



21st July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it to the end of our first full year on site since the lock-downs! COVID has neither gone, nor been forgotten, but the St Mary's spirit of 'Carry on Regardless' has shone through. I've had a lovely week celebrating with the children all they have achieved this year in our awards assemblies. In addition to their personal certificate we were able to share some class awards:

- The Questioner-most curious learner of the year
- The Collaboration Kid- most collaborative learner of the year
- Captain Resilience-the most reliably resilient learning of the year
- The Reflector- the shining star who best reflects our school values: confidently me; belonging together; challenged to contribute

Next year in year 6 we will still have some specific roles, but in recognition of that fact that everyone is 'Challenged to Contribute' instead of having prefects EVERY child in year 6 will be invited to wear the 'leadership' tie, either every day, or on the occasions when they are representing our school. We will have a set for official events, which can be borrowed, but if your Year 6 child would like their own they can be ordered via Scopay, choosing the 'Year 6 Leadership tie' option. These will then be distributed in September.

This year has been the worst I have ever known at St Mary's for staff absence due to Covid. I thank each and every person who has stepped in to support a colleague, extended their hours, formed part of our excellent 'supply family' – and especially Anna Woodward and Sahrah Chaudhri who have worked tirelessly all year to ensure that your children have had the best possible adult teaching your children, whatever the disruptions.

Many of the staff team have battled with serious illnesses themselves, have had family members who have been critically ill, and have lost loved ones. My thoughts and prayers are with all of them, and all of you who have shared these experiences.

What a credit it is to them, and to you and your children, that the children have continued to flourish in their learning. I hope you enjoyed reading their reports, and have been able to celebrate with your children everything they have achieved.

I also want to thank our governors, who have provided steadfast support, with a healthy dose of challenge, throughout the year. David Wall, one of our diocesan governors and former parent, has now stepped down after 12 years. I thank him for all the work he has done for the school and the support and guidance he has given me.

What a joy it has been to get back to our 'normal for St Mary's' level of extra-activities. From nativities and carol services to Shakespearean drama, Dance festivals, Soloist concerts 'Rock around the Clock' and Festival in the Field – we've shared the fun of the performing arts. We have excelled in our sports, retaining our Gold Sports Status, involving more children than ever in sporting activities, had the most fabulous activities days, sports week on site, and at last managed to share the fun of our sports days with parents again. We've travelled far and wide. Day trips to a Gurdwara, Wakehurst Place, the Imperial War Museum; Godstone farm; Painshill; Royal Observatory at Greenwich plus residential to Upton Court, Dorset and Bowles – these have all enhanced learning for the children. I give my thanks to all the whole staff team for enabling all this to happen – it really is a team effort!

Confidently Me Belonging Together Challenged to Contribute



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



On top of all this we have been running our Splash for Cash campaign. Collectively, we have raised over £66,000 already in direct donations – which is a fabulous achievement. Planning permission is now granted, and our surveyor is preparing the pack to go out for tender. Our aim is to put in our bid to Your Fund Surrey at the beginning of October, with a view to starting construction in August 2023.

Much of our fundraising has been spearheaded by the amazing Rebecca Farrell who this summer comes to the end of her 'reign' as chair of the PTA. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for all the time, effort, and creativity she has put into her role. Rebecca I'll miss you!

We are saying farewell to Andrea Oxlade, Laura Shackleton, Kirsty Timlin, Hayley Stansbury, Lucy Helm, Julian Solecki, Vanessa Allen, Emma Church and Pippa Bell. They have all been highly valued members of our team and we wish them well in their next adventures. We send the same wish to all our year 6 children, and any others who are moving on to new schools this year. Remember, you will always be a part of the St Mary's family and be assured of a great welcome if you are able to visit in the future.

Holly Fry, Rukia Wood, Julia Nash and Anna Bisset will all be joining our teaching team in September, Holly as a class teacher and the others in part-time roles. We look forward to welcoming them, and all our new children and parents, into the St Mary's family in September.

All that remains is for me to wish that you enjoy some rest, relaxation and recuperation over the summer break – there is another exciting year ahead!

Best wishes
Sarah Lewis

Dates for your Diaries

1st September: INSET day for staff

2nd September: Year 1-6 return to school **Please note Year 1 children will now come in (and be collected) through ORANGE gate with year 2. Only children in EYFS (and their older siblings) will now use RED gate**

5th September: EYFS start

10th October INSET day – school closed for children

19th and 20th October: Parent Consultation Meetings

Further reminders will be sent, but please do check the school calendar on the website

Gentle reminders

School site out of bounds: please respect that the school site is NOT open to the public. This means that children should not be playing in any part of the school grounds (including the parking area in front of the infants). To go beyond the fences is trespassing, especially when the school is closed. We have CCTV!

School Uniform: This needs a bit of a re-boot! We need the children wearing ONLY items that are on the school uniform list, and to wear them smartly. There has been a bit of 'creep' on this over the summer term in particular. And no 'crazy' hair when we come back please!

Parking: please park considerately when dropping off your children. It is not acceptable to park on grass verges, nor to keep engines and air-con running (as this pollutes the air quality for pedestrians and residents)

Punctuality: Although we have a 'rolling-start' we would far rather have your children in at 8.30 than 8.45 – and REALLY don't want them arriving at 8.46!!!

Confidently Me

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