



## **International Reading Day at St Mary's, Kensington**

When TSF learned that St Mary's School in Kensington was working on an international reading day, the Foundation was keen to help – and the school was thrilled with their suggestion of providing international readers.

TSF arranged for six parents of pupils at Thomas's Kensington school to visit St Mary's on the day and read in their native languages – German, Russian, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian and Spanish. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, 170 in total, took part and the volunteer parents read stories with which the classes were already familiar. *“The children enjoyed being exposed to storytelling in a foreign language,”* said one of the readers.

*‘The children were wonderful,’* added another. *‘They all listened well and observed every small detail.’* According to a teacher, the children loved the session, and came away with a new understanding of the stories. And what did the children think? They just wanted to know when the readers were coming back!

This was a fantastic event that really enriched the children's learning – without costing a single pound, it was also a perfect opportunity to link St Mary's to the Thomas's community. A great example of how much can be achieved simply through people volunteering skills and time to make something special happen.