



## Weekly Newsletter

29<sup>th</sup> November 2018



### Headteacher's News

The next few weeks promise to be busy ones with lots going on. The term will end with a **poetry recital** on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December** with Years 1-3 on the Wednesday from 9am, and Year 4-6 on the final day at the same time. Each class, rather like in the summer term, will recite a poem in unison, some seasonal and some not, and parents are of course very welcome to attend. All the children are studying poetry for the last fortnight of the term and their performances in the recitals will help to bring the curtain down on the autumn term with great aplomb.

We are still finding that many **children's uniform** items and bags are not being labelled correctly – please ensure that first and last names *and class* are written clearly on labels so that lost items can be swiftly returned to owners. Our older children are often happy to do this redistributing but as things stand it is proving difficult to do.

At the end of the day and in snatched minutes between lessons, some delightful and very melodic sounds are to be heard emanating from Reception and Year 1 classes, as they begin to practise their songs for the **nativity** on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December at the church. It will be a lovely event and our younger ones are very excited about performing.

I'd like to inform parents that there is a **new statutory assessment** on the way and its heading for Year 4! In 2020, all Year 4 pupils in England will sit a times-tables test that will assess their speed in recalling their times-table facts up to the 12-times table. In 2019, schools have been invited to be part in the 'pilot' for the new assessment and St Mary's has asked to be one of these schools. We have long expected the children to know their times-tables so the challenge of learning them by the end of Year 4 will not be a new one, but this is the first time that there has been a national assessment benchmarking children's times-tables ability. Once we know a little more about exactly how the assessment will be conducted we will let you know. One innovation we have put into place this year has been the use of a fun online program called 'T-T Rock Stars' which is proving very popular with the children and further improving their recall of multiplication facts; in this way we will continue to find engaging ways to further improve the children's number fluency.

Lots of families contributed to the **Shoe-Box Appeal** recently as you can see from the photo over the page. As an alternative for those that would prefer a different type of seasonal act of charity, we are accepting donations to the local '*Eat or Heat*' *Walthamstow Foodbank* which helps local people who are finding it difficult to make ends meet. We will send the food that we have had donated to the FoodBank on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, so if you would like to contribute please send the food either yourself or via your child to the school office. Non-perishable food only please.

**Aspens** has made a good start to its new catering role this week, having taken over from Olive, as reported to you a few weeks ago. Menus are going out this week, and as always, are subject to change depending on ongoing feedback from pupils, staff (many of whom eat school meals everyday) and parents.

*M O'Brien - Headteacher*

### Shoe-Box Appeal

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of those that took part in this years 'Operation Shoe Box' appeal. We successfully collected over 100 shoe boxes which will hopefully make many children (near and afar) extremely happy during the Christmas period.



### Christmas Jumper Day

As in previous years, we will be participating in this year's National Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Please do not go and buy anything special – hand-decorated jumpers that the children have decorated themselves are always very effective! Children may wear their Christmas jumper for a donation of £1.



PFA will be hosting its annual **Christmas Fair** from **12-3pm this Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. Any additional offers of help for the event will always be very well received so do please email [feefbarrett@hotmail.com](mailto:feefbarrett@hotmail.com) and [fi.james2100@outlook.com](mailto:fi.james2100@outlook.com) if you can assist in any way. There is a sign up list on the door by the school office.

### Year 2 trip to the Jewish Museum

Last week, Year 2 had a fantastic day out at the Jewish Museum. What a fantastic day it was! They had the opportunity to explore a large variety of Jewish symbolic items, explore the history of the Jewish people and they even begun to learn to scribe their names in Hebrew using a quill and ink – see the photo on the right. They've returned thoroughly motivated to explore the Jewish faith even more in class.

*The Y2 Team*



### Parents' Prayer Club

It was good to see some of you at our Parents' Prayer Club this last Thursday. Parent Prayer Club happens every other Thursday so our next meeting will be this Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> November. Meet at the school office at 9.05. We aim to finish by 9.25am.

### Class Corner – 5 Wilson

Year 5 Wilson has been focusing on our local area in their topic lessons. Last week they gathered information on the human and physical features around the school (housing, parks and shops). We then had detailed discussions on how we would improve the environment around us. Many of the pupils came up with some fantastic examples such as a leisure centre for children to use in the school holidays and more green spaces where families can relax together.

*Mr Wyatt and Y5-Wilson*

### Whole School Attendance and Punctuality

The whole school attendance target is **96.5%**. Each week we will advise you of the percentage we achieved. Last week, we achieved **92.2%** which is below our target figure. Punctuality was improved with 34 late marks across the school which is better but still higher than we would like. Please make every effort to get your child to school on time. From September until last Friday, the whole school attendance is **96.6%** which meets our target, and there have been 463 late marks.

### Attendance and Punctuality Winner

Well done to **Reception Attlee** who had best attendance figures for last week, - not quite a perfect 100% but very close with 99.3%. Well done everyone. Improvement in punctuality was reflected across the school, so well done to Y3 Wilson, Y4 Attlee and Y4 Wilson whose attendance was above our target.

### Assemblies

Parents are welcome to join us for our Monday and Friday assemblies – Friday is followed by a coffee morning. We will be splitting assemblies – **Morris and Wilson** will be in the gym (parents should enter via the playground) on Fridays 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.

Y1A - Molly	Y1M- Hartley	Y1W- Beatrice
Y2A- Anabelle D & Freya	Y2M- Ada	Y2W- Trip
Y3A- Tise	Y3M- Guilder	Y3W- Lucas
Y4A- Penelope	Y4M- Alyssa	Y4W- Zerah
Y5A- Pablo	Y5M- Renae	Y5W- Jonny
Y6A- Jayden	Y6M- Phoenix	Y6W- Zara

### General Data Protection Act (GDPR)

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](mailto:dataservices@judicium)

Address: Brooke Road, Walthamstow, E17 9HJ; Phone: 020 8521 1066; Website: [www.stmaryscofe.org](http://www.stmaryscofe.org); Email: [school@st-marys-coe.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:school@st-marys-coe.waltham.sch.uk); Teatime Club: 07759 978 824; Nursery: [stmarysnursery.net](http://stmarysnursery.net); Church: [www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk](http://www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk)

### Diary Dates

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

Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<b><i>NCMP Height &amp; Weight Testing for Reception and Year 6</i></b>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	<b><i>9.05 – Parents' Prayer Club</i></b>
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	<b><i>Y5W and Y5A Trip to Vestry House</i></b>
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	<b><i>Christmas Fair 12-3pm</i></b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS</i></b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>9.05 – Performance by School Orchestra</i></b> <b><i>Y6A and Y6M Trip to Vestry House - Postponed – new date to follow</i></b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>9.05 – Parents' Prayer Club</i></b> <b><i>Christmas Panto in school (details to follow)</i></b> <b><i>3.30 – Reception Attlee parents to meet Ms Crawford</i></b>
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>Christmas Jumper Day</i></b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>9.30 – Attlee Houses to Church for Christmas Assembly</i></b> <b><i>2pm – Morris Houses to Church for Christmas Assembly</i></b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>9.30 – Wilson Houses to Church for Christmas Assembly</i></b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>9.00- Year 1,2 &amp; 3 Poetry Recital</i></b>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><i>9.00- Year 4,5 &amp; 6 Poetry Recital</i></b> <b><i>School Closes for Christmas Break at 2pm</i></b>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	<b><i>10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS</i></b>
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	<b><i>RETURN TO SCHOOL</i></b>

## **St Mary's Term Dates 2018-2019**

### **Autumn Term 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