



Newsletter
12th February
2020



Headteacher's News

Last week we had an assessor from the **Historical Association** spend the whole day with us at St Mary's, looking at all aspects of the way that the children experience the subject during their time with us. It was really helpful to get an expert's perspective on the way that our curriculum studies the past and it was very pleasing that the visitor was very impressed with what he saw. We met at least the 'silver' criteria for everything and the 'gold' for lots of it too, so we know that we are very much on the right lines when it comes to engaging with and interpreting the past. We were able to show how our history curriculum engages with both the local community, including the many ways in which it has changed, as well as the wider national and global communities. A strength of our history curriculum, the visitor said, included the way in which children learn about the topic before then *applying* their learning, for example, studying the impact of the **Second World War** and **The Blitz** before then writing a diary extract imagining they are an evacuee. This type of approach provides opportunities for the children to be creative and in some cases to develop greater empathy (depending on who is the subject of the historical topic!). Groups of children of a variety of ages were able to talk very articulately to the visitor about what they had learnt in their history lessons, not just this year, but in years gone by. History topics like **Ancient Greece**, the **Stone Age** and the **Mayans** are fascinating and the children love immersing themselves in them; as a history graduate myself, it's great to see intriguing periods in history proving every bit as popular now as they have always been.

Our requests for a significant minority of parents to **not park on double-yellow lines** near to the school gates are still not being responded to and there continue to be cases of parents mounting the curb near Children walking past - a very dangerous practice which most of our parents disapprove of in the strongest terms. The **'School Streets'** initiative goes before the governors in the next few weeks after the overwhelmingly positive response to our parent consultation in the autumn term. If governors approve our School Streets involvement, then the next step will be for the Council to consult the local community before the extended trial, with some streets inaccessible at specific times of the day, starts later in the year.

Mr O'Brien, Headteacher



Please keep an eye out for a letter today requesting **permission for The Pantry to use your child's photo** as part of their lunchtime service routine. Thank you.

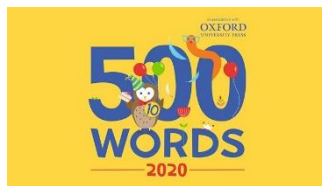


Parents are reminded that St Mary's is a **No Nuts School**, so children should never bring in nuts at any stage. This is due to a number of our children having **severe allergies** to even the smallest trace of nuts.

Year 2 had a fantastic trip to Sutton House this week where they had the opportunity to experience what life would be like during the **Great Fire of London!** They explored the lives of significant individuals, such as Samuel Pepys and Thomas Farriner, and had a great time showing off their drama skills during the interactive workshops. The children also demonstrated their brilliant problem-solving skills by determining what caused the fire, how it spread so quickly and how it could have been prevented! Year 2 can't wait to learn more throughout Spring Term 2.



500 Words Writing Competition



We are encouraging all of our fabulous writers at St Mary's to get creative and write a story up to 500 words. It is the 10th year of the BBC's 500 words competition and we want to dazzle the judges with the fantastic writers we have at our school. There are very exciting prizes, such as visiting Buckingham Palace, having your story illustrated and winning books for yourself and our school.

We are looking for exciting, creative and original stories up to the limit of 500 words. It can be about ANYTHING you want – space-ships, grannies, insects, time travel. The list is endless!

If you wish to submit a story, this can be done by emailing the finished piece to st-marys-school@genesistrust.net by creating a 'submitter account' on the BBC's 500 words website.

All entries must be received by Monday 24th February to the email above so that they can be submitted to the BBC.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

Class Corner – Reception Attlee

In Reception Attlee, we started our week with a visit to the church for Candlemas on Monday afternoon. We learned about the story of Simeon and sang lots of beautiful songs with all of Attlee. Our prayers were for those during the storm, our family and for safety. We have also been role-playing how to be kind to one another and filling each others' buckets, inspired by the story 'How full is your bucket?' Throughout the rest of the week, we will be making beautiful Valentine's cards for a special someone!



Battery Bug's from Science Symposium

We would like to remind all parents that any kind of electrical device involving **batteries** and wires is something that needs to be treated with caution and respect and that parents should ensure that their children are supervised when they are in use. Small batteries, like the circular ones put into watches, are particularly dangerous should a child swallow them; something that happens more than you would imagine according to the NHS. Parents should be mindful that the **Battery Bugs** given out at the Science Symposium recently included two small rounded batteries and that if any children took home their Battery Bug they should be supervised when it is in use. Batteries, including the small round ones which were part of the bug, can be dangerous if they overheat and we have had one instance reported to us of this happening, so do please ensure that the 'Bugs' are used under supervision and that nothing is done to them by small fingers that might compromise the safety of the batteries. Thank you.

Stars of the Week



Well done to the following pupils who were presented with their Star of the Week award in assembly last Friday:

1 Attlee	Theo	1 Morris	Destinee	1 Wilson	Fridoun
2 Attlee	Javai	2 Morris	Io	2 Wilson	Georgia
3 Attlee	Ethan/Miles	3 Morris	Ethan	3 Wilson	Joy
4 Attlee	Marcus	4 Morris	Olga	4 Wilson	Zia
5 Attlee	Tiyana	5 Morris	Summer	5 Wilson	Farrah
6 Attlee	Wiktor	6 Morris	Renucci	6 Wilson	Aaron

Congratulations everyone!

Finance Matters

Please could we ask that you take a look at your ParentPay account and pay any outstanding balances. **School Lunches are now ordered and paid for directly with The Pantry.** If your child is going to be absent from school, you will be required to contact The Pantry before 9am of the day of absence to ensure no payments are taken for your child's meal. Their contact details are 02088137040 or office@thepantrycatering.co.uk.



Whole School Attendance

The whole school attendance target is 96.08% and last week we remained below that target at 95.53%. Well done to Year 3 Attlee who had 100% attendance. No classes had perfect punctuality last week, but Year 1 Morris and Year 1 Wilson had the best punctuality record with two late marks each.

Coffee Mornings on Mondays at 8.40am



Parents are invited to join together and meet for a coffee every Monday, starting at 8.40am and ending at 9.00am. If you would like to join us, coffee will be served in 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. Only one parent attended this morning. Parents have asked for an opportunity to meet so we would love a few more of you to join us.

Friday Assembly

This term, Attlee Houses will have their Friday assembly in the school hall and Wilson and Morris Houses will be in the gym. This is a change to the arrangement for last term.

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 rd March	Gifted and Talented
Tuesday 10 th March	History Projects
Tuesday 17 th March	Handsome Handwriting
Tuesday 24 rd March	RE Curriculum
Tuesday 28 th April	Sharing Age Related Expectations
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

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 13 th February	4 Wilson Class Assembly @ 9am
Friday 14 th February	School Closes for Half Term break – usual finish time – <u>not</u> 2pm

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

Email: st-marys-school@genesistrust.net

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

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 4TH TO FRIDAY 8TH 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.