



# SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE



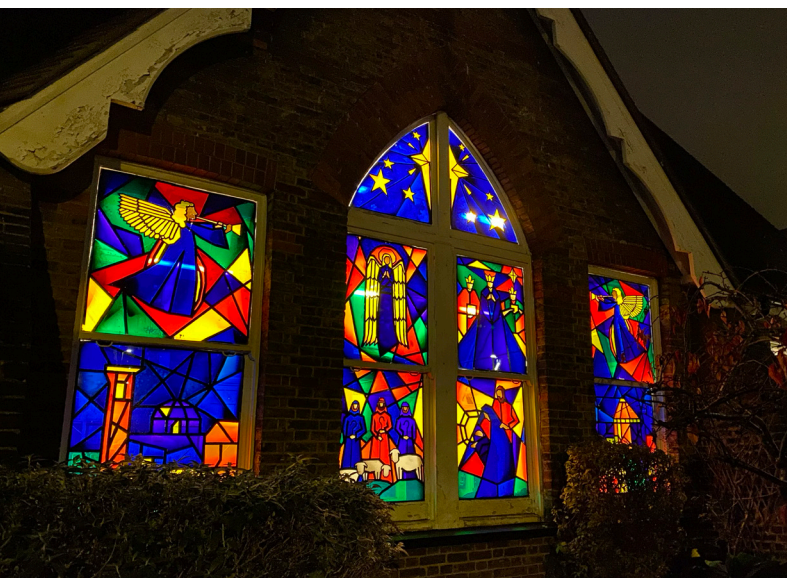




Help the #Gadgeteers stop their cogs from freezing this winter! ❄️  
Reading helps keep the cogs turning so get your child signed up for the #WinterMiniChallenge! 📖  
Children can log their winter reads at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk) where they will also find recommendations and games 🎮

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple.  
Children read at least three books of their choice between 1 December 2022 and 20 February 2023  
and add them to their online profile at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk)

Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge  
and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.



**The Spring Term  
starts  
Wed Jan 3rd**

(Tue 2nd Jan - Inset Day)

**Wishing you all a  
Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!**

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.”

Matthew 2:10



## St Mary's School Christmas Raffle

Enter for your chance to win a FUN PACKED HAMPER or any of these ADDITIONAL VOUCHERS

**£2.50 a ticket  
Or 5 for £10**

**Shopping**

£250 cashmere jumper  
WYSE London  
£100 The Russell Gallery  
Dog groom and teeth clean  
City Paws (£90)  
£50 Waitrose  
£20 Oliver Bonas  
£20 Flowersmith  
Toys worth £20 Kids Stuff  
£15 Wilko

**Experiences**

Cinema tickets for family of 4 at the Odeon (£80)  
1 Family ticket to 18 holes golf & 2 pizzas & 4 drinks at Jungle Rumble (£60)  
1 massage from The Massage Company (£60)  
Cut & Blowdry at Toni & Guy (£50)  
1 haircut at Crew (£28)

**DRAW ON 10th DECEMBER**

**FUN PACKED HAMPER**

YN – The night before Christmas  
YR – Starting 2023 With A Bang  
Y1 – Winter Wonderland  
Y2 – Santa's Lucky Dip  
Y3 – Baubles and Bubbles  
Y4 – Festive Foody  
Y5 – Naughty and Nice  
Y6 – Cosy Christmas

**Food and Drinks**

3 course meal for 2 & bottle  
prosecco Coppa  
£50 Artisan's of Sardinia  
£40 Dynamo  
£40 Duke's Head  
4 x £30 Wagamama  
£30 Pinsons Nose  
2 x £25 Pappa Ciccia  
£20 Pukka  
£20 Social brew  
2 pizzas Franco Manca  
Fika for 4 (4 hot drinks with  
cinnamon buns) Blabbar  
2 Lemon drizzle cakes Gail's

**WYSE**  
ELSWOOD  
CYCLEWORKS  
The Flowersmith  
DYNAMO  
PARSON'S NOSE  
MORRISONS  
GAIL'S  
FAFFAN & COCCIA  
OLIVER BONAS

**THE RUSSELL  
GALLERY**  
WAGAMAMA  
JUNGLE RUMBLE  
THE MASSAGE COMPANY  
TONI & GUY  
CITY PAWS CLUB  
WILKO

**PRINCE  
HUTTONS**  
JUNGLE RUMBLE  
COPPA  
ODEON  
TONI & GUY  
CREW  
FRANCO MANCA  
WAGAMAMA  
BLABBAR  
L'Occitane

### A big thankyou!

FoSMS would like to thank all of the wonderful parents and local businesses of Putney who supported our school Christmas raffle. Merry Christmas to all.



### School Governors news

Governor's love coming into the school. We were so delighted to be received by the school on the 2nd December to spend half a day immersing ourselves into school life, an experience we found very special. What makes St Mary's distinctive, is its community feel and Christian values which beams from every facet of school life. All Church of England schools are held to a SIAMS framework and this was our chance to see RE across all the year groups and reflect on how our school provides a "distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish".

We joined Friday morning worship. With the season of advent upon us, Miss Payne led a wonderful reflection of how the Christmas story makes us the next chapter in caring for others. The song of choice - of course a carol, Christmas tree decorations, and art advent calendar showcase the beautiful work St Mary's pupils have been enjoying. Thereafter, all governors walked through the school class by class to see RE in action and did a "book look" to see the children's work. We were very impressed at how teachers challenge the students to think about all faiths and how the Christmas season gives us the rich opportunity to explore values in all forms (written, artwork, classroom decorations, songs, even watching and reflecting on a few TV adverts!). The governors are so very proud how St Mary's vision is embedded in all facets of school life and the visit was simply joyous.

And so, from the Governing Board, thank you for all your continued support for the school. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas. God Bless.

Linda O'Riordan - School Governor





# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

I have been emailing back and forth with our Diocesan School Improvement Partner this week who signed off one of her emails with 'enjoy the weeks approaching Christmas - my favourite time in the school year (if a bit hectic)! ... There's never a bad time to be a teacher, but I completely agree that Christmas is always a very special time in school. As I write, Christmas trees are coming down from the loft, elves are being spotted here and there - as staff plan the mischief that will ensue in school in the countdown to Christmas - and the Advent Calendar has gone up in the hall. It's the most wonderful time of the year and is a great way to celebrate the end of a great term.



Many highlights haven't happened yet. I am particularly looking forward to our first Nativity Service at St. Mary's Church in two years. Mrs McCarthy is already working hard with Year Two, who will lead the service. It is fantastic to hear the children singing in preparation. As always, we have had fantastic support from the Parish Team who have led two Eucharist Services and regular worship sessions across the term. We look forward to welcoming Reverend Helena Whitaker, who is also going to begin to lead worship here at St. Mary's. A great chance for some of our girls to become familiar with the Chaplain of Lady Margaret School before secondary transfer. Children in Key Stage Two have further developed their spirituality through Godly Play sessions at the Church and we have celebrated Harvest at the Church and marked Remembrance Day in school. As always, I am hugely grateful to Reverend John for the very generous and open way he works with us and it is always lovely to have either John, Jane or Helena in school.

A particularly special highlight of the term was the FoSMS Quiz Night. It has been really reassuring to be able to return to some of the traditions of the past - the quiz was one such evening where it was great to see parents in school again, battling it out in a general knowledge quiz and having fun socialising together. I am really looking forward to our Christmas Fair which is coming up on Saturday. It was reimagined outside last year, and I felt was all the better for it. There is something about the cold that makes it feel all the more Christmassy! I saw some past pupils on the gate this evening, who are also looking forward to being able to return for the Fair! Our FoSMS events are so important in terms of not only uniting our current community but also in terms of keeping us connected with our past. Huge thanks to all of the parents and carers who have planned, delivered or supported a FoSMS event. FoSMS have already funded our Black History and Anti-Bullying Workshops this term. They will also fund the pantomimes that the children so enjoy in the run up to Christmas - thank you FoSMS!

Also this week, our governors are in school for our first governor working morning. We are trialling a new approach to working with governors and have invited them into school for three mornings across the year, so that they can see whether what we are telling them in meetings is holding up in practice! Our governors are a constant support and keep me and the team on our toes, questioning the work of the school, holding us to account. I am ever grateful for the way that governors work with us. Their work is often unseen but constantly drives school improvement. Many of you will not have known Rob Walmsley. Rob joined the board in early 2019 and was a particularly dedicated and hands on governor. Unfortunately, Rob passed away over the summer and his absence has been strongly felt in our governing body. I would like to record our thanks to Rob for bringing his considerable expertise to the work of the governing body and for the challenge which was always backed up with practical and kind support. He will be greatly missed.

We have an exceptional staff team at St. Mary's, they are a very large part of what makes my job such a joy. I have the privilege of observing their work across the school on a regular basis and I am always humbled by what they bring to the school often above and beyond their basic duties - they are a key ingredient in our success at St. Mary's. I would like to congratulate the whole team on a fantastic term's work. The rich tapestry of enrichment activities which staff have planned and delivered - Black History Month, a range of wonderful trips, opportunities to play sport, to hear from visitors such as Transport for London or the Police, and opportunities to take on responsibility - are what makes the curriculum special and particularly memorable for the children. We have our very first staff party in several years coming up and I am really looking forward to raising a glass to the work the team have achieved this term and to seeing them let their hair down and enjoy each other's company. Very well deserved indeed!

Before I close, I want to say a special thank you to Sarah Moss, our FoSMS Chair, for taking on the editing of the school magazine. As you can see, Sarah has done a fantastic job. Our magazine is a great way to capture all of the joy and fun that we have at St. Mary's every term and it is good that we have a new editor to take it forward. Thank you again to Lindsey Lillywhite our outgoing editor for all of the news packed editions she has produced for us over the last six years!

All that remains for me to say is a huge thank you to the real stars of the school - our fabulous learners, the children. They make each day unique and it is a pleasure to be able to work with children who love to learn and who are genuinely fascinated by any and all things. I hope that every single child and all of their families have a magical Christmas and wish you all the joy of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds and particularly for our parents - the rest that Mary and Joseph enjoyed before Jesus arrived! We look forward to seeing you all, refreshed, relaxed and ready for more new challenges at the start of the Spring Term.

Until then, rest well and enjoy the Christmas break,  
Cheryl Payne





# CLASSROOM CLOSE-UPS

## Y3

Wowzers - the children of Year 3 are doing superbly and they are really enjoying the learning... In English the class are currently reading *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister and are thoughtfully thinking about how to develop their use of rich and varied vocabulary. Our picture books really help to inspire their writing! In maths the children have been mastering their understanding of place value, their skills in addition and subtraction and are now tackling multiplication and division. In RE the class learnt about the importance of The Bible and it's 'big story'; they are now finding out about monastic communities and the daily lives of some monks and nuns. The science topic on rocks and fossils was extremely exciting - especially as the class were given the task of conducting a rock survey of Putney! What rock do you think the school is made of? Is it natural rock or man-made? The history topic on the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages has been very informative and the class trip to Butser Ancient Farm, a recreated prehistoric settlement, was enjoyed by all. The children were able to experience what life may have been like for our prehistoric ancestors and even got to make their own jewellery!



## Y1

Year 1 have had a brilliant term and have settled into the new year well. We have had a lot of fun and are enjoying the learning! We have especially loved learning all about the Jewish faith and have really enjoyed learning all about the different Jewish festivals and celebrations. We planned how to get ready for Shabbat, took part in Rosh Hashanah celebrations and decorated our own Sukkah for Sukkot!



One of our highlights of the term has been Black History Month. We learned all about Thandi Ojeer and had a fantastic time learning about her clothing company and designing our own clothes! We also enjoyed taking part in a workshop during which we learned all about Floella Benjamin. Our favourite book this term has been *'Nibbles the Book Monster'* by Emma Yarlett. We've had a great time chasing naughty Nibbles through various fairy tales and exploring how his nibbling has changed the stories! We are VERY excited about Christmas and have been having fun learning about the Christmas story, creating decorations, writing letters to Father Christmas and practising for our Christmas show!

## Y5

What a wonderful start to year 5 we have been having! In English we have been learning all about fairy tales. We have been thinking carefully about how to make our writing appropriate for its audience. So we put this to the test when we wrote and performed our fairy tales for Year 2. To Year 5's relief they seemed to really enjoy them! Year 5 have fully embraced their new science topic 'Forces'! We particularly enjoyed making and testing parachutes from different materials, investigating which material made the best parachute and why and discussing the forces that were acting upon the parachute as it fell. In the run up to Christmas we have begun to get festive! We enjoyed painting our shepherds on their journey to visit Jesus. We painted these in the style of aboriginal art work, linking it to some of the learning we enjoyed during Black History Month. On top of all of this, Y5 have been enriching their learning with some amazing experiences. We especially enjoyed our trip to Southfields Academy for Junior Citizens, where we learned some vital skills and lessons to keep us safe as we gain more independence.



## YN

It has been wonderful to welcome two new Nursery classes to St Mary's this term, and to see the amazing progress each child has already made, as they have settled into a new setting and routine. We started out by learning 'All About Me.' The children learnt about recognising their emotions with the help of 'The Colour Monster'! In the story, 'Colour Monster' equates a different colour with each emotion. The children are very good at naming emotions and are beginning to recognise them in themselves and others. They then created their very own Colour Monsters in the creative area. The classes have also spent time observing the world around them as the weather has changed. We learnt about Autumn, and have been learning how to mix colours, to create wonderful leaf prints. In the second half of term, we centred our learning on 'Animals.' Children have become really engaged by the stories we have looked at together, especially 'Tanka Tanka Skunk.' In the story 'elephant' and a 'skunk' set up a rhythmic repetitive drumbeat with which the children have been joining in with. They have been using a range of instruments to perform sections of the story. Towards the end of term, the children have been excitedly preparing for Christmas. We have made lots of different stars, and learnt about why there was a special star in the sky in the Bible Christmas story. We have been practising our Christmas song and are looking forward to performing it in the Nativity Service at Church.





## Y4

Year 4 have experienced a busy start to the Autumn Term, packed with a range of opportunities and experiences. In our English, we have been thinking about the elements of a story and using that structure to create our very own unique stories that draw the reader in. This has led to our most recent piece of work where we are focusing on stories from different character perspectives. Fantastic storytellers on display already!

Our current topic in Science on 'Electricity' is a wonderful opportunity for the class to understand and explore the many components that are needed for our everyday electrical appliances. We have had the opportunity to create our own circuits containing switches and buzzers which we believe will further our knowledge and push our inquisitive minds! In our History topic 'Ancient Greece,' Year 4 had the chance to take part in an interactive workshop on Greek Myths at the Wallace Collection, in Manchester Square. Our trip included, a tour around the collection to study the paintings and the stories that they told. We then had the opportunity to create our own myths and legends using artwork to tell the story. A superb day out enjoyed by all!



## Y6

Our final year at St Mary's is off to a roaring start, we've been working hard in school learning about light and electricity in Science; the Golden Age of Islam in History; fractions and long division in Maths; the liturgy in RE; and much more. On top of our usual work, we've had engaging visitors and have gone on a number of exciting trips. A visit from TfL London taught us about safety as we start to travel more independently. Our trip to Southwark Cathedral left us mesmerised as we gazed up at Gaia, a huge sculpture of our beautiful Mother Earth. The workshop, as part of the visit, introduced us to Climate Justice and our obligations as world citizens. We finished our Geography topic about rivers with a trip to Fulham Palace to learn more about the Thames River where we went on the foreshore, found a number of creatures, and tested the water. We now know that the Thames is a very healthy river. Our Godly Play session at St Mary's Church was made even better with a Eucharist discussion from Reverend John and trip up the tower of the Church. We look forward to all that next term has in store.



## Y2

Year Two have had a smooth transition to the Autumn Term and have soaked up every learning opportunity with relish. This term has been busy, and jam packed full of learning. Some of our highlights

have included learning facts about owls in our English lessons; exploring outside and identifying living things in science, learning about Black History Month and Guy Fawkes in history and making Diyas

lamps and discovering why Diwali is celebrated in our RE lessons. We have enjoyed so many captivating enrichment opportunities such as our Black History workshop 'My Friend Flo' led by Bigfoot Arts Education, Anti-Bullying Day and two school trips!

Our trip to Tilford allowed us to use our geographical skills, compare features of a small town with Putney, use geographical language to describe the physical and human features and use simple compass directions.

This trip also had cross-curricular links with PSHE, history and English as we located the Dragon's Teeth and learnt that they are square-pyramid shaped defensive walls first used during the Second World War to block the movement of tanks. We also learnt the history of the school hall and key dates of other human and physical features of Tilford. We wrote letters to describe Putney and ourselves and received letters back, so the children were excited to meet their pen pals and work together to explore.

We are all very excited for Christmas and have enjoyed getting festive with lots of different Christmas activities. We've had a busy term of learning and it has been so much fun!



## YR

What a term it has been! For some, it has been their first term at St. Mary's, and it is wonderful to see how well everyone has settled in. During the first half-term, Reception had fun getting to know their new friends, exploring their new environment and getting used to new routines. 'Bears' was Reception's first Topic. Reception enjoyed reading a variety of texts and learning all about bears. The children found it fascinating learning about hibernation and the different animals that hibernate.

This half-term we have been focusing on the story 'The Three Little Pigs' with 'Traditional Tales' being the topic. The children have enjoyed role-playing the story. We have explored different materials, used our phonetic knowledge to help create a list of materials and created 'WATCH OUT' posters for that pesky wolf. We had fun using spaghetti and marshmallows to build a house for the pigs before the Big Bad Wolf tried to blow the houses down (he was unlucky with most). After reading Little Red Riding Hood, Reception cooked up some tasty bread and enjoyed it just like Grandma did in the story.

Reception have had a fun time preparing for Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Polka Theatre to watch Grandad, Me and Teddy Too. We all look forward to 2023 and the adventures that the next year will bring!







## RAISING THE FLAG!

After our successful fundraiser to acquire a commemorative flagpole to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we were finally able to install our 'Jubilee Flagpole' early in September. Sadly, the death of The Queen meant that as soon as we raised the Union Flag, we then lowered it to half-mast in honour of her death and to mark the national period of mourning. In October, the school observed Black History Month and were able to fly a specially designed flag to mark this event. As we go through the rest of the academic year, you may notice different flags flying to mark different events and of course, we will fly the Union Jack for national occasions, for example, Remembrance Day. Do keep your eyes peeled to spot which flag is flying! Please see our very own school flag - we will be proudly flying this flag from our Jubilee Flagpole from January 2023. The Jubilee Organising Committee would like to thank all of those in our community that donated towards the Jubilee Flag Pole Fund. Our goal of creating national and civic pride is already evident with the keen interest our children have shown towards the flags flown so far. A commemorative plaque will soon be attached to the Jubilee Flagpole as a fitting tribute to The Queen's long reign.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The school had a wonderful time exploring Black British History. We explored a variety of people from a variety of backgrounds who have and are contributing to Black history. Reception and Nursery had a blast creating their own wonderful paintings inspired by Frank Bowling and Pearl Alcock. Meanwhile, Year 2 danced up a storm learning about the history of the Notting Hill Carnival while Year 1 delved into the fashion world, looking at the influence of African patterns on fashion design. Up in KS2, Year 3 learned all about inspiring black people in television (including Sir Trevor McDonald and Moira Stuart) while Year 4 looked at the achievements of Walter Tull, exploring racism and bias in the sporting world. Year 5 became activists, learning all about the need for activism and designing their own Black Panther inspired logos while Year 6 became poets using the works of Valerie Bloom as inspiration. The highlight was the KS2 workshop, 'Hidden Figures', during which the children learned all about historical, Black figures (such as Severus Septimius, Emperor of Rome) who you have probably never heard of! All in all, it was a great way to celebrate and mark the month!

## REST IN PEACE YOUR MAJESTY

St Mary's CE Primary School, along with the nation and whole world, was saddened by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We learnt of the sombre news on the evening of Thursday 8th September and The Queen's passing had a profound sense of loss as, for many of us, The Queen had been our only Head of State, the one constant in our lives. It was quite a strange feeling the next day at school as the news slowly sank in. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations earlier in the year will be a life-long memory of The Queen for all of our children. The school had such a memorable day with the Royal Tea Party and Concert. We are sure that in the years to come the children will look back fondly on this school event and reflect they were part of history when the nation celebrated 70 years of her reign - the longest of a British monarch. That long reign saw The Queen dedicate her entire life to the service of our country and her duty and steadfastness, admired around the world, is something for which we are truly thankful. This photograph was the last official portrait of The Queen released by Buckingham Palace and for many of us epitomises The Queen - her poise, her colourful style and above all her endearing smile.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926-2022

Thank you Ma'am!



## MUSIC

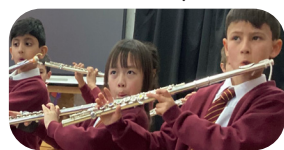
We've been very busy in Music again this term, both in lessons and in extra-curricular activities.



In Early Years the children have been exploring the different sounds our voices and instruments make, for example in Reception we've been making sounds using instruments for the story "The Three Little Pigs" – so many different sounds to choose from! In Key Stage 1 we built on our knowledge of pitch and in Year 2 we learned the names for different pitches and drawing patterns to show the rhythm of a song we know, the first step to formal notation. In Key Stage 2 we have been creating our own compositions linked in with the class topics and everyone has enjoyed listening back to their creations for our evaluations. We've discovered it's so useful to do this so we can improve for next time!

Year 3 have started to learn the recorder and Year 4 the flute this year in their Whole Class Ensemble Tuition sessions and both classes have made a great start to mastering their instruments. They showed off their hard work at their first concert to parents at the end of this term. We look forward to seeing how they progress even further during the year! With Christmas performances last year having to be recorded or cancelled as audiences were not permitted, we have all been so looking forward to resuming our busy festive performance schedule.

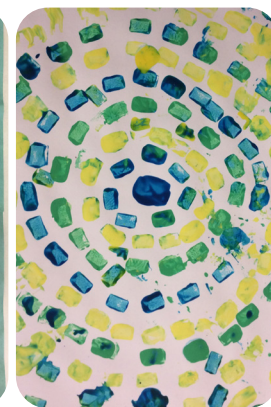
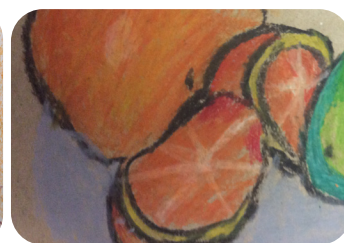
Our Key Stage One Choir went back to the Platt Centre for the first time since 2019 to sing Christmas carols and delighted the patrons with their carol singing and instrument playing. It was so lovely to be back again, they make us feel very welcome (the juice afterwards is always popular!). The choir was also invited to sing at the St Mary's Church Christmas Tea for the elderly and isolated, which was a big honour and again, it helped to put everyone there in a festive mood. The children loved having the opportunity to perform at two venues and they were so well behaved. They certainly looked the part in their festive headgear!



The popular M:Tech (music technology club) has re-started this term (after lockdowns). It's now after school as a one-hour club and the children are making such good progress in their compositions. The project this term was Virtual Reality, which has definitely inspired the children, and the Golden Disc winners' work will be played in our final assembly of the term.

## ART

The Art Room has been busy and productive. One of the first tasks in the term is for St Mary's artists from Nursery to Year 6 to draw on their knowledge of the Nativity to create fine Christmas Card designs. The quality was particularly strong this year. In October classes explored and responded to the work of black artists: Maria Auxiliadora, Faith Ringgold, Alma Thomas, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Kobina Nyarko, Yinka Shonibare and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. Skills in colour mixing, mark making, drawing, painting, printmaking, modelling have been developed alongside an excitement at the work. Children in Monday's drawing club continue to impress with their enthusiasm and effort in tackling a range of subjects with different materials.





## TEACHER UNCOVERED Kendal McEvoy (YR)

### Background

I grew up in Manchester. I moved to Leeds to study Primary Education at Leeds Trinity University. After University, I went off to Australia but the COVID pandemic sadly cut my trip short... I did get to spend 6 months there which I absolutely loved! Then, I moved back to Manchester where I taught for 2 years as a Reception Teacher. I never thought I would live in The South being an avid lover of Manchester and The North, but I decided I'd like a change of scenery and London is where I have landed. I moved here during the Summer holidays and even though I am still getting my bearings, I am thoroughly enjoying it.

### What do you like best about St. Mary's?

Since stepping my foot through the door, I felt a warmth and a huge sense of community. I have been in many primary schools, and I have never felt a bigger sense of community than here at St. Mary's. It is wonderful to see and be a part of.

### What makes you happy?

The sun, warmth, and being by the sea (I wasn't made for the UK climate).

### Where was your favourite holiday?

A trip to Greece with my best friend in 2017. Our first holiday abroad together, after anticipating it since we were in Primary School.

### How do you like to relax?

Going for walks, spending time with the people I love and listening to music.

### Who is your favourite actor?

Tough question, I'd have to say Julia Roberts. Mainly because I love a good romcom (especially 90's romcoms).

### What pet do you have or would you like?

I always had cats in my family home growing up. However, I'd say I would prefer to have a dog. I'd like a Golden Retriever that I could take on long walks.

### Describe a favourite meal?

A roast dinner cooked by either my Mum

or Dad. They both do it differently, but the meals are equally as tasty.

### Which subjects did you like best at school?

PE and Maths.

### What is the most important lesson life has taught you, so far?

Don't focus too much on the future, you will lose sight of the present. Live in the now. Enjoy each day.



## Christmas Greetings From our church

One of the features of our common life, which is treasured by so many of us, is the triangle of relationship between school, church and community, here in Putney. St Mary's church feels privileged to relate to the school and we delight in enriching and being enriched by the close relationship.

This term we have been thrilled, that after the Covid break, we started school visits to the Godly Play Room at St Mary's Church. We loved having the year 5 and 6 classes and look forward to welcoming the rest of the school in 2023. November saw the re-birth of our parish youth group for children in year 6 and (at secondary schools) year 7, with a view to the group carrying on as young people leave St Mary's and go onto secondary schools next Autumn. Do contact nikki.cornfield@parishofputney.co.uk if you would like to find out more. The Tuesday choir at church continues to be well supported by St Mary's school youngsters and whom have been fantastic singing at services on Sunday during the term.

All of this - and more - are ways in which the school enriches the life of the church and the church enriches the school and in doing so the community is built up and strengthened. At Christmas we reflect on the miracle of God knowing and caring for us and reaching out to be with us. May we all, as staff, pupils, school families, governors, church and community, know the Peace of God to rule in our hearts this Christmas time and always!

God Bless

Rev'd John Whittaker

John.whittaker@parishofputney.co.uk



St Mary's pupils Harrison (Y1), Noah (Y4) and Fredric (Y6) braved the Glass Door Sleep Out on Friday 7th Oct, sleeping overnight at St Mary's church to raise money and awareness of homelessness in the borough. They raised £1698 for the charity Glass Door. Well done boys!



## SPORT AT ST MARY'S

It has been a pleasure to watch St Mary's begin to take part in sporting competitions and events this Autumn Term. We have taken part in 3 football tournaments where both Year 5 and 6 have had the chance to wear the St Mary's colours and compete fiercely with other schools in the Wandsworth area.

The Year 5 & 6 boys competed in AFC Wimbledon's Trinity Cup where they placed 4th out of over 20 schools who attended the event. The boys played many games against various schools, excellently displaying our core values of endurance, compassion and thankfulness. When games became tough, the boys bonded together and worked efficiently as a team.

This led our Year 5 & 6 girls to compete in their very own Trinity Cup event where they dominated the competition throughout, scoring over 12 goals in the lead up to the semi-finals where they were beaten by a penalty shootout that Mr Lally still disputes to this day!

It was noted by several schools and adults in attendance how well the girls played together and the feeling of positivity that St Mary's brought to each game.

Our final tournament of 2022 took place at Southfields Academy, where a new group of Year 5 & 6 boys battled it out against a range of schools from different backgrounds. It took a quarter final penalty shootout to knock us out, and although we were disappointed, as a group we agreed that this was an opportunity for St Mary's to remind ourselves why we play competitive sports - to learn, grow and flourish together.



## PUPIL CORNER

### ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR'S (ABA's)

Here are 3 top highlights of Anti-bullying ambassador's events this term. We are really planning to take action and hope it makes an impact on any bullying issues in the school! St Mary's approached our first anti-bullying day of the year (25th November) with great enthusiasm. The theme was "Reach out for help" and we were all encouraged to ask for support when needed. The day was packed with activities like workshops and class discussions.

So far, we've held two monthly meetings led by Miss Payne where we went through our agenda and discussed future plans. We also looked at feedback from last year's ambassadors and we are planning to create a survey and introduce improvements based on the feedback.

We have also begun training ABAs who are new to the team - as being an anti-bullying ambassador requires special training - and so far it has been quite a success. There have been some active discussions which have been really helping us understand and recognize what bullying actually is. We are looking forward to next term's exciting and impactful ABA work.

Written by Valerie, Year 6

### SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

In School Council, we have just started a new year and elected new councillors for each class. Recently we have now introduced an 'Eco-Warrior' award. Just like Learning Warriors, each class will nominate a member of their class who is helping the environment and they will be given a certificate at monthly celebration worship. Finally, we have been planning to go around school and Putney to continue our local litter picks.

Written by Isabella, Year 6



### CHRISTMAS PANTOMINE

On Thursday 8th Dec, Years 1 to 6 were extremely lucky to watch the Robin Hood Panto. The panto was about the Robin Hood story with a twist - the fairy turns the king into a squirrel! The amazing thing about the play was there were only three actors who played multiple roles. Every one enjoyed it and it was fun and interactive. Thank you FoSMs!

Written by Poppy, Year 6.



### NATIVITY

After not being able to perform our Nativity at St Mary's Church last year, we were all elated to show our production of "The Angel Who Nearly Missed It All" on Thursday 15th of December at St Mary's Church. Year 2 led the portrayal of the story of the Nativity, the greatest story ever told, spectacularly. In leading the Nativity they showed their growth in skills and confidence, marking the end of a fabulous first term in Year 2! All of KS1 and Early Years have helped make the Nativity one to remember. They learnt their lines, lyrics and moves and sang with great enthusiasm. They even practised singing during their playtimes as they enjoyed rehearsing and performing so much! The song "We've Got a Feeling" brought a tear to our eyes and reminded us of how special this time of year is and I am sure the catchy tune of 'Sing It Loud' filled us all with Christmas cheer! Hopefully, we are now all filled with the true spirit of Christmas so well done children, your teachers and parents could not be prouder of you all.





# FOSMS NEWS

FoSMS have started the 2022/23 academic year with a bang and parents have shown great support for events and other fundraising initiatives this term. The money raised by FoSMS really makes a difference in terms of extra resources and activities for St Mary's pupils and it has been amazing to see parents really getting behind FoSMS as we return to a full programme of events post-Covid. On 10th November the school welcomed back the Quiz Night to the hall after a 2-year hiatus. This was a fantastically fun night, with 10 teams - including parents, teachers and Governors - battling it out to be crowned Quiz Champions. The glory ultimately went to a table of Y6 and Y5 parents led by Kate Bolton - congratulations! There was a great atmosphere and the hall looked amazing, with everyone embracing the challenge to decorate their tables - well done in particular to the Reception table, which was named "Best Decorated Table" by Miss Payne (see photo). The final amount raised was an incredible £2,540 - thank you to everyone who participated!



The other main event of the term was of course the Christmas Fair, held on Saturday 3rd December. This was another roaring success with the whole school community getting involved in Christmas crafts, games, and ever-popular stalls such as the tombola, Santa shoot out, "jolly jam jars" and "glitter and glow", alongside some festive food and drink and a surprise visit by Santa himself. This event relied on an army of parent and staff volunteers, and it was fantastic to see all the children and adults, having such a brilliant time kicking off the festive season at St Mary's. The total amount raised was still being confirmed as we went to press, but we are confident it will have been a great result! Alongside the Christmas Fair, parents have shown great support for two other Christmas-related fundraising initiatives. Lots of families purchased Christmas cards, gift tags, wrapping paper and other items with their child's individual design on, with a percentage of all sales going to the school. The finished items looked great and this raised £427. Miss Payne also selected three of the children's designs as the school's official Christmas e-cards. The Christmas Raffle was also a huge success, offering the chance to win one of eight amazing hampers put together by each year group as well as a host of other great prizes - again, the amount raised will be announced as soon as possible. At a busy time of year for fundraising, parents also got into the World Cup spirit by taking part in a Sweepstake for each year group. Alongside raising money for the classroom, this offered the chance to win a cash prize per sweepstake as well as each entry going into a prize draw to win an England football shirt from the '96 Euros signed by the England legend Paul Gascoigne (won by a parent of year 5 pupil). This raised a fantastic £1850, which the teaching staff decided to spend on immediate classroom needs and sports-related equipment.



The money raised from these events and initiatives has paid for some brilliant extra activities for the children this term, including the Black History Month Pupil Workshops (cost £1,000), Anti-Bullying Workshops (cost £850), and a visit from external theatre companies to perform two Christmas pantomimes for the children which they absolutely loved: The Clumsiest Elf (for EYFS on 12th Dec (see photo) and Robin Hood (for KS1 and 2) on the 8th Dec (cost £900). It also paid for the Christmas trees inside and outside the school, Christmas decorations, materials for the class craft decorations making (which your child will bring home at the end of term for you to keep) and other Christmas celebrations. Money raised by FoSMS events and initiatives also contributes to some of the core running costs of the school every year, including a key Learning Resources platform subscription, teachers resources, books and equipment (typically around £4,000 per year), and additional extra-curricular activities such as swimming lessons (typically around £1,000 per year) and sports participation. We are very grateful to parents for their continued support, both in terms of donating money and volunteering their time. Next term we are looking forward to the Family Disco and Challenge Day as the key fundraising events.



## Leavers and Starters to St.Mary's

### Welcome!

### In Year Pupil Starters Autumn term 2022

Emma Imad Y1  
Louisiana Khan Y2  
Elizabethjoyce Afolabi Y3  
Matilde Oliveira Mesquita Y3  
Peter Imad Y3  
Kai Khan Y3  
Irene Morandi-Lopez Y4  
Mariai Vasilev Y4  
Andrei Vasilev Y4  
Farimah Taiyari Y4  
Veronika Pliuvak Y5  
Isabella Hutchison Y5

Connie Ki Y6  
Grace Fleming Y6  
Yaroslav Kshanovskyi Y6  
Isaacdwell Afolabi Y6  
Aleksandr Vasilev Y6

### New Staff - Autumn 2022

Adriana Farquarson - TA  
Marzena Cyz - LSA  
Kendal McEvoy - YR Teacher  
Kick London coaches  
Josh Austins  
Jack Newman-Ffaulkes

Pupil Leavers - none

Staff leavers - none



## St. Mary's Church

Sunday 11th Dec@10am  
**Charity Christmas Toy Collection Service**  
please bring along a wrapped labelled gift  
for a child aged 5-15years

Sunday 18th Dec @7pm  
**Christmas Carols by candlelight service**

Christmas Eve, 24th December  
**Crib service @ 4pm**  
(come dressed as a character from the  
nativity)

**Midnight Mass service @11.30pm.**

**Christmas Day, 25th December @10am**  
we come together to celebrate  
(and show a present!)





# Christmas Fair 2022

Another AMAZING fair!  
Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair. Your time, attendance and support for the school is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to our wonderful FoSMs team and parents and staff who ensured that it was a really fun and successful day!







## West London Flowers & Events

St Mary's would like to thank the West London Florist for supplying our wonderful Christmas trees. They were on show in the hall and outside the school office, decorated by the children's handmade decorations.