



The scene at Hackney Empire on Friday.



Weekly  
Newsletter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2019



St Mary's in our Upper Circle seats

In recent times a very large number of parents have expressed their concerns to me about the way in which a minority of parents are continuously **parking** both before and after school. Every day we are seeing cars parked on double-yellow lines within a few feet of the school gates on both sides of the playground entrances, on **Chestnut Avenue North** and **South**. The **Brooke Road** entrance sometimes sees the same issue too. The problems caused by this type of parking are, I am sure, very clear. At St Mary's, and indeed at any school, the safety of the children has to be the main concern and while cars are performing U-turns near entrances within very confined spaces, the safety of the children is obviously severely compromised. At schools there have been accidents caused by this kind of driving behaviour and if habits do not change there is the possibility that an accident could take place here. We have contacted the authorities again to request traffic warden support to penalise drivers that park illegally, and on other days that the rules are not being enforced by them, we will be actively asking parents to move their cars elsewhere should they park illegally.

Of course, as well as the **risk of an accident** taking place involving one of our children, the other major risk to health caused by parking infringing the law is the **pollution** caused by the build-up of car fumes just inches from our gates. Cars that **idle** pump out fumes that our children all then have to breathe in as they enter and leave the school and this is very unfair on those that are driving or walking to school much more responsibly. Most parents will be aware of the *huge* rise of **asthmatic symptoms** amongst urban populations, and the disproportionate affect it has on children – we are not able to greatly impact the air quality across the whole of the city, but by changing habits at the start of the day, by parking further from the school and not leaving engines idling, we can make a huge difference to the air breathed by our children as they approach and then enter our premises. Children are becoming more and more conscious of the perilous state of the environment and are rightly expecting more of the adults around them to step up efforts to protect it and, at St Mary's, we can all do our bit to help.

With the parking and pollution situation as it is at the moment, and as it has been for a long time now, staff leaders and governors have been exploring the possibility of becoming part of the '**School Streets**' initiative run by the local council, Waltham Forest. Currently four schools are covered by the School Streets initiative in the borough and as many as six other local schools are either consulting on it or about to launch it. Many other boroughs operate the scheme in London and it is growing by the month. Essentially, the School Streets initiative stops non-residential traffic from entering specific streets directly connected to a school for a short period of time before, during and immediately after the start or the end of the day. The distance that car users could park from the school would be determined by the consultation that the local council would undertake with residents before the pilot scheme launched, but would probably be at least 50 yards and possibly much further. Any non-residential car drivers entering the restricted streets would be picked up by

a camera and issued with a fine. Once the approximately 30 to 45 minute or so period around the start and end of the school day at 8.55am and 3.30pm finished, the restriction would be lifted and anyone could enter the local streets again. Local residents would request a permit so that they would not get penalised at any time. Information about the School Streets initiative can be found here on the Waltham Forest website: <https://walthamforest.gov.uk/schoolstreets>

We would like to **consult our parents** about the School Streets proposals. While I am sure that everyone will agree that the danger presented to children both in terms of being hit by a car and of breathing in hazardous fumes everyday is very concerning, some parents may not necessarily see 'School Streets' as the solution. Other parents may well feel that the School Streets proposals are the ideal solution to the problem we all face. Whichever way, we would like to hear your views on the matter. If you have an opinion either way on the scheme, please email the main school email address putting **'School Streets' in the title box** so that these emails can easily be sifted from the other general emails arriving in the office (do remember this please, as the office receive well over 100 emails every day on various things). In your email please let us know what you think of the proposals, whether in favour or against. Should the scheme go to consultation with the council it will be the local residents that are consulted in neighbouring streets, not our parents, so this is the chance for our parents to have their say on the matter. We will also be asking our staff for their views as well as discussing this issue once again at an upcoming governors' meeting.

That very useful **School Streets Waltham Forest Council** link once again: <https://walthamforest.gov.uk/schoolstreets>

Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts on this important issue.

Mr O'Brien  
*Headteacher*

#### **Science Symposium Event**

Look out for a letter from Ms Nehaar soon linked to the Science Symposium event in the spring. Children are being invited to undertake a science-related project over the Christmas holidays that will bring out the best in their investigative and enquiring minds.

#### **Coffee Mornings on Mondays at 8.40am**

From next Monday, 9th, starting at 8.40am and ending at 9.00am, there will be a coffee morning each Monday at the external entrance end of the gym. Some parents may then like to stay at 9.00am to watch the Y1-3 gym assembly or Y4-6 hall one, both of which end at 9.25am.

#### **Christmas Festivities**

Our school Christmas tree will be going up this week and has been provided by The Christmas Forest, who have opened their pop-up shop in Lee Valley on 22nd November. They will be selling a fabulous selection of sustainably grown, freshly cut Christmas trees all handpicked for their quality. There will be different varieties and a huge range of sizes, all displayed in a forest-like setting. Holly, wreaths, mistletoe and treats for the kids too. For every tree sold, they donate to plant a tree in the African drylands through Tree Aid ([treeaid.org.uk](http://treeaid.org.uk)), changing lives for thousands of some of the poorest families in the world. Come and wander through and pick your perfect Christmas tree and enjoy an extra festive glow knowing your trees means something more, not just for Christmas. Open 8am- 10pm, Monday to Sunday until December 22nd. A flyer will be sent home alongside this newsletter.

## After School Activity Clubs

This is the last week for after school activity clubs run by school staff. Cherry Bees and Beartuza will run next week too, and tea time club runs until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. There will be NO tea time club on the last day of term.

## St Mary's PFA Christmas Fair

Sat 7th Dec, 12-3pm



There is a **sign-up sheet for volunteers** pinned up on the door by the school office. If you can give any assistance to help set up, or to supervise a stall during the event itself, or perhaps to clear up after, please do come in and **put your name on the list**. All assistance greatly appreciated! Last year's Xmas fair raised nearly £4,000, but we need offers of help to ensure the event is as fantastic as last year's.

For anyone who can't get to reception to sign up, they can email us directly:

[feefbarrett@hotmail.com](mailto:feefbarrett@hotmail.com)

[fi.james2100@outlook.com](mailto:fi.james2100@outlook.com)

### The PFA Need your Cakes and Tombola Prizes for the Xmas Fair!!!

Please donate your cakes on the day before or on the day of the **Xmas Fair** for the **Cake Stall**, and also donate prizes for the **tombola** if you are able to. Thank you!

### The Junior Panto at Hackney Empire

The Y3-6 children had a fantastic time at the Hackney Empire on Friday watching an updated version of Dick Whittington - this time with the main character arriving in recent decades on the Windrush ship from the Caribbean. The children had a great time and their ears are possibly still ringing from the experience!

### Poetry Recitals

On the last **Thursday of term, 19th**, there will be two **poetry recitals** in the gym. **Attlee house classes and Years 1-3 of Morris** will be at 9am, and **Y4-6 of Morris and all of Wilson** will be at 2.15pm. Parents are of course very welcome.

## Christmas Carol Evening

This event will take place in the hall on **Wednesday 18th December** from 3.45pm to 5.00pm. We hope to see many parents in attendance enjoying the choir's carols, some instrumental performances and a few Christmas-themed readings from our worship group.



### School Nurse Drop-in 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every Month - 3pm to 4.30pm

The School Nurse will do the next of her monthly drop-ins to St Mary's on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** from 3pm to 4.30pm. She is available to talk about any physical or mental health issues. Come to the office if you would like to meet with her, no appointment required.

### Star of the Week



Congratulations to the following children who were awarded Star of the Week in assembly on Friday:

1 Attlee	Rhalissa	1 Morris	Feranmi	1 Wilson	Florence
2 Attlee	Ted	2 Morris	Aria	2 Wilson	Ebony
3 Attlee	Hector	3 Morris	Aleks	3 Wilson	Hanna
4 Attlee	Jaysha	4 Morris	Alfred	4 Wilson	Natasha
5 Attlee	Grace	5 Morris	Miguel	5 Wilson	Vicky
6 Attlee	Max	6 Morris	Tio	6 Wilson	Ethan

### Whole School Attendance

The whole school attendance target is 96.5% and last week we dipped just below that figure at 94.59%. No class achieved 100% attendance, but 4A came close with 95.93%, and although no class had everyone here on time, Wilson Houses were the early birds of the school with just one late mark in 2W, 3W and 5W. Attendance overall this year has been **96.59%**.

### Reception Intake September 2020

Children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 will need to apply this year between October and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for admission in September 2020. We have a series of Open Days/Evenings as follows:

Monday 9th December at 6pm  
Monday 13th January 2020 at 10am.

Please share with any interested parties.

### 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.

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Homework
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Stories
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Fabulous Phonics
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Magic Maths
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Calculation Workshop
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Free Online Learning
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Science
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Gifted and Talented
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	History Projects
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Handsome Handwriting
Tuesday 24 <sup>rd</sup> March	RE Curriculum
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Sharing Age Related Expectations
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Writing
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Developing Your Child's Creativity
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	SRE Workshop
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Creative Curriculum
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	SEND (By Invitation only)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Values and Growth Mindset

### Dates for your Diary

<i>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 12-3pm</i>	<b><i>PFA Christmas Fair</i></b>
<i>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b><i>8.40-9am –Coffee Morning in Gym Reception 2020 Open Day at 6pm</i></b>
<i>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b><i>Christmas Jumper Day and School Christmas Dinner</i></b>
<i>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b><i>9.30am – Morris Houses in Church for nativity 2pm – Attlee Houses in Church for nativity</i></b>
<i>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b><i>9.30am – Wilson Houses in Church for nativity</i></b>
<i>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b><i>3.45-5pm – Choir Concert</i></b>
<i>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b><i>Poetry Recital: 9.00am – All Attlee House Classes and Years 1, 2 and 3 of Morris House 2.15pm – Year 4, 5 and 6 of Morris House and all Wilson House Classes</i></b>
<i>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<b><i>School Closes at 2pm – NO TEA TIME CLUB TODAY</i></b>

Our term dates follow on the last page of this newsletter. Please be aware that the early May Bank Holiday has changed, and has not been particularly well publicised. The Bank Holiday is no longer [Monday 4th May](#) and has been changed to [Friday 8th May](#).

## Useful Contacts

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: 07542 193499

Nursery: [stmarysnursery.net](http://stmarysnursery.net)

Church: [www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto:dataservices@judicium)

## Dates for 2019-2020

### **Autumn Term 2019**

**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 Friday 8th May and Monday 25th May (during half term)**

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

**NB: THE EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY HAS CHANGED FROM MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> TO FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**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.**