

Welcome

from your Co Headteachers,

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final week of this half-term, I wanted to share some exciting updates about the amazing things happening in our school, as well as what's coming up next week.

First, we're continuing to focus on keeping our school a safe and welcoming

place for everyone with the Safer Richmond Schools initiative. It's a vital part of ensuring that our children thrive in a secure and supportive environment every day.



Next week is going to be extra special as we wrap up our Belonging Together theme with the introduction of the iShare Buddy activity! Children from different year groups will pair up to share

stories, make new friends, and strengthen the bonds across our school community. It's been heartwarming to see how much the children have embraced this theme, and we can't wait to see them in action in the future.

We were also incredibly lucky to have Rev. Teri-Anne visit yesterday! Her message about kindness, community, and the importance of belonging really resonated with the children, and it tied in beautifully with everything we've been working on this term. The children were captivated by her words, and we were all inspired by her visit. It was a real treat to have our worship monitors lead part of the assembly. Thank you to Zoe and Caitlin.

A big shout-out to our Head Boy and Head Girl, who did a fantastic job representing the school at the Pupil Parliament in the council chambers at York House this week. They joined other student leaders across Richmond, discussing whether children under the age of 14 have smart phones and electing the Pupil Mayor and Deputy Mayor.



Trafalgar Schools' Federation

The Pupil Parliament 2024-25

We couldn't be prouder of how they showed leadership and confidence. Well done!

We're also thrilled to continue our Open Mornings next Thursday and Friday. These are always a highlight, and we can't wait to show off our wonderful school and community. If you know anyone interested in joining

our school family, please encourage them to come along—we'd love to welcome them!

As part of Black History Month, we have joined schools across the country for the National Live Assembly. This year's assembly featured BAFTA-nominated Children's BBC presenter Gemma Hunt, BAFTA-winning 12-year-old presenter Jeriah Kibusi, and award-winning diversity author Dr. Krish Kandiah OBE.

ST MARY'S HAMPTON
Church of England Primary School



Welcome

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The assembly was filled with inspirational input from Black personalities and influencers, all tied to this year's Black History Month theme: "Honouring Heroes." Children heard stories of Black leaders from around the world and had the chance to learn practical ways they can make a difference in their school and local community.

In other great news, on Wednesday, our staff took part in Mental Health Training. This training is essential to ensure they're well-equipped to support the wellbeing of our children, as well as looking after their own mental health. It's so important that we all take care of each other, and this training helps keep our school a healthy and happy place to learn and grow.

We also had a fantastic turnout at the Mental Health Coffee Morning for parents earlier today! It was wonderful to see so many of you there, sharing conversations about mental health and learning practical ways to support each other and our children. Your engagement is what makes our community so special, and we hope to host more events like this in the future. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Finally, it was such a joy to see our Reception children head to the local library this week! They had a fantastic time discovering new books, reading stories, and enjoying the wonder of storytelling. We hope this sparks a love of reading that will stay with them for years to come!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We have a fun and exciting final week of the term ahead, especially with the class rewards, and we can't wait to end on a high note.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Woodier and Mrs Wayland



How was your day?

As parents, we know how frustrating it can be when you ask, “How was school today?” and the only response you get is “I don’t know” or “I can’t remember.” After waiting all day to hear about what they did, it feels like pulling teeth to get any details! But we’ve learned that it’s not always that they don’t want to share—it’s often that they’re tired, overwhelmed, or just not sure how to start.

We’ve asked a number of parents to share how they get their children talking. It just takes asking the right questions or using a different approach to help them open up. Here are some ideas that have helped them go beyond those one-word answers and actually hear about what’s going on in their day!

1. Ask Specific, Fun Questions

Instead of “How was your day?” I’ve found that more specific questions get better responses. Things like, “What was the best thing you did at school today?” or “Who made you laugh the most?” seem to help them focus and share something more memorable.

2. Give Them Time to Unwind

After a busy day, our children usually need a little space before they’re ready to chat. Giving them a snack or letting them have some downtime first can make all the difference. Once they’ve had time to decompress, they’re much more likely to open up.

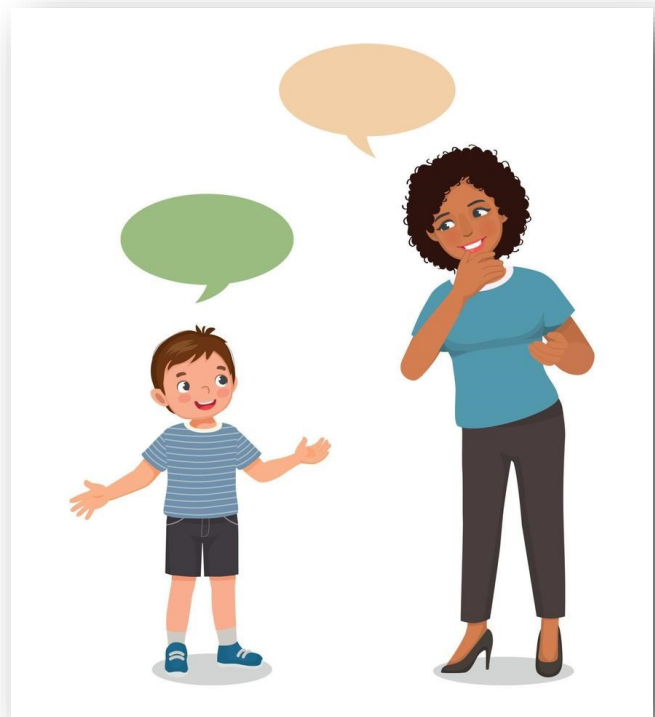
3. Use Humor to Break the Ice

Sometimes humor works wonders. Instead of asking a standard question, I’ll say something silly like, “Did you see any dinosaurs at school today?” or “Did your teacher do a cartwheel during math?” It usually makes them laugh, and from there, they’re more likely to start talking about what actually happened.

4. “Highs and Lows” Ritual

We’ve created a daily ritual where everyone in the family shares one “high” and one “low” from their day. This gives my child a structure to reflect on both the good and challenging parts of their day, and it helps open up more meaningful conversations.

We both are certainly going to be trying these out this evening! Hope they work for you too!



News from Reception

Mrs Gauntlett writes...



On Tuesday 15th October London Class walked to Hampton library. We met the library staff who were really friendly and showed us around the library and talked about the different types of books that they have. We listened to a story and then chose some books to look at.

A big thank you to Hampton library for welcoming us - we really enjoyed our first school trip.

We were very proud of London class who represented the school so well with their excellent behaviour.



News from year 1

Mrs Hornblow and Mrs Chalmers...

Year 1 have had a very busy week!

In English we have been looking at the book 'Get Off That Camel' by A.H. Benjamin and Krishna Bala Shenoi. The children have been using this book to help them write simple and extended sentences about pets and also to write facts about camels. We have had some excellent facts!

In Maths the children have continued to work on securing their knowledge of how to use a part whole model. They have been using counters to help them secure their understanding.

In Art we have continued our work on spirals, this week looking at how water changes the pencil and pen, and how a brush can make new marks.

In science the children have been looking at animals' diets and what different animals eat.

In geography the children have been learning all about Egypt, learning some new and exciting facts.

Finally, Year 1 have continued to sequence dance routines in PE. This week we were focusing on Autumn. The children have been learning how to barn dance, using a sequence of movements to create a whole class routine.

Best wishes,

Mrs Chalmers and Mrs Hornblow

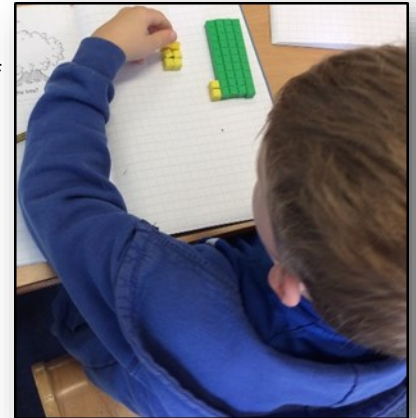


News from year 2

Mr Purnell Writes...

This week in Year 2 the children have been very focussed on their Big Write. Preparations began last week, when it was decided that the audience would be the children in Reception. There was general agreement that this would be a good way for Year 2 and Reception to get to know each other. It was also suggested that the Reception children may be inspired by the Year 2's stories and may even use this as preparation for the time when they move up to in Year 2. The task was to re-write *The Kiss That Missed* by David Melling... available to view using this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZT4vdpgxFM>. Following a sequence of lessons, including use of punctuation, ellipsis and suspense, nouns and adjectives, the children wrote their stories in two parts, with three children being randomly chosen to read to Reception. The remainder performed their stories to each other in the Year 2 classroom and welcomed a surprise visit from Mrs Woodier!

Maths at the moment is fairly challenging, though the children are working hard and hopefully enjoying the journey towards fully understanding addition and subtraction of a 1-digit number to/from a 2-digit number. This week they have been exploring methods for crossing (or bridging) a 10 e.g. $24 + 8$ or $73 - 5$. They have been using Dienes, number lines, 100 squares, bead strings, part-whole models and bar models to visualise and support their calculations. Some games and activities have been allocated to your School Jam accounts to help with consolidation at home. Next week we will look at addition and subtraction of a 2-digit number to/from a 2-digit number and this is a topic that we will return to again later in the school year.



In history last week, the children learned about heraldry and designed shields, justifying their choice of colours, symbols and emblems. This week they extended their understanding of armour, learning terms such as gauntlet and cuisses. In RE we have been learning about The Lord's Prayer and next week will explore how this prayer serves to help Christians in their daily lives. In science we have been using mind maps to show our understanding of both living things and food chains.



Finally, in computing, our topic for this half term has been information technology around us. This has been developing understanding of the uses of technology and online safety. This week the children enjoyed a lesson on the digital five a day, which teaches about balance. It served to show the children that, while technology is hugely beneficial, it should fit in with a healthy lifestyle and should be used while also thinking about our own safety and showing respect for others.



Autumn Adventures



Family Activity to promote nature:

As the days grow shorter and Autumn approaches, why not create at home a cosy log pile village for all things creepy and crawly? Log piles are perfect hiding places for invertebrates, providing a convenient treat for frogs, birds, and hedgehogs too!

Your logs can be neatly piled in a cool, dark corner, or loosely scattered under a hedge. Like this, they are handy for mulching the soil, but you'll get more wildlife if you do create a concentrated stack. You could even bury your timber vertically to create a 'log pyramid', perfect for the larvae of one of our most iconic insects, the Stag Beetle! Branches and logs can be freely available from local tree surgeons or arboriculturists, just ask nicely! Native, locally sourced wood is best.

Make a beetle bucket



You will need

- A bucket, trug, or other durable, upcycled container



- A small craft knife



- Stones



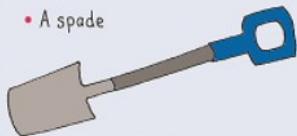
- Bark chips and/or leaves



- Small logs (that will fit in your container when upright)



- A spade



Fill a bucket with rotting wood and leaves and make the perfect home for all sorts of beetles and other insects. Making your beetle habitat in an old plastic container means you can easily find it again to top up or examine the contents (make sure to replace everything straight away after examining).

- 1 Safely cut small circular holes (around 3cm wide) in the sides and bottom of the bucket for beetles to enter and exit.



- 2 Dig a hole just larger than your bucket and sink it into the ground.



- 3 Place some large stones at the bottom of the bucket, then stand some small logs upright on top.

These will rot and make lovely spots for female beetles to lay their eggs.



- 4 Fill the rest of the bucket with bark chips and/or garden leaves, leaving around 10cm at the top to fill with some soil dug from the ground.



- 5 Top the soil with a couple more logs to tempt in beetles – from above or below!



If you'd rather not use plastic, you can simply make your beetle 'bucket' in a hole in the soil.

Perfect for smaller gardens!

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2021

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk



Secondary School Admissions

Moving up to secondary school in September?

Applications for September 2025 start

Children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 are due to start Year 7 at secondary school in September 2025.

Applications open on Sunday 1 September 2024 and will close on Thursday 31 October 2024.

You must apply through the local authority which is responsible for administering the council tax for your home even if you intend to name a school located in another area.

We require a separate application for each child if you are applying for children of a multiple birth.

Tell us in your application if your child has a brother or sister (sibling) who will still be attending your preferred school(s) in September 2025. This is so we can apply the appropriate priority.

For more information please go to [Richmond School Admissions](#) or [Surrey County Council](#)



Reminders...





| Date | Event |
|--|--|
| Every Friday morning at 8.45am | Parent prayer group at MTV |
| Thursday 24th and Friday 25th October at 9am | New Reception open morning (2025 intake) |
| Wednesday 23rd October | Half termly spelling test |
| Thursday 24th October | Whole School photos |
| 28th October—1st November | Half Term |
| Tuesday 12th November at 2.30pm | Year 6 Class Assembly |
| Wednesday 20th and 21st November | Whole school Parents Evenings |
| Friday 22nd November | Inset Day |
| Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November at 9am | New Reception open morning (2025 intake) |
| Saturday 30th November | St Mary's Christmas Fair 2pm—5pm |
| Thursday 5th December at 9.10am | EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Nativity |
| Wednesday 10th December | Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day |
| Friday 13th December at 2.30pm | Rock steady concert |
| Friday 20th December | Christmas Church Service |



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 |

Online Safety updates:

Is Roblox safe for my child?

Information to help you decide if Roblox is suitable for your child from the NSPCC

Roblox is a gaming platform where players can create and publish their own games. The platform can be a great educational tool to help teach children new skills like coding. However, there are also some risks.

Roblox allows players to build and publish their own games. This means that other users could build games that contain adult or inappropriate themes that your child might see.

Players can use the communication features of Roblox to talk to one other while they are playing. This means that there is a risk of cyberbullying or unwanted contact.

Roblox does have Community Standards that outline what behaviour is and isn't acceptable on the platform. They also have moderators who review and remove inappropriate content. They also have a range of parental controls and safety settings that can help keep your child safer on the platform.



Online Safety Updates:

Six tips to help keep your child safe on Roblox: From the NSPCC

Here are some tips that can help keep them safe on the platform.

Sign up with the correct age.

Make sure your child creates an account using the correct age. On Roblox, certain safety settings and parental controls are enabled by default for children under 13. However, you should still review the settings to ensure they've been set up correctly.



Build a list of age-appropriate games

Not all games on Roblox will be appropriate for your child. The platform has a setting that lets parents and carers limit what their child can play by allowing them to build lists of age-appropriate games. You can also switch off in-app spending or set them monthly limits.

Explore communication settings

You can manage who your child can speak to by disabling chat completely or limiting it to friends only. You can also switch off their inbox to stop them receiving direct messages.

Explore the platform together

Ask your child to give you a demonstration of the platform to help you understand how they use it and explore some of the parental controls together. You could even consider setting up your own account and playing the games yourself.

Have regular conversations about gaming. Continue to have regular conversations with them about what they are doing online.

Ask your child open questions like 'What games have you been playing on Roblox recently?' or 'What platforms have you been using to play games?'.

Check out our Online Safety Hub

Visit our Online Safety Hub for more advice and tips on gaming, talking to your child and much more. If you need more information on setting up parental controls on Roblox, visit their Parent Guide.



Writers Corner

We have some extraordinary writers at St Mary's and we love celebrating children's achievements. This year we will be entering St Mary's into **Arts Richmond Young Writers' Festival** and the **BBC 500 Words competition**.

Arts Richmond young Writers

This competition is a chance for our pupils to demonstrate their writing skills. **This year the festival will be based on the theme of "Changes"** Entries are judged in four age groups with prizes for all winning entries. All shortlisted entrants will be invited to a gala awards event at prestigious venue.

We will spend some time writing our pieces in class. However, if you would like to plan some ideas with your children to scaffold their thoughts ready for writing, this is warmly welcomed.

Entries will be judged in the following categories:

- School Years 4 and under
- School Years 5 and 6

BBC 500 Words

For this competition there are two age categories: **5-7 and 8-11 year-olds**. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less.

We would love children of all abilities to enter therefore, **spelling, punctuation and grammar** are not marked - it's all about creativity!

50 finalists will be invited to go to a glamorous grand final at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities.

There are also lots of prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library.

If the children would like to submit a story, they can either hand write it and bring it in to school or type it and email it to admin@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk, marked for the attention of Mrs. Wayland. The deadline is **Thursday 24th October**.

Please take a look at the website if you need any further information: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4>



Adverts



Our theme is Light!



Tuesday 29 October
10:30am -12:00pm



Come on over and join the fun celebrating Light
making Chinese lanterns, sun, moon, and stars, and junk
modelling

Will you win at our raffle...

Hampton Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Hampton
messy@hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk



Join in the fun - no need to book - it's free!

ST MARY'S HAMPTON
Church of England Primary School



Adverts





ST MARY'S HAMPTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECEPTION 2025 OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 10th October
Friday 11th October

Thursday 24th October
Friday 25th October

Thursday 28th November
Friday 29th November

Join us from **9am** for a talk and tour 

Please contact the school office to book your place

Flourishing through faith, hope and love

 admin@stmaryshamptonschool.org.uk  020 8979 5102



Adverts



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Assistant Coach Lindsay Keable*

24TH & 25TH OCTOBER
28TH, 29TH*, 30TH OCTOBER

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RICHMOND UPON THAMES,
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9.00AM - 12NOON
SCHOOL YEARS 3-10

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www.netballcoachuk.com/camps

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Church of England Primary School



Adverts



50% OFF FIRST SEASON MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW PLAYERS

SUNBURY & WALTON HAWKS HOCKEY CLUB

**We're looking for new players
across all age groups.
Join us at our training sessions
from September:**

U8 & U10 Boys & Girls: Sundays 9-10:30am

U12 Boys & Girls: Thursdays 6-8pm

U14 Boys & Girls: Tuesdays 6-8pm

U16 & U18 Girls: Wednesdays 8-10pm

U16 & U18 Boys: Thursdays 7:30-9pm

new players may want to attend a younger aged session



St. Paul's Catholic College
Manor Lane
Sunbury-on-Thames
TW16 6JE






Contact Mark for more info:
headjuniorhockey@swhawks.com

ST MARY'S HAMPTON
Church of England Primary School



Adverts

Elevate Eleven year 4 parent talk!
Tuesday 22nd October
3.15-3.45pm after school

Understanding the secondary school landscape
 Why tutoring?
 Grammar/independent/scholarships/bursaries
 SATs/supporting gifted and talented/learning needs

RSVP info@elevateeleven.com



PARA FOOTBALL ENGLAND TALENT DAYS

For players with cerebral palsy, hearing impairments or visual impairments.

- Age Group: 7 - 16, Boys & Girls Welcome
- Date: Sunday 27th October 2024
- Time: 10.30am - 12pm
- Indoor Dome at Uxbridge High School, UB8 3PH



For more information, contact
 Craig Peters (Disability Manager):
cpeters@brentfordfcst.com

Scan to register.
 To find out more visit:
EnglandFootball.com/Para

Supported by
 


October Half Term
WHAT'S ON

| | |
|------------------|--|
| MON 28 WED 30 | FOOTBALL CAMP St James Primary School |
| MON 28 | BEE'S ACTIVITIES DAY - FOOTBALL/DANCE/GYM Gunnersbury Park |
| THU 31 | HALLOWEEN MULTISPORT CAMP Hazelwood Centre |
| WED 30 FRI 1 | DANCE & GYMNASTICS CAMP Gunnersbury Park |



Book now!





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