



Weekly Newsletter

12th September 2019

A very warm welcome back to St Mary's. I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for a busy and exciting term ahead. A special welcome to new pupils, parents and staff - I hope our newcomers will be very happy here and I look forward to getting to know them over the coming months.

St Mary's Vision

In the summer term the governors renewed the school vision for the next three years. Our vision is for St Mary's to be *a place of transforming growth, where Christian education inspires children and adults for achievement in the whole of life*. Recognising our historic foundation, we seek to preserve and develop the religious character of our school in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level. We have strong links with our local church and there are many ways in which these links are maintained, including school services at the church and regular visits from the clergy to our Monday assemblies to which you are invited to attend.

Whilst we have a specific St Mary's vision, the over-arching Genesis Education Trust vision is for our children *to leave primary education as confident, independent learners with enquiring minds and a lifelong love of learning, with a thoughtful and considerate approach to life*. We endeavour to do all we can to ensure that this vision is a day to day reality.

St Mary's Values

In the summer we renewed the Christian values that we adopted some years ago. We have again selected seven Christian values which will inform everything we do: Faith, Equality, Caring, Truth, Wisdom, Forgiveness and Respect.

I hope that you will embrace our school vision and values and support us throughout the coming year. Our aim is for children to live life in all its fullness so that we develop and nurture the 'whole child', readying them for a happy and successful life.

Books

This term, to ensure all children are able to enjoy reading a wide array of texts, we will trial providing each child from Year 3 upwards with a copy of the book that they are reading in literacy lessons. They will be able to take the book home each day. The purpose of this initiative is to allow children to immerse themselves in the text which will then hopefully inspire them to write with even greater confidence and zest. In order that the children can take the books home, we are asking all parents and carers for a refundable deposit of £10 which can be paid through Parent-Pay. This is to ensure that books are returned and ready to be re-used for the next year group when required. If the trial is successful and the books are used and read at home, we will aim to continue with this initiative for the other two terms as well. If we do do that, then the deposit will be refunded at the end of the year, rather than at the end of this term.

Welcome to our new children

We've been happy to see the first of our new Reception children coming in to school so beautifully. We have also had several new children joining us throughout the school. We would like to welcome all our new families to our school community.

School Day Reminders

We would like to remind parents that Chestnut Avenue North and South entrances are for Children from Years 1 to 6. The entrance in Brooke Road is for Reception children. If you wish to speak to a member of the office staff, please do not walk through the school, but go round and enter through the main school entrance.

School Uniform

Everyone has returned looking very smart for the start of the new school year. Please could you ensure that your child's uniform is clearly marked with their name (and class if possible) – by doing so we can try and reunite items with their owners. Lost property is no longer kept by the school office but will be available in the school playground before and after school.

Whole School Attendance

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Each week we will advise you of the percentage we achieved.

Attendance and Punctuality Winner

To encourage good attendance, each week we recognise the class with the highest attendance for that week in our newsletter.

Punctuality is very important, not only for school, but in life generally. Children who are regularly late for school miss vital morning information and a late start often sets the tone for the day. We will also let you know each week the class achieving the best punctuality.

Assemblies

Parents are welcome to join us for our Monday and Friday assemblies – Friday is followed by a coffee morning. As our school has grown, space has become less and less so we will be splitting assemblies – Attlee and Morris will be in the gym (parents should enter via the playground) and Wilson in the main school hall. Class assemblies are on a Thursday morning, running throughout the year. You are more than welcome to come along to those too. Dates will be published in our dates section.

Stars of the Week

Each week, class teachers nominate their Star of the Week. Parents of children nominated will be contacted by e-mail to advise of their award by Monday of the week of presentation. Children are then presented with their award in assembly on Friday and will be reported here the following week.

Finance Matters

All payments to school must be made via ParentPay. Reception parents will be issued with an activation letter in due course.

Items such as trips, music lessons etc will be added as appropriate. Please note that breakfast and tea time clubs must be kept in credit at all times. We have a waiting list for both these clubs so failure to keep your account in credit may lead to your child being removed from the club and space offered to another child.

Similarly, dinner money accounts should please be kept up to date. Failure to do so could mean you are asked to provide a packed lunch until your child's account is back in credit.

School Lunches

Just a quick reminder, school meals are now £2.20 per day, which is £11.00 per week. For those parents who prefer to pay half termly, the cost of dinner money for this half term will be £70.40 - or for the full term, until Christmas, will be £158.40. Payment may be made on ParentPay at any time and accounts should be kept in credit at all times. If your child has packed lunch, please remember that we are a healthy school and packed lunches should not include cakes, sweets, biscuits. No glass bottles or fizzy drinks either please. Thank you.

You will have been sent via Parent Mail, a letter regarding entitlement to Free School Meals. Families who return their form to school will be entered into a prize draw to win £100. Please return completed forms to the school office. Paper copies may also be obtained from the office if you are unable to print them off.

Diary Dates

Dates for your diary will appear in the newsletter each week. Please keep an eye out for events relevant to you.

Class Corner

Each week one class will give us a report on what has been happening during the course of the term so far. Watch this space!

Breakfast and After School

We have now changed the format in which you can apply for our extended hours provisions. If you would like your child to join our Breakfast or Tea time club, please call the office to request a form to be sent to you via Parentmail. After you have completed the form, Miss Bailey or Miss Hanley will come back to you regarding the spaces via email. Please note, no future bookings will be taken via phone and all requests to alter your existing spaces must be made via email too.

Parent Workshops

During the course of the year we will be running a series of Parent Workshops on a number of subjects that parents may find useful. The workshop will begin at 3.45 and will last between 30 minutes and an hour. There will be a crèche for your child, should you wish to attend. Workshops for this year are as follows:

Tuesday 17 th September	School Vision
Tuesday 23 rd September	Positive Behaviour Strategies
Wednesday 3 rd October	Enjoying Reading Together
Tuesday 8 th October	Toe by Toe (By invitation only)
Tuesday 14 th October	A guide to RML
Wednesday 30 th October	Phonics and Early Reading EYFS
Wednesday 13 th November	SEND (By Invitation only)
Tuesday 18 th November	Cyber Safety
Tuesday 26 th November	EYFS Homework
Tuesday 3 rd December	Homework
Tuesday 10 th December	Christmas Stories
Tuesday 14 th January	Fabulous Phonics
Tuesday 20 th January	Magic Maths
Tuesday 28 th January	Calculation Workshop
Tuesday 4 th February	Free Online Learning
Tuesday 11 th February	Science
Tuesday 3 rd March	Gifted and Talented
Tuesday 10 th March	History Projects
Tuesday 17 th March	Handsome Handwriting
Tuesday 23 rd March	RE Curriculum
Wednesday 8 th April	Sharing Age Related Expectations
Wednesday 29 th April	Computing
Tuesday 12 th May	Writing
Tuesday 19 th May	Developing Your Child's Creativity
Tuesday 2 nd June	SRE Workshop
Tuesday 9 th June	Creative Curriculum
Tuesday 16 th June	SEND (By Invitation only)
Tuesday 23 rd June	Values and Growth Mindset

Medical Needs

May we remind you that if your child suffers from asthma, we need to have two asthma pumps in school at all times. Similarly, if your child has an epi-pen or any other medication that needs to be taken on a regular basis (not antibiotics), please could you send that medication into school as soon as possible, clearly marked with your child's name and any instructions. Please note that we are not able to administer any other medication such as antibiotics but you are welcome to come in to school to administer as necessary.

Reception Intake September 2020

Although we have only just returned to school, we are already thinking about our new Reception intake for September 2020. Children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 will need to apply this year between October and 15th January 2020. We have a series of Open Days/Evenings as follows:

Monday 23rd September at 10am
Monday 14th October at 10am
Saturday 16th November at 9.30am
Monday 9th December at 6pm
Monday 13th January 2020 at 10am.

Please share with any interested parties.

PFA News

(Parents and Friends of St Marys)

Our wonderful PFA will send news and information via their newsletter on a regular basis. Watch out for the first PTA newsletter of the term.

Diary Dates

<i>Thursday 12th September</i>	<i>3.45 – Meet the Teacher – Year 2</i>
<i>Friday 13th September</i>	<i>3.45 – Meet the Teacher – Year 5</i>
<i>Monday 16th September</i>	<i>3.45 – Meet the Teacher – Year 6</i>
<i>Tuesday 17th September</i>	<i>pm – 4 Morris to visit Forest School – Further details to follow</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th September</i>	<i>pm – 4 Wilson to visit Forest School – Further details to follow</i>
<i>Tuesday 24th September</i>	<i>pm – 4 Attlee to visit Forest School – Further details to follow</i>

Useful Contacts

Address: Brooke Road, Walthamstow, E17 9HJ
Phone: 020 8521 1066
Website: www.stmaryscofe.org
Email: school@st-marys-coe.waltham.sch.uk
Teatime Club: 07542 193499
Nursery: stmarysnursery.net
Church: www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk

General Data Protection Act (GDPR)

The new GDPR is now in force. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing this policy and developing data-related policies and guidelines. Please contact the DPO with any questions about the operation of this policy or the GDPR or if you have any concerns that this policy is not being or has not been followed.

The DPO's contact details are as follows:

Data Protection Officer: Craig Stilwell, **Address:** Judicium Consulting Ltd, 72 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AE

Email: dataservices@judicium

Dates for 2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019

First half (32 days)

INSET – Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd September, and Wednesday 4th

Start –Thursday 5th September

End - Friday 18th October

Half Term: Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2019

Second half (40 days)

Start - Monday 28th October

End – Friday 20th December

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2019 to Friday 3rd January 2020

Spring Term 2020

First half (29 days)

INSET - Monday 6th January 2020

Start – Tuesday 7th January 2020

End – Friday 14th February 2020

Half Term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2020

Second Half (30 days)

Start – Monday 24th February 2020

End – Friday 3d April 2020

Easter Holiday Monday 6th April 2020 to Friday 17th April 2020

Summer Term 2020

First Half (24 days)

Start - Monday 20 April 2020

End Friday 22nd May

Bank Holidays Monday 4th May and Monday 25th May (during half term)

Half Term: Tuesday 26 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020

Second Half (35days)

Start – Monday 1st June

Finish Friday 17th July

This calendar gives a total of 195 days. Four Inset Days and one further day made up by staff from Twilight sessions gives 190 school days