



SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARYS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

APRIL 2022 ISSUE



Letter from the Head.....



I hope you enjoy reading about the enriched experiences we have all enjoyed this term. I am delighted that we have been able to begin to invite visitors into school and to extend children's learning outside of the classroom as we emerge from our extraordinary experiences of the last few years. One of the many highlights of the term was seeing the children's faces as we all gathered together in the hall to hear from Paul Sturgess on our second Anti-Bullying Day. The children were hugely inspired by Paul's visit, but the most rewarding experience was feeling that 'St. Mary's spirit' that I so often took for granted in the past. It is a spirit felt most strongly when we are all gathered together for a shared experience or purpose, and it has been greatly missed. It has been a real privilege to feel it re-emerge over the last few weeks, especially on days like Red Nose Day and when listening to the children sing during worship or perform at The Spring Concert. The spirit has always been there and has kept us all going through the challenges of the last few years, but it has been delightful to feel it and see its impact return explicitly to our day-to-day activities.

As always, the staff team have risen to the challenges that continue to arise and although we have seen outbreak measures in place at one point in the term – it is heartening to see the range of

experiences which the team have continued to provide for our fabulous children. I thank them all for their hard work and determination to exploit all the fun and learning that they can possibly find in all situations.

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Bishop and the staff team who made our school journey happen for the first time in almost two years! The excitement before and the enjoyment on the faces of the pupils when they returned was fantastic to see after such a hiatus. You can read all about the adventures that our Year Five and Six pupils had at Sayers Croft in this edition!

Our governors have been an absolute rock throughout the pandemic and their ongoing advice and practical support is greatly appreciated. From checking boilers to providing advice on insurance and creating a long-term vision document for the school – a mention of a few things amongst a vast number of tasks they have completed this term – we could not ask for better support from our generous and committed team of governors. I thank them all for their ongoing commitment to the governance of our school.

Our PTA, Friends of St. Mary's School (FoSMS), continue to raise greatly valued funds for our school. Weekly cake sales continue and are as popular as they ever were. Huge thanks to all of our parents who organise and run the sales. Amongst other items, classes have spent their cake sale monies on buying books for the classroom, arts and craft resources, baking equipment and a play kitchen down in Reception. Also this term, saw the first Spring Social. A Mardi Gras Carnival themed evening in St. Mary's Church which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. I encourage all of the families - especially those who are new to St. Mary's since the pandemic began - to get involved in the

work of FoSMS and to attend as many events as possible. It's a great way to get to know other families, to feel included in our school family and to enjoy the fullness of the St. Mary's experience!

Finally, but most importantly I would like to thank the children. Every visitor, inspector or adviser that comes to the school always comments on how fabulous our children are. I am extremely proud of the way our children have navigated the last few years, something for which I feel they – and young people more widely – have not received enough credit for. They have epitomised 'Keep calm and carry on' and they continue to roll with whatever comes their way, demonstrating admirable endurance in the process. They are certainly the very best bit about our job, and they continue to make every day unique and exciting. I thank them for coming to school ready and enthused to learn everyday – it makes working here at St. Mary's such a pleasure.

I leave you now to reflect on the term that was. From all of us here at St. Mary's, we wish the children and you - their families - a restorative and memorable Easter holiday and we hope that the sun continues to shine on us all. We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 20th April from 8.45am, for another term of learning and fun!

Very best wishes,
Cheryl Payne – Head Teacher

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."

Romans 6:5-6

FOSMS

FoSMs are in the process of bringing more of the annual events back to the school calendar in the wake of COVID restrictions being relaxed. Weekly year group bake sales are back on Friday afternoons, often raising more than £120 each week for class resources and



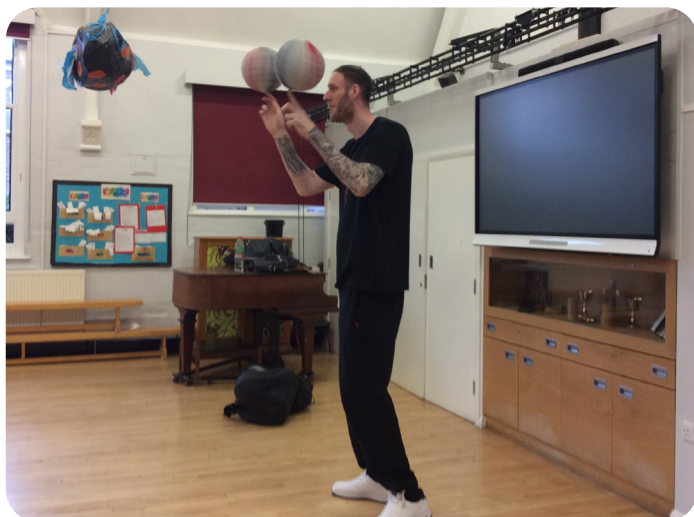
equipment. Parents from all year groups attended the Spring Social Event in St Mary's Church in February. This was a great chance for parents to meet each other after lockdown. The Sports Day for KS2 at Barnes Elms has been arranged for Friday 1st July 2022. KS1 sports day is likely to be held on the common the day before. More information will follow shortly. Year 3 swimming lessons have recommenced at Putney Leisure Centre, Easter Eggs provided for each child and Parentmail subscription renewed. All paid for by FoSMs. We are excited about the return of the Family Disco in St Mary's church on 23rd April for some great family fun with friends. All these events and fund raising

initiatives rely on parent volunteers in order to happen. We are currently looking for parents to join the Sports Committee to help ensure Sports Day runs smoothly and volunteers to help organise the summer fair. Please email stmarysfosms@gmail.com to express interest or to find out more.



Anti-Bullying Day

On Friday 11th March, we held our second Anti-Bullying Day. We invited basketball player Paul Sturges to share with us his personal experiences of being the tallest basketball player in the world and the tallest man in the UK. Throughout the day, Paul led basketball workshops across the school and shared a powerful message about how he had harnessed a unique characteristic – being exceptionally and wonderfully tall – in combination with talent and hard work, to give himself some awesome life experiences. We were all inspired by the way he embraced his height and who he was as a person. He spoke with confidence and is proud of who he is and what he has achieved. He challenged us all to harness our own unique characteristics, gifts and talents to lead a life which celebrates who we are. Paul has played basketball with the Harlem Globetrotters, Texas Legends and Cheshire Phoenix. He has travelled the world and visited every state in America! As well as basketball he continues to pursue a range of different passions and interests. He can be seen in the upcoming Lord of the Rings (Netflix) and Avatar 2.



Governors update

Governors were pleased to receive the Ofsted report at the start of this term. We continue to be thankful to Cheryl, the Senior Leadership Team, Staff, Parents, and the wider community who constantly strive to make St Mary's a wonderful place of learning for every pupil. This term Governors enjoyed visits to the school with several governors meeting subject leaders and joining lessons in the classroom; we also held special interest sessions on safeguarding, faith, and inclusion. Governors continue to participate in strategy sessions with greater focus on our sustainable vision for the future including the transformation of our outdoor learning space. Our new governors also continued their induction training program.

With the arrival of spring, it has been wonderful to join the Mother's Day Service at St Mary's church where a few governors were delighted to receive daffodils. We also enjoyed the "Spring Concert" with pupils from KS2 providing outstanding entertainment on a variety of instruments and some glorious singing too.

Huge thanks to FOSMS for organising the recent informal evening for parents to meet at St Mary's church. We are so thankful for the fundraising and the chance to reunite as a St Mary's community.

Judith Kennedy and Natasha Hume
Co-chairs of governors

School Council

The school council have been focused on how they can use their roles as councillors to improve the lives of those around them. They have presented four charities to the rest of the school and have asked them to vote on which one they would like to raise money for. On Friday 25th March they carried out a litter pick in the local area. The route for the pick was planned by Rudy in Year Six and the council hope that they will be able to write to other local school councils and ask if they would be willing to provide teams of litter pickers to keep Putney litter free. Anna and Felix in Year Four have designed a poster to inspire local people to keep Putney litter free. Councillors were given a small budget at the start of the year. They have used this to buy recycling bins which will be placed in every classroom and have prepared guidance to go with the bins on what can and cannot be recycled. Xavier in Year Six wrote to Wandsworth Council about the litter on the pavements on bin collection day. The council have responded, but the school council have decided to escalate their concerns to local MP, Fleur Anderson. Watch this space!



CLASS FOCUS

Y2

Year 2 have had a fantastic term full of fun and learning.

We have enjoyed discovering information about women who changed the world in history. Mapping the trajectory of flying objects such as a tennis ball and scrunched up paper, just like Katherine Johnson. We explored the unfairness of history by partaking in a race where some of the children started at

different positions. Highlighting the many accounts of people within history who lived under unfair and disadvantaged conditions yet made a huge impact on world history.

In RE we loved learning about different types of Christian crosses and choose a particular style of cross to make out of plasticine.

We liked looking at the symbols of Easter as it made us excited for Easter Sunday when we can enjoy a chocolate egg or two. Especially as we now understand, what eggs symbolise in the Easter Story.

We have also loved our class text 'Major Glad, Major Dizzy' and thinking about the passing of time through the eyes of toy soldier. A particular highlight has been bringing in our own favourite toys to discuss with the class and following instructions to make our own peg soldiers!

Other highlights of the term include Red Nose Day, practising our song for Mother's Day, anti-bullying day and of course meeting Paul Sturgess!



Y4

It certainly has been a busy Spring Term for Year 4! In our geography lessons the class have been thinking about how to protect the rainforest. In our history lessons they have been learning about Ancient Greece, in particular the Gods worshipped and the myths associated with them. Early on in the spring term, we read the historical novel 'Escape from Pompeii', where we imagined ourselves as Roman children making life-changing decisions whilst Mount Vesuvius erupted.

This enabled the children to produce some great writing, including reflective diary entries. The volcano theme was further explored with the novel 'When the Giant Stirred', which focuses on nature's remarkable ability to renew itself. The children have been working on creating first-person narratives based on this story as if they were villagers reacting to the unknown!

Year 4 were extremely lucky to be given the exciting opportunity to visit The Wimbledon Synagogue at the beginning of the second half of term. We have studied the customs and practises of the Jewish faith in our RE topic so being able to visit the Jewish place of worship and apply our knowledge and ask questions further has been an enriching experience for all who attended.



Y6

If only we could stop time – Year 6's journey through St Mary's is flying by, luckily we are having fun along the way. An obvious highlight was Sayers Croft - we came back dirty and tired, but with lasting memories. We continue to build our independence ahead of secondary school. Now that everyone has had an opportunity to be a school leader, on this second round, we have been applying for work experience within school. Some fantastic opportunities have been had throughout the school; leading story time in Early Years has been a highlight. In English we have been writing non-fiction texts and balanced arguments inspired by a book about the Galapagos Islands. This complemented our Science topic of Adaptation and Inheritance. In PSHE, we have had Diversity Role Models come to trial a new Lego-based programme, it's been a wonderful platform to learn that we are richer in a diverse community. In History, we have been studying how the Industrial Revolution changed Britain; it has given us a new appreciation for our school days, factory work does not sound appealing. Finally, leading up to Easter, we have looked at where we can find hope in the Easter Story. Only one term left for us, the best is yet to come!



YR

We have had another busy term in Reception class. During the first half term the children explored the topic of journeys, particularly looking at the book 'Let's All Creep Through Crocodile Creek' by

Jonathan Lambert. We have acted out the story, written down what the characters might say, and made our own crocodiles out of junk modelling! We also took part in a Perform drama workshop together, where we pretended to be jungle explorers.

Since half term we have been learning all about pirates, which has really inspired us all! We started our topic by solving a treasure hunt, which led to a mysterious treasure chest. We have since created our own wanted posters, drawn beautiful parrots in art, learnt about pirate ships, and reasoned whether we would choose to be a pirate if we could, to name just a few activities!

In Maths the class have been exploring the number line in close detail, and learning what it really represents. We have worked on comparing numbers, working out what bigger numbers are composed of, and explored doubles as well as odd and even numbers.

Reception have loved joining the rest of the St Mary's community for some events this term, firstly for our visit from the world's tallest basketball player, and finally to treat our mummies to a special performance for the Mother's Day service at the church.

Well done for another super term everyone!



Y5

Year 5, have had such a wonderful spring term. In science, we have loved learning all about Space. The children have enjoyed researching how theories about the Earth have evolved over time, from the Ancient Vikings to modern day NASA. We went speed dating as different planets and we have been exploring how day and night occur. We cannot wait for all this knowledge to be brought together during our trip to the planetarium.

Furthermore, in English we have been reading the inspiring story of Chris Hadfield (the Canadian astronaut) in preparation for writing his biography.

Our minds were put to the test recently when we tried to complete some ancient Maya maths. This involved representing the Maya numeral system using only shells, pebbles and sticks. Once the numbers were bigger than 19 this became particularly challenging! Whilst learning all about the Ancient Maya we have also designed and built our own Mayan cities using Lego (although I am not sure that is what they would have used at the time). We have had yet another fantastic term and we cannot wait to see what the summer term brings.



Y1

Year 1 have had a busy but fun Spring term. We have absolutely loved our English sessions based on 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth' by Ellie Hattie. It has been great fun following Timothy and Oscar as they follow the trail of Teddy's mammoth mayhem through the museum and the story has inspired some great writing too.



We have also enjoyed learning all about the history of our school and exploring how it has changed over the years as well as the role the church played in the founding of the school. It was fun thinking about how different life would have been for the very first St Mary's students!

Our favourite subject this term, though, has been science in which we have been learning all about different animals! We have learned all about how to identify, describe, sort, and classify animals. We had a lot of fun examining our terrapin, Thor, and deciding what kind of animal he is!

We have loved having several fun, off-timetable days too including an amazing basketball session with Paul Sturges, during which we practised our basketball skills and learned all about resilience. We also had a great time learning about the power of laughter for Comic Relief and had a great time making each laugh!

YN

The spring term has been really action packed in Nursery! The class welcomed several new children this half term and they have all settled in brilliantly to St. Mary's! Straight after Christmas, we centred our learning around a different traditional tale each week. Our book area gained a Puppet Show, and it was lovely to see lots of singing, puppet shows and retellings of "The Gingerbread Man" and "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" going on. We were really impressed by the children's increasing knowledge and recall of these stories. Together we have been ordering stories, joining in with repeated parts, and thinking lots about different characters: we have described, painted and drawn them, even making some different types of puppets by ourselves. Since half term, we have been learning more about plants and flowers together. We have planted and watched many different seeds and bulbs grow, including bean, daffodils, sunflowers, and cress. The class are growing in their understanding of the world around them and how things grow and change over time.

Children also put in lots of energy and love into celebrating Mother's Day – children planted, made cards, and baked cakes, and together we celebrated with our families in the Nursery classroom. It was lovely to welcome the parents back into school after such a long time.

Nursery should be really proud of all their hard work this term!



Y3

This spring term the Y3 children have really enjoyed their DT (Design & Technology) project on mechanisms and making pneumatic toys. They had to learn about pneumatic systems and draw sketch diagrams to show their ideas for their own pneumatic toy. Using simple resources like shoe boxes, egg cartons, tubes and balloons they assembled and created their 'monstrous' toys. Take a look at the photo to see Arthur's and Teo's fabulous final product.

In maths the children have worked on multiplication and division, money and statistics. In English they wrote their own adventure stories based on the story 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura and more recently have enjoyed reading the information text 'Big Blue Whale' by Nicola Davies.

Year 3 have also enjoyed learning about Volcanoes and Earthquakes in geography, the Ancient Egyptians in history and for science they have been investigating light and shadows. The children have filmed their own presentations on a chosen topic using green screen technology in their computing lessons and for RE the class have explored Jesus through his 'I am' statements. Other highlights have included playing recorders, swimming at Putney Leisure Centre and singing 'Colour My World' - their song for Mother's Day.



Sayers Croft 2022



It was a week full of laughter and friendships. Victoria

"Though I wasn't there, I still had a great time challenging my brain with fun maths questions and I am very excited for Sayers Croft in year 6" Euan

Sayers Croft School Journey

It was fantastic to be able to take Y5 and Y6 on their residential to Sayers Croft Field Centre for the first time in two years. Y5 went for one night and Y6 three nights. We all had an amazing time and the weather was particularly kind to us too! The children had a great adventure packed full of exploration, challenge and teamwork creating many wonderful memories. It was lovely to see every child (and adult!) demonstrating our school values of compassion, endurance and thankfulness in action throughout their time away from home as well as having lots of fun too! Many thanks to all the staff who supported the trip and particularly to DJ Letty who flew in from Ibiza to spin some decks at the disco!

Amanda Bishop

and time in the adventure park. The second day involved a five mile walk up Pitch Hill which I thought was arduous but the view at the top was stunning and worth it. At the tuck shop, we were given £5 to spend which I think was well deserved! Other activities I enjoyed were the high ropes and a visit to Ewhurst Church. I think the trip helped make us become closer as a class. Sayers Croft was a brilliant experience!

Florence Y6

During our time at Sayers Croft, we did some outstanding activities from archery to high ropes – we had a magnificent time! I do have some highlights – Teddy Talk and Tuck Shop! During the Teddy Talk (drinking hot chocolate); I heard some heart-warming stories from people about how they 'met' their teddy – from early childhood to the Christmas Fair! Everyone had a story to tell – even the teachers. On the evening of the second night, we had a Quiz. All the teams were named after crisp flavours (I was Cheese and Onion) and my team got 41 correct out of 54. It was so intense. Overall, Sayers Croft was superb (apart from my toothbrush running out of power!) and I bet other classes will enjoy it too when they get to go.

Shannon Y6

Y6 Reflections

I was feeling nervous but also really excited when we arrived at Sayers Croft. I knew that I was in safe surroundings with people I trusted and would keep me safe. Our days were jam packed throughout the trip, there wasn't one moment where we had time to be still. Our days contained many outdoor activities that we would not normally do in London. The first day included archery, woodland compass work





The disco was very fun, especially DJ Letty and his moves. - Hannah



Sayer's Croft was fun because I tried new things and hanging out with friends. It made me more responsible." Ruby

"I think the activities in Sayer's Croft are fun and Exciting. I loved finding the shapes in the maze," Felix

To do an experience that taught me so many things with my friends was incredible – Darcy



"It was my first time away from home so I was a bit nervous . But I had so much fun, especially on the rope course!" Luciano.



It was a fun-filled four days that taught us teamwork, especially the team games. Xavier



It made me experience the St Mary's core values, by doing activities that made us show endurance. - Jasper



It was one-of-a-kind because it was something I have never done before and might never do again. – Kian



"Sayer's croft wasn't just fun, it also taught me about fish, Vikings and mini creatures," Andrija



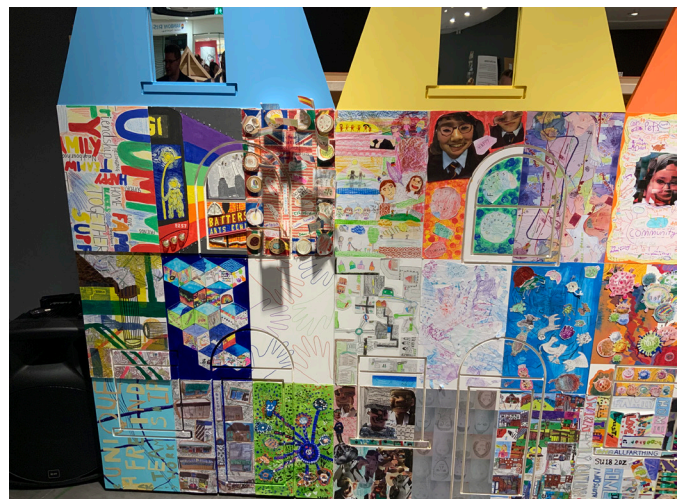
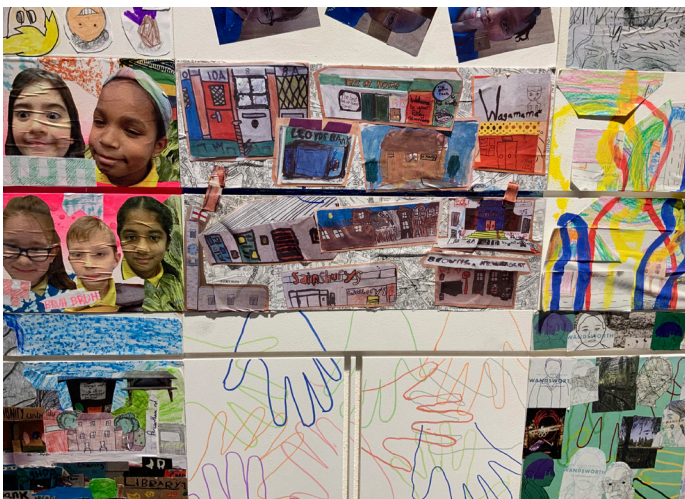
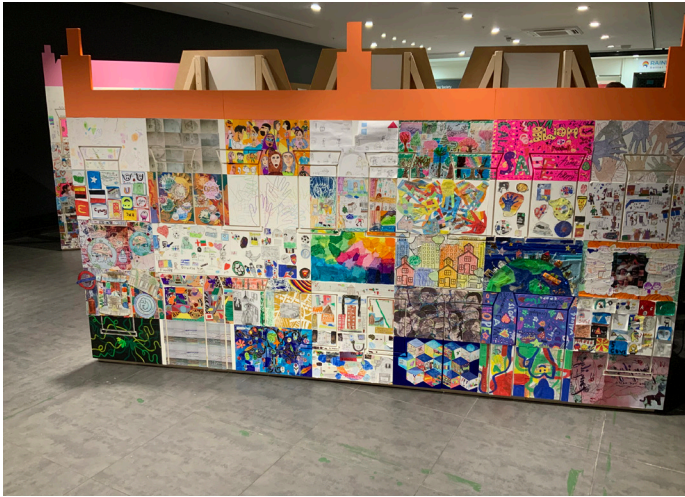
ART

Throughout the spring term the St Mary's art room continued to be a happy and productive space.

Nursery and Reception children have continued to enjoy exploring different materials in their art lessons. Nursery worked collaboratively to make a giant beanstalk. Reception used primary colours to paint striking parrots.

Year 1 have developed their printing skills, using them to great effect with their bold imaginative prints. Courtney Matisson's sculpture was the springboard for Y2's successful coral reef collages. Y3 responded enthusiastically to their Egyptian theme. Artists in Y4 enjoyed colour mixing for their frog paintings. Steampunk artwork influenced the fine Y5 crocodile pieces. Year 6 met the challenge of two colour process with crisp monkey head prints.

As part of a borough project 'A Place to call Home', work by Y5 and Y6 children (made in the autumn term) was displayed in the Southside shopping centre alongside work by more than 1500 students from 51 local schools.



Sports News

It has been wonderful this year to reintroduce all our sports clubs. The children have been able to enjoy such a range of sports including football, netball, tennis, athletics and basketball. It has also been brilliant to introduce a new club into the mix, Street Dance, led by the amazing and talented Miss Minton.

In Street Dance, the children have had the opportunity to learn a variety of styles in choreography. They have been listening to different music to focus on the different rhythms and movements to gain a greater understanding of the foundations of Street Dance. The children have enjoyed being able to 'freestyle' as they are able to explore new ideas of movement and let themselves go and have fun!

It has been such an excellent addition to our wide range of sports, and we hope to add a few more as the year progresses!



UNCOVERED

Rachel Le Prevost



Background

I grew up in Surrey with my younger sister and parents and our household was always full of music. My parents are both musical and were heavily involved in local music groups and my Dad also ran his own small choir which my mum sang in. I learnt the piano and violin from a young age and I sang a lot! My first solo performing part was Lucy in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Opera when I was only 11 years old. My Dad was Aslan the lion! Once I left home, though, music didn't play such a big part, mainly because I thought I could earn more doing something more academic. Probably one of my biggest regrets! As a young adult I developed itchy feet and ended up saving enough money to go backpacking around the world on a shoestring budget for a year and a half on my own. I loved doing that and it opened my eyes so much as to what else is out there. When I returned (I had to face the real world again!) I ended up studying for a degree in Leisure and Tourism and then I worked in travel for 11 years. I was lucky enough to go to many places with work, including the Caribbean, Mauritius, South Africa – it sounds idyllic, right? By then I was married, I'd moved house and I'd joined a local

choir, which I'm still a member of 20 years later. Through that I rediscovered my love of music and I left travel to train as a primary music teacher. My first job as a Music Teacher was at a school in Surbiton. I remember the first class I had on my own – I think it was Year 1 – and we sang songs and created music together. For the first time I thought wow! I'm being paid to do something I love - there isn't anything in the working world better than that!

What do you like best about St Mary's?

The strong sense of family and community spirit in the school and the fact I was made to feel welcome the moment I arrived for my interview. That has never left me.

What makes you happy?

So many things! Obviously anything to do with music – I love being part of the choir I'm in but also listening and dancing (badly!) to music. Also spending time with friends and family, being in the great outdoors and travelling.

Where was your best holiday?

That is such a hard question to answer! I've been so lucky to have travelled to so many wonderful places. However, when asked which country was my favourite when I backpacked around the world, I would always say Nepal. It has the most stunning scenery, which I loved exploring, the friendliest of people who always smiled despite their hardships and there was a wonderful spirituality about the place that left a lasting impression.

What subjects did you like best at school?

Well, without wanting to sound clichéd, music is obviously up there! But I was also good at maths and I enjoyed geography and physics.

How do you like to relax?

I can spend many a happy hour in my garden where I have a vegetable patch and a greenhouse, especially in the sunshine. It was a Godsend during the lockdowns. I also love

hiking in the countryside and participating in outdoor sports.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Skiing and travelling generally, but particularly skiing! But I love it and the thrill of being able to hurtle down a mountain on two planks without falling over is very intoxicating.

What pet do you have or would you like?

The only pets I've ever had are gerbils as a child, who I adored. My granny had a Jack Russell terrier who I also loved and if my lifestyle would allow it, I would love to have one of my own. One day...!

What are your favourite books?

I do love an absorbing whodunnit, although I never can work out who the culprit is! What human trait do you most dislike? Rudeness. Manners cost nothing and if you are polite to people, they will respond in kind to you and you will feel better yourself.

Describe a favourite meal?

I think Sunday roasts are up there as being a favourite meal of mine as it's not only the food itself but it's also the fact that I normally have them when family or friends are with us. My husband also cooks a mean roast potato!

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

That no matter where you come from or how different your background is to someone who you meet, you will always have something in common with them and you should treat everyone with the same amount of respect.

How would you like to be remembered?

As a good friend who can make you smile.

Spring Concert 2022

After two long years (the 2020 concert was due to be held, then we had our first lockdown) we were finally able to resurrect our Spring Concert. Not only that, we were able to invite parents and family in to watch their children perform live, yes live! All children in Years 3-6 were invited to audition for it and given that this was the first time that this has happened for three of those year groups, the willingness of the children to participate was amazing.

The Music room was a hive of activity at break and lunchtimes with participants practising their pieces and how their practising paid off! Their performances at the concert were so full of confidence and they were each rewarded with well-deserved applause. Some children had formed their own ensembles, from singing as a group to a drum and piano duet, as well as singing solos and solo pieces on the piano, violin, flute and clarinet. We have a lot of talented musicians here at St Mary's and it was a treat to hear them perform again, especially to a live audience - well done all!

Mrs R Le Prevost





RED Nose day

On Friday 18th March the children in school helped to raise money for Comic relief with a range of celebrations and activities. Children wore red and their craziest hairstyles to mark the occasion. A number of families also sent in their best jokes for the children to share with others in their class and the wider school community.

It was a fantastic day for all with everyone getting into the spirit as the photos show! Our wonderful year 6 children sold red noses at the school date in the run up to Comic Relief and we managed to raise a whopping £635.20 from the sale of the red noses and from our marvellous mufti day! Thank you all for your generosity and for the love and support you continue to show us all in school! We are a very lucky school to have such a supportive parent body and such amazing students!

