

# St Mary's News

June 4th 2013

[www.stmarys.bryanston.net](http://www.stmarys.bryanston.net)

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## Headteacher

**Good news! I'm very pleased to let you know that the governors successfully appointed a new Headteacher for St Mary's before the half term holiday.**

Please see below for a letter from our Chair of Governors, Len Clark.

*"Dear Parents,*

*As you know Peter Hadfield will be taking early retirement at the end of the summer, having served as Headteacher of St. Mary's for some 13 years, so that he and his wife Mandy can take time to do some of the things they want to do and visit some of the places on their wish-list. He has served the school brilliantly during the time that he has been here but I shall have more to say about that at another time.*

*The Governors have been searching for a replacement for Peter and I am happy to say that we have appointed Miss Emily Norman to become Headteacher from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. She has a good track record as a Headteacher, having been a very successful head of St. Matthew's Church of England School in South Westminster for some years.*

*However you will have noticed that although Peter retires at the end of the summer Emily doesn't start until the beginning of next year – this is because a serving Head has to give rather more notice to his/her employer than would otherwise be the case. So the Governors have had the problem of covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December but happily they have found a solution. We approached Peter and he has very generously come to our rescue by agreeing to come out of retirement and return in September as Headteacher until the end of the calendar year – this was by far the best solution from the school's point of view as it was felt that it would cause the least disruption. We are enormously grateful to Peter for agreeing to give us another 4 months, particularly when he was all set to cast his chalk aside – or should I say his Interactive White Board - and join the ranks of those of us who, allegedly, enjoy a rather more leisurely lifestyle."*

*Yours sincerely*

*Len Clark*

*(Chair of Governors)*

The staff are all looking forward to working with Emily after Christmas and it's really good to have the uncertainty of the last few months settled. The governors have made a great decision for the school and I know Emily will receive a warm welcome and much support from our families. This is an amazing school and can only go from strength to strength.

The children, staff and parents of St Matthew's are in my prayers as they begin the journey that we are now completing and I hope they will be in your prayers, too.

And now, on to more mundane (perhaps) matters!

## Library Membership

As you may know your child visits the library with his/her class regularly during term time. The library is a great place for children, offering a wide range of books, DVDs and other resources. They also run a weekly homework club, a 'Chatterbooks' reading group and offer a range of activities during the holidays.

In conjunction with Marylebone library we will be joining all pupils as members (if they are not already a member) so that they can have their own library card. If you do not want your child to become a member of Westminster Libraries please let your child's teacher know.

**Welcome Back!  
Lots to read this week.**



*Peter Hadfield*

## Facebook

The London Grid for Learning, who provide Internet access for most London Schools, have asked schools to remind families about the legalities and issues around the use of Facebook by Primary age children. Please see below.

*“Despite Facebook’s popularity and ease of use, the terms and conditions of the social networking phenomena clearly state users must be over 13 years old to sign up for an account. This is due to the data protection laws in the U.S. regardless of the nature of the application. A common misconception is that this does not apply to the UK and that therefore it is acceptable for primary school children to be encouraged in its use.*

*The LGfL eSafety group would strongly advise that this is not the case. The UK Safer Internet Centre (SWGfL) have very close working links with Facebook and at the Safer Internet Centre national eSafety briefings this year, the advice was as follows:*

- *It is known under 13s use Facebook and this is an ongoing problem because the environment is not suitable for younger pupils. Continuing to support and educate young people is critical, but we should bear in mind the legalities of under 13s on Facebook.*
- *Any under 13 signing up to Facebook does so with a falsified date of birth, which is, technically, fraud, though law enforcement would never be used to deal with this problem.*
- *Facebook has to comply with COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998). This means Facebook may not hold any details of young*

*people under the age of 13 and they may not advertise to this group either. This legal restriction applies to Facebook regardless of where the child is signing up from (America or the rest of the world).*

- *Conclusion: Facebook is for over 13s only.*

*For further reading the UK Safer Internet Centre has produced a useful guide to Facebook privacy settings which can be found here: <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/ufiles/Facebook%20Checklist1.pdf>*

## Parent View

I have flagged this website up a number of times recently. This is a government website where parents can answer a short questionnaire about their child’s school, similar to the paper questionnaire we circulated recently. Parents’ responses are anonymous and I would encourage all parents to sign up and complete the questionnaire online. The anonymous results are only available to schools after 10 responses have been logged on the website; we’re up to 4 (which is a considerable improvement on the single response we had until a couple of weeks ago!). Now we are all back in ‘school’ mode, perhaps you could find some time to sign up? We can help you to register, if you need some support. Thank you.

## Email Addresses

Many of you will know that we are increasingly using email to, for example, circulate this newsletter. When we send the newsletter the system tells us that there are 45 families for whom we have no email address. If you have an email address and are happy for us to use it, please let Tara or Breeda in the school office know

(if we don’t have it already!) Equally, if you are receiving messages by email from us and want us to stop sending them, just ask the office staff to remove your email address from your contact details.

## School Meals

The School Meals Service has started to re-introduce meat (halal and non-halal) to our school menu. There is a separate letter about this enclosed.

## Life Education Bus

At this time every year we are visited by the Life Education Mobile Classroom which supplements our Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum. They always have a session for parents and this week they have this parent session on Wednesday, from 9.00 until 9.15. All parents are welcome.

## What’s On This Week

- Tuesday and Wednesday; Life Education Mobile Classroom in school - parent session on Wednesday morning at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday: Year 6 drugs education play at St Vincent’s school
- Wednesday: Year 1 and Year 2 to the library
- Thursday: Year 6 cricket competition in Regent’s Park
- Thursday: F2 to the library
- Thursday: Year 6 basic First Aid training by St John’s Ambulance
- Friday: Year 5 class assembly at 2.30

## School Dates

- Week of 17th June: Walk to School Week
- 20th June: New Reception Class (2013/14) meeting for parents
- Saturday, 29th June: SUMMER FAIR
- Friday, 5th July: SPORTS DAY
- Thursday, 11th July: Church Service
- Tuesday, 16th July: Reports Day
- TUESDAY, 23rd July: LAST DAY OF TERM