

Issue 125
December 2025

Diary dates

Here are key dates for the next two weeks, assemblies start at 9.10am

Please keep an eye on the website calendar.

5 January	School opens - children back to school
7 January 9.30am	School tour - prospective parents and carers
8 January pm	Girls football tournament at Kew Riverside
8 January 9.00pm	School club registrations until Sunday at 9.00pm
9 January	Year 6 trip to the Imperial War Museum
9 January From 3.00pm	Nearly new uniform sale
9 January	Football match with the Vineyard Primary School
14 January 8.30am	Talk for parents/carers and children - Year 4 Sayers Croft residential trip
15 January 3.00pm	Football B Team at Christ's School
16 January 9.00am	PSA Coffee morning and AGM - all welcome
21 January 9.30am	School tour - prospective parents/carers
22 January pm	Tag Rugby Tournament for Years 5 & 6
23 January	Cygnets class assembly

Dear families,

What a fantastic first term we have had here at Marshgate!

I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements of our entire school community – our pupils, staff, families, and governors. This term has been filled with moments that showcase the very best of our school. Our children have demonstrated remarkable resilience, curiosity, and kindness in their learning. From the youngest pupils settling into their new routines with confidence, to our Year 6 children showing maturity and perseverance, every child has contributed to making Marshgate the exciting place of learning it is.

Our staff have continued to work tirelessly. Their dedication, professionalism, and genuine care for every pupil shines through in everything they do.

I'm particularly proud of how our school community has come together this term. Whether it's been supporting school events, engaging with your children's learning at home, or simply being present at the school gates each day, your involvement makes such a difference.

The strong partnership between home and school is fundamental to our children's success and wellbeing.

From a personal perspective, I want to thank you all for making me feel so welcome. Marshgate is a very special place, with a deep-rooted sense of community and I am very proud to be part of it. I am committed to the school and I love working with the children, the staff and the wider community.

As we look ahead to the spring term, we do so with excitement and optimism. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our school. I wish a happy Hanukkah and a merry Christmas to those who are celebrating and I wish a restful and peaceful break to all.

See you in 2026,

Laura Brooks, **Interim Headteacher**



The Winter Fair on 29 November was a great success. Thank you to our wonderful PSA team.

Please see page 4 for more photos and information.



Year 3 Stone Age Day

Year 3 enjoyed an exciting Stone Age Day, taking part in Stone Age maths, letter writing and creating models of Stone Age shelters. A brilliant day of hands-on learning!



The children have taken part in festive celebrations this month, starting with the Reception Nativity, the Year 1 & 2 Nativity to the KS2 Carol Concerts at the Church. Thank you to all the children for their wonderful performances and all our creative staff for organising and directing them.

We raised **£625** from the collections after the performances for the charity **Crisis**, so thank you to everyone who donated. Here is a selection of photographs, more are available on the **Photo Gallery** on the Marshgate website.



Year 3 and 4 Choir singing carols at the Almshouses

As part of our on-going community relations projects the children from the Year 3 and 4 choir sang carols at the Richmond Almshouses this week. Organised by Reverend Derrick Thompson, the Chaplain of the Richmond Charities, and Mrs Valero, our Music Teacher, the children visited four different sites of the Almshouses to sing carols. This was a lovely gesture and many of the elderly residents said how it was a highlight of their day.

After they had performed the children were treated to hot chocolate in the chapel and given Christmas stockings to take home. The children were absolutely delighted with this gesture, with Vasia from Year 4 saying "we are so lucky".

Almshouses are affordable homes that belong to a charity and are intended to provide accommodation for people who meet the charity's eligibility criteria. Almshouses have existed for over 1,000 years. The Richmond Charities has been providing almshouse accommodation in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames for over 400 years.



Year 4 Boys Football

The year 4 boys showed fantastic teamwork and determination at their recent football game. They played brilliantly; we are very proud of their effort and sportsmanship.



Marshgate A and B football team travelled to St. Mary's C of E Primary School on the 11 December for a highly anticipated fixture.

All the children played amazingly and represented the school fantastically. Both the A and B team managed to come away with a win with plenty of action and excitement taking place during the matches.

Well done to all those involved!

Year 3 Boys Football Tournament

Our Year 3 boys took part in a football tournament and played brilliantly. Despite the very wet and rainy weather, they showed fantastic teamwork, resilience and determination throughout every match.

Their hard work paid off as they went on to win their group!



Indoor athletics at St Mary's University - report by Zoe

At the start of the day each school had a place to train and practice. We had running and triple jump as our first practices.

The first events in the morning were speed bounce and chest push. For speed bounce we had twenty seconds to jump over a small block as many times as we could with both feet touching each side. For chest push we were given a basketball to throw as far as we could and then the length would be measured with cones and put into our scores.

We took part in vertical jump, standing long jump, triple jump and soft javelin. It was great fun and we loved visiting St Mary's University.

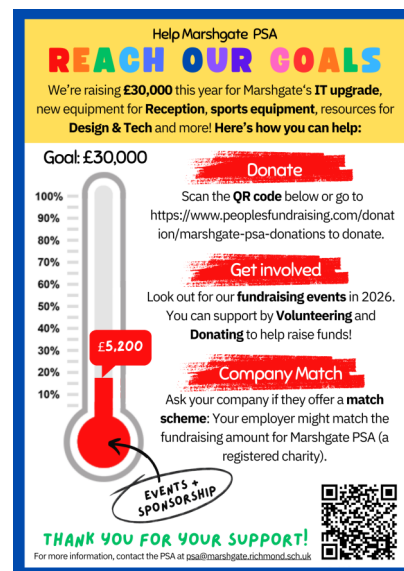
We were against multiple schools: Stanley, Sheen Mount, Twickenham Primary, St James's and St Elizabeths. Sadly we came sixth out of seven schools but even though we came second to last we were content with our score as we all tried our best.



The PSA is delighted to have been able to contribute over £28,000 to the school earlier this term (from past fundraising over multiple years). Over half has been used to purchase the first phase of the school's IT hardware refresh (including new desktop computers). New PE equipment, as well as annual support payments for activities like Thames Young Mariners, is also included in this.

Thank you to all of those who have been involved in the various events to help raise this amazing amount!

Please see the "Reach our Goals" information detailing the PSA fundraising goals for this academic year.



The Winter Fair

The dust (and snow!) have settled since the Winter Fair, and we wanted to thank everyone for joining in with such enthusiasm and making this event such a success! A huge amount of effort goes into the fair not just from the PSA but right across the school including the class reps, volunteers, staff and everyone who came along to be part of the day.

Lastly, a very big thank you to all the children in the Year 3 and 4 Choir who performed in the hall, as always under the wonderful musical direction of **Mrs Valero**.



PSA Annual General Meeting - all welcome

The term of the current PSA is coming to an end, and there will be an Annual General Meeting on **Friday, 16th January** where we will be looking to elect a new PSA Chair, a PSA Vice-chair and a PSA Secretary. We have two Treasurers who have stepped forward this term who will be continuing their roles in 2026 (and are already doing a brilliant job!). The current team is also keen to stay involved to help with the transition and assist with events in the spring term. We look forward to seeing you in January!