

# Welcome

## from your Co Headteachers,

What a special week it has been at our school! We had the absolute pleasure of welcoming our new Reception children, and it has been heartwarming to see how much our older pupils have embraced them, making sure they feel at home. The sense of belonging and community among our children is truly inspiring.


Next week, we are excited to invite parents into the classrooms to 'Meet the teacher'. This will be a great opportunity for you to get to know the team and have any questions answered, particularly about homework expectations and ways you can support your child from home. Parents will be invited into school from 3:00PM, where you'll be able to meet the teacher and take your child home afterwards.

This week, our Reception students were also introduced to their buddies – a proud tradition at our school. Watching these friendships begin to form was wonderful and I especially enjoyed seeing our year 6 role models introduce our reception children to the wider playtime area. In addition, our Head gave their presentations, and it was such a joy to see their confidence and leadership in action.

As the winter months approach, we know it's a busy time, especially with children needing plenty of seasonal supplies! One thing we go through quite quickly is tissues, so if you're able to donate a box or two for the classrooms, it would be greatly appreciated. The temperature can fluctuate at this time of year so thank you for making sure your child is prepared for the colder weather with their winter jumper and a warm coat!

Lastly, a big thank you for your continued support in helping us transition smoothly into the new school day timings. Your cooperation has made a world of difference.

In our whole school worship this week we launched our iShare theme 'belonging together'. We reflected upon who is part of our St Mary's community and how we can all achieve our best outcomes when we work together as a team and support each other. We are keen to further develop our partnership working with you to support your child's learning.



And now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.  
**1 Corinthians 13:13**

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the members of the new Senior Leadership Team of our school.

**Co-Headteachers:** Mrs Wayland (Monday, Tuesday , Wednesday) Mrs Woodier (Thursday and Friday)

**Assistant Headteacher and Year 4 teacher:** Mrs Nesbit

**Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo:** Mrs Das– Mahon

**School Business Manager:** Mrs Vernon

### Communication

To help ensure your queries are directed to the appropriate team, we kindly ask you to use the following email addresses for



any communications with the school:

For general queries or questions related to teaching and learning: please contact us at **[admin@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk)**

For any queries related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): please use **[inclusion@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk](mailto:inclusion@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk)**

**Please note that the [staff@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk](mailto:staff@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk) will no longer be in use.**

As a team we are working hard to ensure that, in all aspects of school life, we are supporting our children to 'flourish through faith, hope and love'. Please do come and introduce yourself when you see us on the gate or around school.

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, where we can work in partnership with you, giving our children the opportunity to achieve their highest potential, living and learning in the fullness of God.

We look forward to seeing you next week in the classrooms!

God bless,

Mrs Woodier and Mrs Wayland

# News year 6

## Mrs Rowlandson writes...

This week in Year 6, many of us have been working hard in our own time to prepare a speech for one of our Year 6 prefect roles, which were delivered to the class with such confidence, despite a few of us feeling nervous. We all voted democratically and will find out our key roles soon.

In English, we have started our performance poetry unit on 'Revolting Rhymes' (fairy tales as you may not have heard before..!) learning the features of what makes a good performance poem before we create our own in the coming weeks.

In maths, we have been learning how to read, write, order and compare numbers up to a whopping 10,000,000! In history, we learnt about the major events leading up to WW2, including the countries involved and the roles they played, in the form of a practical lesson moving coloured putty when countries had been invaded.

In Computing, we learnt what 'the internet' actually is and we analysed Bible verses in RE, telling us the narratives depicting Jesus' baptism by John, and relating this to why baptism is an important sacrament for Christians.

On Thursday, we were incredibly excited to meet our 'little friend' buddies in Reception! Mrs Gauntlett, Miss Korpela and Mrs Rowlandson were incredibly impressed at how we acted like perfect role models!



# News from year 5

Mr Burkey writes

The Year five children have all settled back into school life, and we are very excited about the year ahead.

## What we are learning:

- Maths: We are extending and deepening the children's knowledge of place value, which they will apply to the rest of the Year 5 Maths topics.
- Mental Maths: Building on the focus from last year, we are concentrating on the four times table this week, working on speed and deriving related facts, e.g.  
 $4 \times 6 = 24$   
 $40 \times 6 = 240$  Please practise at home if you can.
- English: Our focus is on 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. We have started reading the book and exploring its themes. The children will be writing instructions on how to catch a dragon and crafting vivid descriptions of what it might be like inside the mouth of a dragon.
- History: We have started our topic on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The children will be learning about the cultures, conflicts, and historical significance of these groups.
- Science: We are studying life cycles, focusing on the parts of a flower and learning how pollination occurs. We will also explore reproduction in plants, as well as how these processes happen in some animals.
- Music: We have been recapping note values and clapping rhythms.
- French: The children have been learning phrases around the topic 'Getting to Know You'.
- PSHE: We have been creating and discussing the importance of our class charters.
- Swimming: Copenhagen will start their swimming lessons on Monday, 23rd September.

## Supporting at home:

While it's important for children to read independently for pleasure, please also encourage them to read out loud to you at least twice per week. This will allow for questions and discussions about vocabulary and help them gain confidence in reading aloud in class, especially as we explore the world of 'How to Train Your Dragon'. All children need at least five signed comments from parents in their reading diaries, confirming that they have read five times, which will be checked on the child's reading day.



Date	Event
Tuesday 17th September	Meet the Teacher at <b>3.00pm</b> Year 1 and 2
Wednesday 18th September	Meet the Teacher at <b>3.00pm</b> Year 3 and 4
Thursday 19th September	Meet the Teacher at <b>3.00pm</b> Year 5 and 6
Monday 23rd September	Year 5 Swimming starts
Wednesday 25th September	Music with Aaron Howard in Hymns of Worship
Monday 23rd –27th September	Year 6 PGL Trip
Friday 27th September	Mental Health Service Team 9am in the Hall Managing Anxiety in Children.
Wednesday 2nd October	Whole school virtual art gallery visit
Thursday 3rd October	Year 6 Junior Citizenship at 9am—12pm
Thursday 3rd October	Bishop Wand Open Evening
Friday 4th October	Whole school 'Drama4all' workshop
10th, 11th, 24th, 25th October at 9am 28th, 29th November at 9am	New Reception open morning (2025 intake)
Tuesday 15th October	Hampton School visiting (Greater depth writers workshop)
Thursday 16th –18th October	Year 3 Richmond walk safely scheme
Wednesday 23rd October	Half termly spelling test
28th October—1st November	Half Term
Wednesday 20th and 21st November	Whole school Parents Evenings
Friday 22nd November	Inset Day
Thursday 5th December at 9.10am	EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Nativity
Friday 20th December	Christmas Church Service

## Morning Routine

We are delighted that introducing an earlier soft start has been so welcomed by parents and students.

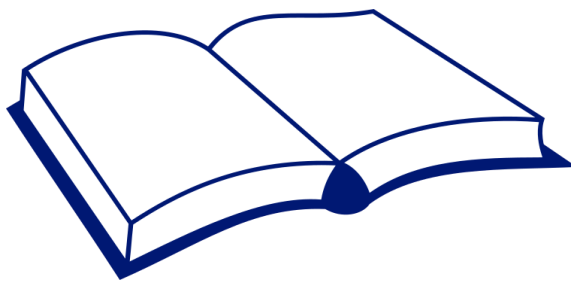
**A reminder that the gate will open at 8.35am and close promptly at 8.55am**

**Registers close at 9 am.**

From next week we want to build autonomy in our children, so we will be encouraging Yr. 3, 4, 5 and 6 to enter through the gate unaccompanied. For those in Yr. 1 and 2 still struggling to walk to their classroom, parents are welcome to assist. We'd encourage parents to wait on the tarmac playground and watch their little ones walk the rest of the way to their classroom.

Please be assured there will always be a member of staff present at the back of the building to welcome your child and help them if needed.

In the morning we want to ensure teachers are fully focus on their class, and are able to create a calm and settled environment to welcome the pupils. Therefore, we ask that any messages be passed onto an SLT member at the gate. We will make it a priority, once the gate is closed, to pass over this information.



## Reading

We cannot express how important reading with your child at home is. A little every day makes a world of difference to their confidence and progress, so please make this a priority!



# Online Safety

## what is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

## what should I be concerned about?

Risks of using Snapchat include your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

## NEW safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The features include seeing a warning message if they receive a chat from someone who has been blocked/reported by others. Also, if a teen blocks a user, it will also now block any future friend requests sent from accounts created on the same device (to reduce the potential of bullying). These two features are available to users aged 13- 17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from such features. You can find out more as well as about the other new features here: <https://values.snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community?lang=en-GB>

## Family Centre

Family Centre is a set of parental controls designed to help you see what your child is doing when using Snapchat. You must have your own Snapchat account to set it up. Family Centre allows you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content. Snapchat have published a safety checklist to help support conversations about how to use Snapchat safely: <https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls>

## Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

## More information

Parent Zone have published a short 5-minute guide here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>

## Family Quiz for online wellbeing

### Tips:

The NSPCC have created a quiz that can be completed as a family to help you have discussions together and find out about the NSPCC's top tips for positive online wellbeing.



# Safeguarding

The safety and well-being of our pupils is the responsibility of every staff member at St Mary's. Regular training is provided to all of our staff to ensure they are able to act swiftly, effectively and compassionately should they be made aware of a safeguarding concern. This academic year, the safeguarding team is:

			
Mrs Wayland	Mrs Woodier	Mrs Nesbit	Mrs Das –Mahon



# Attendance

## Why is attendance at St Mary's important?

Regular attendance is directly linked to better academic performance. Missing classes often results in falling behind in lessons, missing important subject knowledge, and struggling to catch up.

Being present allows children to actively engage in class discussions, group activities, and hands-on learning experiences, which deepen understanding and grows self confidence.

Good attendance and punctuality are key to your child's success at school. Here are some practical tips to help your child maintain strong attendance:

### For Children:

- **Set a Regular Bedtime:** Ensure your child gets enough sleep each night with a consistent bedtime routine.
- **Use an Alarm Clock:** Encourage them to take responsibility for waking up on time by using their own alarm clock.
- **Prepare the Night Before:** Help your child pack their school bag and lay out their uniform the night before to avoid a rushed morning.
- **Create a Calming Bedtime Routine:** Turn off TVs and other screens before bed to help them unwind and get ready for a restful night's sleep.

### For Parents:

- **Stay in Touch with the School:** If your child is absent, keep communication open with the school to ensure everyone is on the same page.
- **Schedule Appointments Outside of School Hours:** Where possible, arrange medical or dental appointments outside of school times to minimize missed learning.
- **Show Interest in Their School Work:** Ask your child about their day, even when they say they can't remember. Engaging in their learning shows support and encourages responsibility.
- **Support Their Efforts:** Encourage your child's efforts at school by recognizing their hard work and helping them stay motivated.





# Introducing the Instanter Learning Trust...

Dear St Mary's Families,

It is with immense pride that I introduce myself as the CEO of Instanter Learning Trust and the Executive Head of St Mary's Primary School. I am excited to join such a dynamic and dedicated school community.

Having appointed Mrs. Woodier and Mrs. Wayland to lead our school during the summer term, I have been eager to witness the positive impact they would bring to our Trust. Over the last two weeks, as I've had the privilege of walking through the classrooms and corridors, at St Marys, I have been truly amazed by the work already underway. Their dedication, dynamic leadership, and genuine care for the well-being of each child is evident in every corner of the school. They are cultivating an environment where enthusiasm for learning and a deep sense of community thrive.

I want to thank you for the warm welcome and unwavering support you've shown them at the start of this academic year.

On September 1st, when we officially launched the Instanter Learning Trust, we were fortunate to have Amar Latif, speak to our entire staff. Amar is an extraordinary motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and adventurer. Despite losing 95% of his vision by the age of 18 due to a genetic condition, Amar has defied the odds and become a trailblazer in every sense. As the founder of Traveleyes, an award-winning travel company that pairs blind and sighted travellers, he has shown that barriers can be overcome with determination and creativity. Amar's passion for pushing boundaries, combined with his resilience, humility, and infectious enthusiasm, makes him a

powerful advocate for limitless possibilities. His message to our staff about breaking through limitations and seizing opportunities resonated perfectly, aligning our vision of inspiring every student to believe in their God Given potential and to pursue their dreams with courage and confidence.

His words captured the essence of the journey we are embarking on together. At the Instanter Learning Trust, we are creating a blueprint for academic excellence where every child is encouraged to soar, supported by a foundation of faith, hope, and love. Our vision is to nurture each child's unique gifts, equipping them with the confidence and skills they need to embrace the limitless possibilities ahead of them.

As for myself, I am proud to be entering my 25th year in education and my 10th year of headship, at The Bishop Wand Church of England School. Education has always been my passion, and at heart, I remain a humble teacher, constantly inspired by the power of learning to transform lives. I firmly believe that a school's culture, its ethos,

and its commitment to high standards of behaviour and academic excellence are the cornerstones of creating a school where





every child can flourish.

I want our Trust to develop schools that not only excel academically but also nurture kindness, integrity, and resilience in every student.

Throughout my career, I've pursued numerous leadership qualifications, including the Suite of NPQ qualifications most recently the NPQEL and during Covid for fun an MBA.

However, my experiences go beyond my qualifications. Having grown up with dyslexia, I understand the challenges young people face in their learning journeys. This personal experience has shaped my belief that every child deserves personalised support and that their unique challenges can become their greatest strengths. Dyslexia, for me, is a "superpower" that has driven my commitment to ensuring that every child feels seen, understood, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

I have spent my career in Church schools because I am a firm believer in the life-changing impact of a Christian education. The values and ethos rooted in our faith not only guide academic achievements but also build character and inspire compassion, integrity, and a deep sense of community in our students. These are the values that will shape them as they grow into confident and compassionate leaders of the future.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunity to forge stronger connections between St Mary's and Bishop Wand. I believe both schools have much to offer one another in terms of knowledge, resources, and experiences. One of my key goals will be to create a seamless transition process for families who wish to continue their child's education from St Mary's to Bishop Wand, ensuring a sense of continuity of belonging throughout their educational journey.

The future for St Mary's is incredibly bright, and I am honoured to be part of it. Together, we will continue to build on the strong foundation that already exists, fostering a nurturing, faith-centred environment where all children are encouraged to dream big and achieve beyond their expectations.

I look forward to working closely with you, growing alongside you, and making this journey one of joy, learning, and success for your children in the years to come.

God Bless

Daniel Aldridge

# Adverts



## THIS GIRL CAN

CALLING ALL BUDDING FOOTBALLERS IN YEARS  
**Years Reception, 1 & 2**

At Teddington Athletic we believe there has never been a more important time for our football club to play its part in supporting girls to be physically, socially and emotionally well.

Our girls only weekend training sessions provide an opportunity for girls in years in Reception, 1 & 2 to make new friends and learn some new skills in a fun environment before having to commit to joining a team.

If your daughter is interested, please sign up for a free taster session on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> or Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September between 11-12 am or 12-1pm. (Bushy Park)

**Interested in signing up for a free taster session?  
Please contact Samantha Roff Girls Football  
Development Manager at [tafcgirls@gmail.com](mailto:tafcgirls@gmail.com)**

[www.teddingtonathleticfc.com](http://www.teddingtonathleticfc.com)

