interesting things."
Ruby



"DJ Letty was brilliant! All of the songs were brought to life with amazing singing and dancing. Sayers Croft has been fantastic!"
Nathaniel



Autumn Term Music at St Mary's

Another busy term in Music! The first Wider Opportunities concert this year was at the end of November. We always keenly look forward to this one as it is the first time that our Year Threes have performed on their flutes, having only spent nine weeks learning from scratch, as well as hearing how our Year Twos have built on their learning from last year on the recorder. As always everybody gave it their all and really impressed the audience by how much they have progressed. We can't wait for the next concert in the Spring term.



Christmas began on Monday 3rd December when our Year 6s were invited once again to go carol singing for the charity 'Health Poverty Action' as part of their Christmas 'Choirs for Change', this time at East Putney tube station. Last year the school choirs from across London raised an amazing total of £14,000 for this charity and hope to do as well, if not better this year. Our children were in good spirits, despite the particularly damp weather, and even though it was a very quiet time for tube travel, they still managed to raise £62 in just 20 minutes. Well done all!



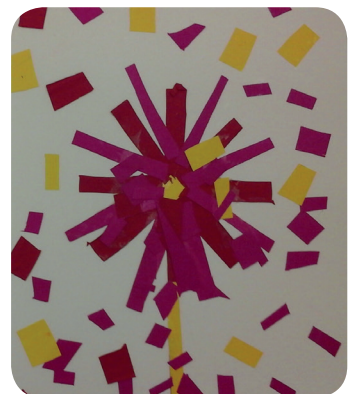
The following Monday 10th December, our KS1 Choir made their annual trip to the Platt Centre to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to their patrons. As always we were very warmly welcomed and the children, who look forward to it every year, were on top form and sang beautifully, resplendent in their festive Christmas hats. We were also asked to sing happy birthday to Vivian, one of the ladies there, and she was 91 years old that day - we were amazed!

ART

We have had a busy Autumn term in the art room. The Nursery have been drawing portraits, painting faces and rainbows and crafting beautiful stars for the school Christmas tree. Reception class have created drawings, prints and modelled small sculptures on the topic of bears. The rest of the school have been creating seasonal observational drawings of fallen leaves. We have also been learning to use our hands as tools to tear paper to create complex, layered collages of poppies and also some exquisite colourful designs for fireworks and modelled small clay sculptures of robins, Christmas trees, crackers, hats, stockings and penguins. A term of very busy hands!

We started on our Christmas designs very early in the term and I hope the children's beautiful cards and mugs arrived in school in good time for posting to friends and family scattered far and wide. Many thanks to Nina Parsons for her help in organising this. I'm looking forward to a wonderful Spring term ahead and in the meantime wish everyone a happy art-filled Christmas!

Mrs Forsyth



PE News

A big welcome to Ms. McCrone who has taken over the role as Specialist PE teacher this term. She has brought a passion to the post and many areas of specialism one of which has resulted in bi-weekly Yoga lessons which are undertaken by all children from Y1-Y6. The sessions are planned to cover a variety of calming breathing techniques with active poses to build mental and core physical strength. It is also a great opportunity for staff to enjoy a stretch and take part in a new activity.

Another area of specialism is hockey in KS2, which has been received very enthusiastically by the children. The introduction of mouth guards not only has highlighted the PE team's priority for safety but given us all a giggle!

Ms McCrone has also been enthusiastic about maintaining and increasing our levels of physical activity at St Mary's. Extra-curricular provision continues to include Running Club, Netball, Tag Rugby and Football. We want to ensure that there is a physical activity that inspires and encourages every child to find a love and most importantly an understanding for why being active is essential for good health.

We have been using our PE Premium Grant to support and enhance Physical Activity in school this term by employing Mr Naughton, a Sports Coach from the company Hakinakina. Mr Naughton works closely with Ms McCrone to plan and deliver the curriculum, train, select, escort and manage teams at fixtures. During lessons on Thursdays, Mr Naughton provides valuable training (CPD) to class teachers and support staff, who also attend, take part and learn new skills and techniques from a professional sports coach.

This term we have also increased our PE provision through the volunteer work of Mr Ted John. Mr John has served many years in the Fire Brigade and is an ex-pro footballer. Mr John supports groups during Ms McCrone and Mr Naughtons lessons as well as training rugby, football teams and attending fixtures.

Mrs W Livingstone - PE Coordinator

PE update

St Mary's has welcomed me with open arms. There are many enthusiastic children who share a real love of sport like myself. With the support of Mr Naughton and Mr John, we have been able to plant many seeds with the aim of growing a garden full of sporting opportunities for all children. With a personal passion for hockey and yoga, combined with Mr Naughton's very varied skill set across a wide collection of sports, has meant the children are receiving high quality teaching and coaching where we hope to engage, empower and embrace and therefore ensure every child has the best opportunity to be healthy, active and happy in sport.

We have entered a number of competitions this term;

- **Dover House High Fives**, weekly Netball tournament in Autumn 1. The team played tirelessly each week and came out as over-all winners! A great start for Mr Naughton who escorted and coached the team. A huge well done!
- **PPSSA Cross Country** on Saturday October 13th was a positive experience with some great over-all results, where nearly all our runners finished within the top 100 runners and we finished 6th overall out of 12 local schools.
- **Football matches** took place at Dover House Road on Thursday 11th October with two teams playing two matches each. The first game score was 2-4 to the opposing team and the second match saw us clinch a 2-1 win against our opposition.

To end the term on a high we shall be entering a tag rugby team at Rosslyn Park organised by Barnes Rugby on December 7th. We wish our mixed team the best of luck!

Next term we shall be arranging a variety of netball, hockey, football and rugby fixtures with weekly lessons of gymnastics and yoga to offer a mix of physical activities, as well as workshops on Health and Nutrition for KS2 children by a guest speaker.

Harvest

Our Harvest service took place at St Mary's Church on Friday 5th October. This year we brought donations into school and had a virtual altar at church showing our collection. We chose to support The Wandsworth Food Bank. We collected urgently needed donations for those in our community who struggle to have enough to eat. We were joined by Zena Sanders from Wandsworth Food Bank who talked us through the importance of our donations and where all the donations end up.



Reverend John Whitaker welcomed us all to St Mary's church. The children took turns to show us paintings and drawings, read poems, prayers and act out scenes. Every child at St Mary's took part in a wonderful Harvest service.

- Year 1 – Harvest Paintings
- Year 2 – When I need a neighbour
- Year 3 – Lets Harvest!
- Year 4 – Harvest Poetry 'Peas-Please'
- Year 5 – Our Harvest Charity
- Year 6 – Harvest: Food for all Seasons



GETTING READY FOR AN EPIC YEAR PREPARING FOR THE SCHOOL'S BICENTENARY YEAR

ST. MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Did you know?

St. Mary's CE Primary School was founded on 20th February 1819 - which means it will celebrate its **200th anniversary** next year!

I am sure that many of you will know by now that 2019 will be a momentous year for our school as we mark the bicentenary of the school's foundation. Having the opportunity to celebrate 200 years of a school will be quite a remarkable occasion and I hope that the whole school community - past and present - will join with us in making this bicentennial year a huge success!

Plans and ideas to commemorate the school's bicentenary started back in November 2017 and have slowly taken shape. A year later, the Bicentennial Planning Committee, having established a clear vision and set of aims for the school's bicentenary, have been working collaboratively with a growing parent body to put together a programme of events that will help to commemorate and celebrate this important milestone. In addition to this there will be an ambitious fundraising project - **Playground Project 200** - that will hopefully fund the improvement work required for the school's playground and outdoor space.

Earlier this term FoSMS kindly hosted the Bicentennial Launch Party to help spread the news that St. Mary's School will soon be turning 200 years old! It was great to be there and see so many faces - old and new - turn up on the night to show their support. A huge thank you to all of the parents who helped to organise this. There will be further opportunities for you all to get involved throughout 2019 - you can attend a bicentennial event, share memories, donate money or help with one of the many initiatives. For further information please visit the dedicated 'Bicentenary' section of our school website: <http://www.stmarysschoolputney.co.uk/bicentenary/>

Did you know?

Today's Felsham Road, the site of St. Mary's CE Primary School, was previously made up of roads known as Gardeners Road and Worple Road!

There is already so much I am looking forward to in 2019. During the week from Monday 25th February to Friday 1st March the children at school will enjoy 'Bicentennial Week' - a week long celebration of activities to mark the school's birthday. On Friday 1st March there will be a special service of commemoration and thanksgiving held at St. Mary's Church and on Saturday 2nd March there will be a Bicentennial Ball that promises to be an evening of glitz and glamour. There will of course be the usual calendar of FoSMS supported events which will have a bicentennial theme and who knows perhaps there will even be a few surprises along the way... I can't wait!

Mr Mark Lett

Chair of the Bicentennial Planning Committee

P.S. You can start fundraising for Playground Project 200 by kindly making a donation here:
<https://mydonate.bt.com/donation/v4/donate.html?event=232502>



FoSMS News

For FoSMS the new school year started with a bang.

The AGM was so popular, we had to re-locate from the school to the church due to capacity restrictions (although this may have had something to do with the Bicentennial Launch Party!). Class Reps have been rolling their sleeves up and galvanising their teams into action resulting in another successful Christmas Fair at the beginning of December. Your Committee are also 'formalising' if you are not receiving our regular future events (think Quiz Night, to name but a few) then please do

The link is also available on the FoSMS page of the St. Mary's School website, together with key documents and minutes of meetings etc. Your FoSMS Committee continue to work diligently behind the scenes and I hope that you will all lend a hand over the coming year in celebrating our 200th Birthday. If you ever want to get in touch with us (and we LOVE to hear from you), then send us an email to stmarysfosms@gmail.com. Have a wonderful Christmas Break and we hope that Santa brings you everything that you wish for, and more!

The FoSMS Committee



the membership of FoSMS so emails and would like to keep abreast of a flurry of exciting Family Disco, Sponsored Walk, Art Fair, Summer BBQ, Sports Days sign up - simply type this url into your web browser: <http://eepurl.com/dNqouE>.



LEIGHTONS | OPTICIANS & HEARING CARE

MANAGING MYOPIA IN CHILDREN

Myopia, or short-sightedness, is a condition that results in difficulty seeing distant objects clearly. Research has shown that the prevalence of myopia in the western world has increased from 20% to 40% in the past 25 years.

The onset of myopia at an early age brings with it the likelihood of lifelong eye care.
If we find a weakness in vision - the earlier we treat it the better.



BOOK AN EYE EXAMINATION TODAY

Call **0208 789 7300**

or visit leightons.co.uk

14 Putney Exchange, High Street, Putney
 SW15 1TW

Miss McCrone PE Teacher UNCOVERED



Background

I was born in UK and we swiftly moved to Indonesia where we lived for almost 4 years. My Father's job has meant we spend a lot of time packing suitcases, going to new schools and living in random places. Between the ages of 5-11 we lived between Zimbabwe, Ghana and Uganda and a very short stint in the Indian Himalayas. It was in our time in Uganda after living remotely with poor schooling and non-existent medical facilities that my mother moved us back to UK. In the meantime my father created a base in Kenya (where we had holidayed whilst living in Uganda) on the North Coast in a fishing village called Watamu. We have since spent almost 20 exciting years and Christmas's there. Both my sister and father are permanently based in Kenya and I cannot wait to see them in a few weeks. I went onto finish my schooling in Suffolk where my mother is from, at a local boarding school, which allowed me to play and compete in sport all the time which set the tone for my future in teaching...I

spent my Gap Year in Kenya working in an incredible boarding school as a sports coach and generally 'happy', where space, freedom and playing in the mud and dirt was the norm!

What do you like best about St Mary's?

The kindness of the children and the big playground for PE lessons!

What makes you happy?

Getting 8 hours sleep! Also healthy nutritious food, yoga, travel, friends and family and of course good quality coffee and red wine!

Where was your best holiday?

I grew up in Africa, so Kenya is very close to my heart and where my family live, so returning home for my yearly holiday is special.

What subjects did you like best at school?

PE, Geography, Art and Design

How do you like to relax?

Being in nature, yoga, boxing, cooking and listening to podcasts

What is your greatest extravagance?

International air tickets!

What pet do you have or would you like?

I personally don't have a pet but as a family we currently have 4 rescue dogs and 3 cats.

What are your favourite pastimes?

Cooking for friends, exploring new cultures and cuisines. I travel for food!

Which are your favourite books?

Zanzibar Chest – Aiden Hartley
Shantaram – Robert David Gregory
The Kindness of Strangers – Fearghal O'Neillian with features from Levison and

Wood and amazing other explorers. (A collection of short stories – great stocking filler)

What human trait do you most dislike?

Selfishness

Describe a favourite meal?

Starter; Fresh Don Ceviche to start - Peruvian style

Main; Fresh vegetarian Turkish Mezze mix with fresh grilled fish and a bowl of manti (Turkish ravioli served with yoghurt)

Pudding; Either a classic fruit crumble with a nutty and oaty topping with fresh vanilla custard (SO YOU CAN SEE THE SEEDS) AND ice-cream or an Affogato with hazelnut gelato

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

Don't stop learning...say yes and try everything once (assess the risk though!)

How would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered as a teacher who engaged, empowered and embraced all her pupils. And as a person? A kind, amusing and giving human being.



Starters & Leavers

Goodbye.....

Ilias - Y1
Tithenbelle - Y2
Scarlett-Lily - Y5
Lois - Y1
Sofia - Y2
Sancha - Y4
Augusta - YR
Adeline - Y2

Hello...

George - YR
Rubin - Y1
Emilia - Y1
Camilla - Y3
Benjamin - Y3
Miss McCrone - PE Teacher
Ms James - Teaching Assistant
Miss Gardner - Midday meals supervisor

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)

DT DAY

For DT Day this year we focussed on building stable structures. Children from Reception to Year 6 had an Architecture Workshop to develop their skills, and each class worked together to create either a bridge, or a giant structure! Back in the classroom the children then worked on a project to design a shelter or building suitable for a family who had lost their home in the Indonesian earthquakes recently. Classes thought about what the family would need, and how to make the structure stable, before designing and producing a model. Together we tested the structures on a tray of jelly, to see if they were stable enough to survive aftershocks! Well done for some super designs and model making!

