

# ST. MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

MARCH ZOZA ISSUE





### St Mary's Playground Project ROUTE TO PHASE 2



The Summer Term starts Tue 16th April 2024 (Mon 15th April - Inset Day)

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter holiday!

### Parish of St. Mary the Virgin with All Saints, Putney.





Telephone Number: 020-8788-9591

Head Teacher: Miss Cheryl Payne



Diocese

of Southwark Wandsworth Borough Council

### SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Tuesday 6th February the school joined the world by marking Safer Internet Day - an annual event that focuses on online safety. This year's theme was 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. A Safer Internet Day assembly took place that asked the children across Y1-Y6 to think about their perspective on new and emerging technologies and using the Internet to make change for the better.

Staying up to date with what children are doing online can feel like a challenge sometimes. However, you don't have to be an expert in every new app or service. Simply having conversations with your children about their lives online, and what to do if they need help or something goes wrong, is what's most important. Here are a few simple steps you can take to help promote a safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology:

- Talk little and often

Having a regular open dialogue with your children about their favourite apps, the games they enjoy, and their online friends, will help create an environment where chatting about online experiences becomes a normal part of family life. - Stay proactive

As a result of discussions with your children about their online activities, take time to research the apps they're using, the accounts or channels they're following, and the games they're playing, to get a better idea of what they're experiencing and what your thoughts are towards it.

- Seek support

Knowing where to get help is essential. Each app or platform will have its own safety guidelines and reporting features, and having knowledge of how to use these will ensure you can make a report, seek help, and support your child to get the best out of the services they're using.

If you are looking for resources to support you and your family please visit the following websites:

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

What another cracker of a term it has been here at St. Mary's! Every term when I go to edit the magazine I am always surprised at what we have managed to pack in! I hope you enjoy reading all about it in the pages of our spring magazine. Huge thanks to Sarah for another great edition!

Last term we ended with the exciting news that we had reached the halfway point on our playground project totalizer. This term, I am thrilled to announce that we now have a whopping £68,535 in the pot. We are currently being quoted £120,000 for the project - but we are hoping to bring costs down. I am very grateful to Mrs Imad, who is currently looking at our phase two plans to see whether the original vision for the project is being realised and that we are securing value for money. Mrs Imad has also advised us on planning permission and we are currently waiting for design plans to be finalised so that we can submit an application. If you are able to make a dona-



tion towards the project please let a member of the FoSMS Team or Mrs Abraham know. It would be great to be able to break ground on the project this year.

Huge thanks to Rochelle and Ruth and our fantastic FoSMS Team for all they have done to raise the mind boggling total we have so far and for all the wonderful events which have brought the St. Mary's community together. Thank you to everyone who has helped at, attended and made donations at a FOSMS event. We are really grateful for all of the support for our playground project from our community past, present and future! Please keep it coming!

This week I have been fortunate to meet with various teams of staff and to have individual appraisal meetings with some of them. My reflection is how lucky we are to have dedicated professionals who regularly go above and beyond to create inspirational learning and memories for our fabulous children. This term has been no exception and I hope you enjoy reading about all of the wonderful things we have achieved together with you - our children, parent/carers, governors and Church.

I sign off as ever with a very big thank you to the children, staff, our parent/carer body, governors and the team at St. Mary's Church for all of your support. I look forward to what will hopefully be a much warmer and sunnier Summer Term packed with just as much learning and fun as this one!

I wish you all a very joyful Easter break and hope that whatever you have planned, you have the opportunity to rest and recharge. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 16th April at the usual time!

Cheryl Payne - Head Teacher



# School Governors news

Governors have been very busy this term. There has been the regular cycle of meetings to discuss pupil progress, school leadership and management, and the use of resources. Some of the issues discussed have included the Consultant Head Teacher arrangement with St Michael's, heating issues on which two governors attended meetings with the SDBE to support the school leadership, pupil progress and continued curriculum development. The Faith Group has met recently and welcomed the new Parish representative, Paul Donnelly, who will be familiar to those who worship at St Mary's. Reverend John was an enthusiastic supporter and participant in the FOSMS cycling race "up Everest" in February. He and Mr Lett had guite a battle on their bikes, much to the entertainment of all watching. The governors congratulated FOSMS for pulling together such an inspirational and profitable event - adding £18,000 to the fund for Phase 2 of

the playground. Well done! At the start of March governors received some very high quality training in unconscious bias from an outside provider. This was inspirational and very thought provoking, and this training is also to be given to staff next term.

As I write, voting is underway for a new parent governor. We are delighted that five marvellous candidates have put themselves forward for the single vacancy, and we thank them for throwing their hats into the ring. The results of the election may well be known by the time you read this, and we look forward to welcoming the new governor onto the Board.

We wish all staff and families a happy and restful Easter.

Paula Greenwood - Chair of Governors

# CLASSROOM CLOSE-UPS

**Y3** 

Highlights for Year 3 this Spring Term have included their visits to St. Mary's Church for their rousing performance of L-O-V-E for the Mother's Day service and more recently for Godly



Play where they explored the Parable of the Good Shepherd. School trips to the British Museum and the Natural History Museum offered the children excellent opportunities to find out more about their history topic of the Ancient Egyptians and their geography study on earthquakes and volcanoes. The children have continued to enjoy learning to play the recorder and performed brilliantly in the last WCET concert. RE lessons this term explored Jesus through his 'I am' statements and the Beatitudes. In maths the children have worked on multiplication and division, money, statistics and measuring length. In English they wrote their own exciting adventure stories based on the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. Probably the most exciting event has been the start of swimming lessons at Putney Leisure Centre - the children have taken to these well and have all shown great progress in the pool - well done everyone!

**Y1** 

Year 1 have absolutely loved taking part in various events and celebrations over the term! We took part in our Cycle Everest Challenge and enjoyed cycling our part and cheering each other on. We also enjoyed writing our own stories for World Book Day and showing off our outfits as we dressed as ourselves for Comic Relief. Our favourite event, however, was definitely celebrating Mothering Sunday. We practised following a recipe to



bake biscuits for our grown-ups as well as designing our own special Mother's Day boxes to put them in!

In English, we have been on an amazing adventure chasing the naughty baby mammoth, Teddy, on his trail of "mischief and mayhem" through the museum! We enjoyed writing our own stories based on 'The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth' and had so much fun thinking about rooms that we might run through. We also loved designing and making our own ornate museum doors with Mrs Adams in art. In Science, we have loved learning all about animals, even finding some small creatures on the playground and sometimes, in the classroom. We have been practising asking questions and learning how to sort animals using different criteria such as what they eat.

### Y5

In Year 5, we are currently enjoying a wonderfully busy Spring Term.

In our English lessons, we have been reading the autobiography of the astronaut, Chris Hadfield. The class have been working on their inferencing skills, as they took it in turns to sit in the Hot Seat, pretending to be Chris and answering a lot of very thoughtful questions. This week, we had a wonderful Red Nose Day celebrating what makes us, us. The class learnt how to write raps all about themselves celebrating all the things that make them



who they are. At the end of the lesson those who wanted to performed their raps. I was so impressed with each and every one.

In Science the children have been learning all about Earth and Space. This topic has really inspired the children and they have been coming up with some excellent questions. For example, 'if we lived on the moon, would a Year be 27 days?' Rayan, 'What might happen in the moon stopped rotating?' Andrea and 'What does The sun look like from The Moon?' Teo.

Year 5 have had another fantastic term so far and we cannot wait for the many more exciting things to come.

# YN

The Spring Term has been very busy in Nursery! We welcomed several new children this term and they have all settled in brilliantly to St. Mary's! After Christmas, we learnt about traditional tales. We were so 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. 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 beans and daffodils. The class are growing in their understanding of the world around them and how things grow and change over time. Parents have very kindly donated plants, seeds and flowers to the Nursery and we will be busy enhancing our outdoor area in the coming weeks - many thanks to you all!

Together we celebrated Mother's Day with our families in the Nursery classroom. It was lovely to welcome the parents in for our celebration. Sadly, we said farewell to Mrs Davidson who is expecting her new baby very soon - we look forward to hearing when the new baby arrives. Mrs McDougall shall be working with the children whilst Mrs Davidson enjoys her maternity leave - welcome Mrs Mac!

Nursery should be proud of all their hard work this term - it has been an eventful and fun filled time for all!

### **Y4**

Spring Term has been an adventure, as we dived into our topic of rainforests in geography! We made our way to Kew Gardens at the beginning of the term, where we learned about the four different layers of the rainforest and discovered a variety of biomes and habitats within the large glasshouses at Kew.

In mathematics, we have been working extremely hard to finish our multiplication and division unit. We have now begun an area unit and will begin to introduce fractions and decimals. We have already discovered that fractions and decimals are all around us!

Throughout our English lessons, students have been deconstructing a picture-book text called "When the Giant Stirred", where students have placed themselves in the perspective of a villager, learning to empathise with the characters and events that occur throughout the story. Children then created their own narrative that fulfils the storyline of the text, from the perspective of the young boy. Finally, we have been investigating our new topic of sound in science, where we have learned to understand that sound is made through vibrations. Children will get to make their own musical instrument to create sound vibrations and understand how sound waves travel to the ears.



### YZ

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. We explored the unfairness of history by partaking in a race where some of the children started at different positions. We explored the many accounts of people within history who lived under unfair and disadvantaged conditions yet made a huge impact.We have also loved our class text 'Major Glad, Major Dizzy' and thinking about the passing of time through the eyes of a 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, making our Mother's Day gifts in DT and the Anti-Bullying Day workshop. Year 2 were extremely lucky to be given the exciting opportunity to visit Waterstones Putney. They enjoyed listening to a story, asking, and answering questions. We couldn't keep our noses out of the books we received, on our return journey to school!





#### Y6

This term, Year 6 have had a wonderful time. We have done many activities both in and out of school. Our classmates did a netball tournament and competed at Sportshall Athletics. The clear highlight was Sayers Croft, where we had four days of exciting activities, which included: climbing, archery, a wood compass and much more! To finish the half term, we did a cycle to Everest challenge to fundraise for our playground project. When we got back after half term, we had a lovely Mother's Day service and Spring Music concert.

Over the term, we have learnt many things. In history, we are learning about the Golden Age of Islam and the city of Baghdad. It is interesting to learn what a centre of learning it was, especially while Europe was in the Dark Ages. In science, we are learning about evolution and inheritance. It is fascinating to know that all living things share a common ancestor.

This term has been wonderful and I'm excited to learn more.

Written by Alex Y6

### YR

We have had another busy term in Reception! During the first half-term, the children explored our topic, 'Journeys' where we thought about local journeys we make. We looked at different modes of transport including the differences between transport in the past and present. This half-term, we have been learning about pirates. The children have created wanted posters, written lists of what might be in a treasure chest, painted stormy seas in art, role played as pirates and overall had lots of fun. The children pretended to be the main character and wrote a letter to another character in the text. It's great to see the how far the children's writing has progressed.

The children have looked at different sea creatures and were able to present to the class. The class then asked questions and they all tried hard to respond clearly in full sentences. In Maths, we have developed our subitising skills. We have been working hard to double numbers and thinking about halving numbers too. We have thought about how we can look after our bodies, we have been looking at how food, exercise and sleep affect us. We showed resilience and enquiry skills whilst trying new fruits which most of us had never tried before.

We rounded up our wonderful term with a trip to The Golden Hinde. The children explored the ship and they did some important pirate work – load the cannons, learn the

directions of the ship, find the treasure map and raise the anchor! One of our highlights was the Mother's Day service where the children well and truly sang their hearts out.





ECO COMMITTEE

On Thursday 7th March the Eco Committee led by Mrs Dunford and Mrs Ford, attended a school trip to Foster and Partners Architects. The children were given the wonderful opportunity of speaking with members of the environmental team and discussed how buildings are made to be more sustainable. The children formed part of the board and discussed sustainability in school and then had a marvellous time looking at different sustainable textiles and how buildings are planned



for using scaled down 3D models. The talented creators and architects showed the children how the 3D printers work and demonstrated how every aspect of a building is thought through before it is built. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children (and staff) to see this type of work in action and we thank Rana Imad for organising such a unique and hugely informative trip for the children.



# Sporthall Athletics

During the Spring Term, Year Five and Year Six have been practicing a variety of athletics activities in preparation for the SportsHall Athletics event at Tooting Leisure Centre. After training, some children were selected to take part in the event. We competed on the track and in the field in events including: javelin, chest push, speed bounce, triple jump and relays. We all did really well. We came first in the eightlap relay, vertical jump and four lap relay! Overall, everyone had a fantastic time and were supportive of one another. There were ten schools there and we came an impressive fourth!

Written by Ted and Giulia (Y6)

# Netball Report

On Tuesday, 6th February, the St. Mary's netball team travelled with Mrs Bishop and Mr Newman to Burntwood School for a Netball Tournament. We were all feeling eager and ready to play our best in the matches ahead. After a thirty-minute bus ride we arrived at Burntwood School - there were lots of schools there. We unfortunately lost 2-1 in our first match against Ibstock Place. However, we did not let that get our hopes down! Our second match was against St. Michael's and we drew 2-2. We tried our best in our next matches; we really wanted to get to the finals. Sadly, we did not make it. We were so close getting our hand on that trophy. At least we had great fun, played well and tried our best!



Written by Martina and Amelia (Y6)



# Easter Greetings from our church to St

Mary's Families Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter God Bless.

Revd John Whittaker (John.whittaker@parishofputney.co.uk)

#### Admission of Baptism to Communion (ABC)

At the start of the year a number of St Mary's pupils from year 3 upwards took the Admission of baptism to Communion Course (ABC) in the Parish. This concluded with a wonderful Admission Service on Feb 4th at St Mary's Church.









### MUSIC

We have been busy in the Music Room this term developing skills in KS1 and learning new repertoire in KS2. Nursery and Reception are making good progress with following the beat and instrument recognition, and Year 1 are consolidating their understanding of rhythms. Year 2 have started to look at the stave and how pitches can be notated, and Year 3 have really enjoyed studying Peter and the Wolf and creating their own compositions based on the animals. Year 4 have enjoyed pretending to be medieval musicians whilst Year 5 have been enjoying acting and singing sections of Mozart's opera Marriage of Figaro. Year 6 are exploring Musical Theatre and how historical events can be depicted, as well as learning about jazz and The Beatles. Recorder and Flute lessons continue for Y3 and Y4, as well as individual music lessons for those who learn an instrument in school.

A highlight at the end of term was the Spring Concert, and a number of children from each year performed a solo on their instrument or voice in front of a supportive parent audience. It was inspiring to see so many children confidently share their talent and hard work, and listen and learn from their peers. We look forward to the Summer Term activities including a trip for Y4 to the Royal Festival Hall to see the London Philharmonic Orchestra!





# MOTHERS DAY SERVICE







On the Friday before Mothering Sunday we went down to St. Mary's Church and sang songs and gave our mothers and caregivers flowers. This year's theme was 'Sing to Show Your Love'. Each class sang a different song to show their love for their mum. We also sang some school songs together. A child from each class then read a lovely prayer. We all made cards for our mums. Our mother's felt happy because their eyes began to tear.



Written by Storm and Robina (Y6)



### ART

St Mary's artists have been drawing and painting from life and from imagination with their usual enthusiasm and impressive results. This year's Wandsworth Borough project 'Weaving out Waste' has captured Y4's interest. Thank you to all the parents who supported us with donations of old textiles. The results will be on display in the Southfields Shopping centre in April.

**F F F F F** 



#### STAFF UNCOVERED Ms Fenner

#### Specialist Music Teacher

#### Background

I grew up in the countryside, but I'm really a city person and I love London! I studied at the Royal College of Music and then worked as a professional singer while also teaching. I have had some exciting singing jobs, including singing on the soundtrack for one of the Harry Potter films. More about that when we study film music in Year 6! I also love teaching and I was very happy to join St. Mary's last September. I've really enjoyed getting to know everyone and sharing all the wonderful things there are to learn about music.

What do you like best about St. Mary's? The children of course!

How do you like to relax? Doing maths. It's relaxing when it's going well!

What human trait do you dislike? Being judgemental.

#### Who is your favourite actor?

Hugh Jackman. I once sang in a Gala event where the chorus was asked to wear black or gold outfits. Imagine how alarmed I was, to discover that I was the only one who had chosen gold, everyone else was in black! However, it turned out to be my lucky day, as Hugh Jackman was singing a big solo number, and halfway through he decided to start dancing. He looked around for a dance partner and spotted my gold dress and before I knew it, I was being waltzed around the stage! So needless to say, he is my favourite actor and he's got a great voice too! What is your greatest extravagance? Perfume. I can't walk past a perfume counter without trying a tester or two, or three...

What is the most important lesson life has taught you? That life is one long learning curve!

How would you like to be remembered? As someone who cared.

What is your favourite meal? I love puddings - apple crumble and custard is a good one.

What pet do you have or would like? I have a dog, he's called Comet, he's a black whippet/labrador and he's very fast. When he's not running, he's sleeping or eating. What a life!

What is your favourite pastime? Catching up with a really good friend

What single thing would improve the quality of your life? More sleep.

# FOSMS NEWS

Playground Project Update

Our ambitious goal remains to continue the transformation of the school playground by completing Phase 2 of the work this summer – including installing an eco-classroom and an amazing outdoor learning space which will benefit all pupils at St Mary's. We still need to raise further funds to make this a reality, but it has been amazing to see the fundraising momentum holding strong this term and our current totaliser stands at an incredible £68,535!

Alongside the fundraising efforts, a lot of work has been taking place in the background to review and finalise the design for Phase 2 ahead of going out to tender and hopefully scheduling the work to take place this summer if sufficient funding is in place. A big thank you to Rana Mezher Imad who has been providing fantastic advice on the design side of things, and working closely with the school senior leadership team to seek to reduce costs where possible and maximise the benefits of this phase of the project for the pupils.

Every single contribution - whether financial or volunteering time - really does make a difference, and we are so grateful for the incredible support from the whole school community. We are getting so close now - let's make this happen!

#### FoSMS funding making a difference

With so much focus on the Playground Project in recent years it's sometimes easy to forget that FoSMS funding is also relied upon to enhance the education and opportunities available to St Mary's pupils throughout the year. Particular highlights this term have been the weekly swimming lessons for Y3 and of course the Easter treats for all the children at the end of term! We are also looking ahead to Sports Day planning for next term and have been liaising with the school senior leadership team to explore how FoSMS funding can be used most effectively.









# FOSMS FAMILY DISCO

The St Mary's School Disco is a firm favourite in the calendar of FoSMS events, and this year's event on 16th March was perhaps our biggest and best yet! DJ Alex put on a great show and there was some amazing dancing from the kids - all the way from YN through to Y6 - decked out in glow accessories from head to toe. The new addition this year of a Photo Booth went down a treat, alongside face painting, glitter, the tuck shop, glow stall and of course the bar - all manned by parent volunteers who made sure it was a super fun night for everyone involved. Thank you to Karen Todd and Rachael Matthes for masterminding an epic night for children and parents alike, to everyone who assisted with the preparation beforehand and volunteered on the night, and of course to St Mary's Church for providing such a fabulous venue once again. The total amount raised was still being confirmed at the time of going to press, but we are confident it will have





# FOSMS CYCLE EVEREST

From the moment the Cycle Everest video was played to children and parents at Celebration Worship shortly after the start of term, we were blown away by the enthusiasm and support for this event. Partnering with cycle event specialist Rollapaluza we set children, teachers and parents the challenge of sprint cycling the equivalent of Base Camp to the top of Mount Everest - and back! - in a single day on static bikes in the school hall. It was an incredible event and the buzz was extraordinary as the children cheered each other on, parents joined in over lunchtime, and Mr. Lett and Reverend John got us over the line at the end of the day. It also proved to be a record-breaking event in terms of sponsorship raised, with the final total coming in at £18,000 - wow! This included a very generous donation of £5,000 from Mapei, in response to a brilliant letter sent by Y5 pupils and Mrs Adams sharing their artwork featuring Mapei-sponsored cycling kit and seeking help with the playground project.

A huge thank you to Heidi Wales for leading the organisation of this event, with support from Richard Shelton and Ruth Allen, to Fettle for providing each child with a free bike safety check and adult bike service prizes, to Rollapaluza for running the event at cost, and of course to all the parents, wider family and friends, neighbours and work colleagues who sponsored those taking part.

# SAVE THE DATE -SATURDAY 11th MAY FOSMS GALA NIGHT

Start gathering your friends for a night to remember on Saturday 11th May! We will be holding a fundraising Gala Night at St Mary's Church with food by Chef Baldo Amodio of Novikov Restaurant and Bar, Mayfair and a silent auction with some incredible items and experiences up for grabs.

More details to follow soon - but please do get the date in your diaries and get in touch with Nikki Cornfield on 07738 112314 if you would like to be involved in helping make this event happen and/or are able to offer any items for the silent auction. It's going to be an amazing night!





#### STARTERS AND LEAVERS

Pupil leavers Alice Lim Y5 Ciaran Carr Y5 Isabelle Fletcher-Taylor Y4 Charlotte Bates Y4 Ethan Carr Y3 Eloise Bates Y3 Oliver Fletcher-Taylor Y2 Erin Hennessey Y2 Oscar Hennessey YR

**Pupil Starters** Vihan Shams Rad Y5

**Staff Starters** Marisa Winter – Nursery TA



# SAYERS CROFT 2024



#### Sayers Croft

One of the highlights of the Spring Term at St. Mary's is the Y5 and Y6 residential to Sayers Croft. St. Mary's school has been going to Sayers Croft, on School Journey, for many years and it is a wonderfully fun, safe and exciting place for our children to visit. The staff at Sayers Croft know St Mary's well and are highly trained in all activities the children undertake. This year activities offered involved: orienteering, rope courses, archery, pond dipping, a river study and a six mile walk! The experience is much more than just the activities. It is a chance for the children to bond with their class, gain independence away from home, rise to challenges and overcome fears!



The happiest time of my life!' Euan Y6

'I absolutely love the archery and the rope course I have never done these activities before and it was a great experience!' Olivia Y6

I will never forget when David and I 'Rick (Astely) rolled' everyone at the disco!' Alice Y6

'I loved the whole thing but my favourite was the rock climbing – I was great at it!' Daisy Y6

'Dawid stop tidying up everyone's wellington boots in your dinosaur onsie.' Ralph Y6

'I loved all the activities we were introduced to – especially the archery. I just might take it up in the future.' Giulia Y6

> Teddy Talk was great – I especially liked Luke's story about his Avocado cuddly toy!' David Y6

'I really enjoyed the disco because everyone in the class had fun.' Hannah

'I enjoyed this trip SO much that I really wish we could do it again.' Eilise

'I will never say the 'T' word Mrs Bishop! (Tired!)' Rubin







#### YEAR 5

'My favourite memory of Sayer's Croft is when we went pond dipping. My partner was Iris and we had a lot of fun. I also caught a fish!' Thibault Y5

'My favourite part of Sayer's Croft was the zipline. You zoom down it and it feels like you're flying!' Michelle Y5

I liked the blind maze. It was fun. It's fun when you can't see anything only your friends can help you.' Mia Y5

'I liked when we did the night walk and when we had to make our bunk beds because when we did our bunk beds everyone was like..."how do you do this?' Iris Y5

'My favourite memory from Sayer's Croft was when we did the blind folded maze because we had to trust our partner.' Irene Y5

'My favourite part of Sayer's Croft was the animal encounter because touching the snake and seeing the owl was really fun and I love animals.' Corine Y5





