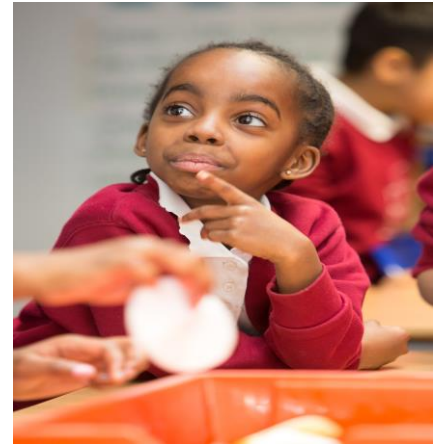




**Weekly Newsletter
Monday 8th January 2018**



Head's Message

As you will know from newsletters sent at the end of the autumn term, I began life as headteacher of St Mary's last week. It is a real privilege to become the leader of such a distinctive, vibrant and successful school. My first impressions of St Mary's, based on spending time here in December and my first few days last week, are extremely positive: the children are very well-behaved and polite; the staff are clearly very talented, passionate and committed; and the parents that I have met so far have been very supportive and welcoming.

My headship at St Mary's will be my second, having already served as a headteacher for eight years in another Church of England primary school in an inner-London location. I look forward to ensuring the Christian ethos at St Mary's remains at the centre of all that the school does, with strong links with the local parish churches being continued and enhanced.

St Mary's is an exceptionally high-achieving school and is fully deserving of its 'outstanding' status and numerous other accolades. My aim will be to ensure that the school remains as effective into the long-term as it currently is, providing a very rich and broad education for our children, and preparing them as well as possible for the next stage in their education and for their adult lives.

Much of my time at St Mary's so far has been spent getting into classes, meeting pupils and staff, and familiarising myself with the layout of the building and the organisation of the school day. I have

begun to learn some of the children's names, but with 605 children on roll, I have a little way to go before knowing them all! I look forward to meeting more parents as time proceeds. I will be present in the playground at the start and end of most school days and will also be holding some more coffee mornings for parents wishing to meet me. Thank you for your welcome so far, and I wish you a very happy and successful 2018.

Best wishes,

Mr O'Brien
Headteacher

Whole School Attendance and punctuality.

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Last week, our first week back, attendance fell slightly below that target at 94.83% but from 6th September 2017 remains above the target at 96.84%. There have been 699 late marks to date.

Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to both 3M and 6A who both had a perfect 100% attendance on the first week back. Punctuality was good with children in 3A, 2W, 2M RW and RM all in on time every day! There were 35 late marks across the school for the first two days of term.

Please do try to make every effort to get to school on time and please try to ensure that you contact the school if your child is off sick or absent for any reason.

After School Activity Clubs

Please note that activity clubs will restart w/c 15th January. You will receive an e-mail advising you of which club your child has been allocated. If we have any spaces left in any clubs, we will advise you as soon as we can.

Assemblies: change on Fridays

Parents are welcome to join us for our Monday and Friday assemblies. Monday assemblies are split by Year Groups, Fridays change to Morris House in the School Hall, with Attlee and Wilson in the Gym.

Class Corner

We are so excited as 2018 is kicking off with a bang in year 2 Attlee. This week we will begin to explore our new literacy text 'Hansel and Gretel' where we will be putting on our arts and crafts hats and getting our hands dirty as we get to re-create various scenes. We also travelled back nearly 400 years as we explored 'The Great Fire of London' during our 'WOW' day. We are also excited to be building Tudor style houses, which are a bit different from the homes of today!

Miss Sabato and 2A

Stars of the Week

There were no Stars of the Week given in Friday's assembly, as we had only been back a couple of days. However, huge congratulations to the following children who had an amazing first term and were awarded their Star of the Term during the Nativity Assembly in Church in the last week of term.

- Rec Attlee: Thea and Samson
- Rec Morris: Holly and Ismaael
- Rec Wilson: Sebastian and Bluebell
- 1 Attlee: Miya and Edward
- 1 Morris: Amy and Levi
- 1 Wilson: Emma and Arlo
- 2 Attlee: Alana, John and Phillipa
- 2 Morris: Robert and Rayah
- 2 Wilson: Marvin and Natasha
- 3 Attlee: Jacob and Misan
- 3 Morris: Erin and Sidor
- 3 Wilson: Vela and Idris
- 4 Attlee: Marion and Isa
- 4 Morris: Lucia and Donte
- 4 Wilson: Jaheem and Zeena
- 5 Attlee: Kamarli and Nicole
- 5 Morris: Mabel and Ayman
- 5 Wilson: Marni and Deshae
- 6 Attlee: Mila and Matthew
- 6 Morris: Kamaira and Martinas
- 6 Wilson: Micaiah and Thomas

Well done to each and every one of you. Keep up the good work!



Nut Allergies

May we just remind you to be careful and ensure that any snacks you buy for your children do not contain nuts as we have children with severe allergies. For lunch and break time, we teach the children not to share snacks and lunch with others, to minimise the risk of any allergic reactions. Please could take time to speak to your child about this to back-up the message of how serious allergies can be.

Finance Matters

Dinner money for this first half term will be £58.32, which pay for lunches to Friday 9th February. For those of you who prefer to pay for a term at a time, amount due until Thursday 29th March, when we finish for Easter would be £120.96.

Open Evening

Our first open evenings of 2018 will be on 17th and 18th January. The letter will be e-mailed out tomorrow. If you have more than one child in the school, please write the name of all children and their classes on the form. Thank you.

SHINE

SHINE and Achievement School are both now back again.

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|-----------------------------------|
| SHINE SPRING TERM |
| St Mary's 9am – 2pm |
| BACK AT ST MARY'S |
| Saturday 13 th January |
| Saturday 20 th January |
| Saturday 27 th January |
| Saturday 3 rd February |
| SPRING HALF TERM |

Achievement school also continues for Year 6 here at St Mary's.

Parent workshops

Our parent workshops for this term will be as follows:
22nd Jan - Art
29th Jan - FGM
5th Feb - RE
5th March- ICT

You would be very welcome to join us. Sessions start at 4pm and last between half an hour and 45 minutes.

PFA Help Required

The PFA would really love someone (or preferably 2 people) to take over doing the PFA newsletter. Penny has been doing it since November 2014 and would very much like to hand over the baton to somebody else.

So..... does anyone else fancy taking it on? Or do you know someone who might?

It's really not that difficult and you don't need to have any particular experience. It helps if there are two of you doing it, maybe one writing the copy and the other doing a simple layout. Also good to have 2 pairs of eyes to spot mistakes! Penny has been using 'Canva' to do the layout which is a free online design tool, and it's super easy to use.

It certainly doesn't need to be done on a weekly basis either. Plus if you can't actually make a PFA meeting you can get the information via email.

If you think you can help, please let the office know in the first instance and we will pass your info on to the PFA. Thank you!

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

Key dates and times for the Spring Term 2018

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 10 th January | First swimming for 4 Morris and 4 Wilson |
| Monday 15 th January | Year 6 Project Viewing – 3-3.20pm |
| Tuesday 16 th January | Year 5 Project Viewing – 3-3.20pm |
| Wednesday 17 th January | Year 3 Project Viewing – 3-3.20pm |
| Wednesday 17 th January | Parents Evening – 4-7pm |
| Thursday 18 th January | Year 4 Project Viewing – 3-3.20pm Parents Evening 3.30 to 5.30 |
| Friday 19 th January | Year 2 Project Viewing – 3-3.20pm |
| Monday 22 nd January | Year 1 Project Viewing -3-3.20pm Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – Art |
| Monday 29 th January | Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – FGM |
| Monday 5 th February | Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – RE |
| Monday 5 th March | Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 - ICT |

Term Dates 2018

Spring Term 2018 – First Half (26 Days)

INSET – Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Start – Thursday 4th January 2018

End – Friday 9th February 2018

Half Term: Monday 12th February 2018 – Friday 16th February 2018

Second Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 19th February 2018

End – Thursday 29th March 2018

Holidays: Friday 30th March to Friday 13th April 2018

Summer Term 2018 – First Half (30 Days)

Start – Monday 16th April 2018

End – Friday 25th May 2018

Half Term: Monday 28th May 2018 – Friday 1st June 2018

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May 2018

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 28th May 2018 (during Half Term)

Second Half (35 Days)

Start – Monday 4th June 2018

End – Friday 20th July 2018

This calendar gives a total of 195 days (190 pupil days plus 5 inset days).