



Weekly Newsletter

10th September 2018

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer with your child (ren) and made the most of the extraordinary weather. This summer, there have been many changes in the St Mary's playground as you will have seen. I am very pleased to say that the children have been delighted with the greater range of outdoor play that we can now offer. The Mud Garden in the Sensory Garden has been proving very popular indeed, as has the Sports Park next door. The Science Station has offered a quiet inter-planetary spot for children to explore and the re-vamped Story Garden has been firing imaginations like never before. The pre-existing but re-painted wooden climbing frame has seen increased use and the Pirate Ship remains as well-visited as before. The music station will be ready for use within days and will further broaden the opportunities for children to express themselves in whatever way they wish. The children obviously need to look after the equipment and so far they have been doing this very well, and we fully expect this to continue so that the new resources are there for all to enjoy for years to come. The lovely elm tree, by the way, has had its once-every-18-months lop and will grow back in time to *frame* the Sensory Garden in what I imagine will be a very attractive manner! This morning we held an outdoor assembly where Reverend Vanessa Conant blessed the playground, and it was great to be able to publicly thank Elaine James and Ellen Hanley who have worked so hard to plan and oversee the fantastic changes that have been made.

Today, all the Y1-6 pupils had literacy and maths lessons in their new streams with their new stream teachers. In most cases the children will be in the same stream as last year, though in *occasional* cases there will have been an adjustment made in order to further support a pupil to make good and sustained progress. Stream lessons are generally taught in the mornings, with class teachers teaching the pupils for the rest of the day. At St Mary's, when streamed by ability, the year groups are split four ways so that the size of the groups are much reduced from our average class size of 30 – this benefits *all* the pupils at *all* levels of ability.

In the late summer term, you may recall being told that we have additional capacity at the front of the school for bicycles. We also mentioned that the Brooke Rd entrance has CCTV now. With these improvements, we have to now insist that bicycles are left at the front of the school rather than in our playground. We have meanwhile expanded the capacity for scooters in the playground and now have to limit the storage there to scooters only. We will be reminding pupils in assemblies this week of the need to leave bikes on Brooke Road, preferably with a strong lock.

Mr O'Brien, Headteacher

Welcome

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.

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 present an attendance certificate to the class with the highest attendance for that week.

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 – Morris and Wilson will be in the gym (parents should enter via the playground) and Attlee 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 date's section.

Stars of the Week

Each week, class teachers nominate their Star of the Week. Nominees will be reported here.

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 £72.60 - 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.

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!

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.

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.

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

Key dates and times for the Autumn Term 2018

Monday 10 th September- Friday 21 st September	<i>Y4 Attlee 2 Week Swimming Sessions</i>
Friday 21 st September	<i>Year 2 Anasi Story Teller Workshop</i>
	<i>Year 6 Attlee Imperial War Museum Trip</i>
Monday 24 th September- Friday 5 th October	<i>Y4 Wilson 2 Week Swimming Sessions</i>
Friday 28 th September	<i>Year 1 Freshwater Toy from the Past Workshop</i>
	<i>Year 6 Morris Imperial War Museum Trip</i>
Friday 5 th October	<i>Year 3 Freshwater Greek Workshop</i>
	<i>Year 5 Attlee/ Morris William Morris Gallery</i>
	<i>Year 6 Wilson Imperial War Museum Trip</i>
Friday 12 th October	<i>Year 4 School Church Workshop</i>
	<i>Year 5 Wilson William Morris Gallery</i>
Thursday 19 th October	<i>Last Day of School- School finishes at 3.30pm</i>
Friday 20 th October	<i>INSET DAY</i>

St Mary's Term Dates 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

First Half (32 Days)

INSET – Monday 3rd September, Tuesday 4th September 2018

Start – Wednesday 5th September 2018

End – Thursday 18th October 2018

INSET – Friday 19th October 2018

Half Term: Monday 22nd October 2018 - Friday 26th October 2018

Second Half (39 Days)

Start – Monday 29th October 2018

End – Thursday 20th December 2018

Holidays: Friday 21st December 2018 to Friday 4th January 2018

Spring Term 2019

First Half (29 Days)

INSET – Monday 7th January 2019

Start – Tuesday 8th January 2019

End - Friday 15th February 2019

Half Term: Monday 18th February 2019 – Friday 22nd February 2019

Second Half (30 Days)

Start - Monday 25th February 2019

End – Friday 5th April 2019

Holidays: Monday 8th April to Monday 22nd April 2019

Summer Term 2019

First Half (23 Days)

Start – Tuesday 23rd April 2019

End - Friday 24th May 2019

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2019 - Friday 31st May 2019

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2019

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 27th May 2019 (during Half Term)

Second Half (37 Days)

Start - Monday 3rd June 2019

End – Tuesday 23rd July 2019