



**ST.  
MARY'S  
SCHOOL**

**Weekly Newsletter  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**



### Head's Message

I'd like to start by thanking parents for attending the parent/teacher meetings on Wednesday and Thursday last week in such numbers – these mid-year meetings are in many ways the most important of the year and help to iron out any issues that can then be addressed while a substantial portion of the year is remaining. At St Mary's we are very keen to involve parents as much as possible in the life of the school, hence the two parent workshops hosted last week, the project viewings in the hall, the 'challenge' mornings in Reception classes, and the open invitation to join us for Monday and Friday assemblies.

Some feedback from parents recently has helped us to make an adjustment to the way in which we inform parents of when their child is 'Star of the Week': we have decided from now on to give a week's notice, (obviously including the weekend) so that parents, especially working ones, are more able to arrange leave from work in order to attend. It is wonderful to see so many parents with us on a Friday and this tweak to arrangements will hopefully add one or two more that would previously not have been able to make it. Parents are reminded that tea and coffee is served immediately after the Friday assemblies in the dinner hall, and I will be there to talk to parents just as soon as I have finished the larger of the two assemblies in the gym.

Best wishes,

Mr O'Brien  
Headteacher

### Whole School Attendance and punctuality.

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Last week, attendance exceeded that target at 96.68 and from 6th September 2017 remains above the target at 96.9%. There have been 822 late marks from the beginning of this academic year to date.

### Attendance and Punctuality

No class achieved 100% attendance last week, but well done to 3 Morris who had the best attendance at 99.63%. Punctuality took a slight dip last week. There were 73 late marks across the school and only one class with perfect punctuality. Well done to I Wilson who were the early birds of the week!

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.

### Safeguarding

Obviously, the safety of our children is of paramount importance to all of us in our everyday life. We are about to become part of a multi-agency project between Waltham Forest Council, Waltham Forest Police and our Schools called Operation Encompass. We thought you would be interested to hear a little more about it, and further information follows at the end of this newsletter.

### After School Activity Clubs

Activity clubs are now available to pay for this term via ParentPay.

### 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.

### Meet our Head

Mr O'Brien would very much like to meet as many of you as possible and would love you to join him at the coffee morning following Friday morning's assembly.

Don't forget, Mr O'Brien will also be available to meet parents on a 1:1 basis every Tuesday from 9.30 to 10.30am. Any concerns that you have should first be addressed to the class teacher, and then head of phase, before being brought to Mr O'Brien.

If you wish to make an appointment, please contact the school office. Thank you.

### SHINE

Don't forget that SHINE and Achievement School are both now back again for the spring term as follows:

<b>SHINE SPRING TERM</b>
<b>St Mary's 9am – 2pm</b>
BACK AT ST MARY'S
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> January
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February
SPRING HALF TERM

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### Stars of the Week

A great first week back for everyone. Well done to our Stars of the Week for last week:

1 Attlee: Hector & Sophie  
1 Morris: Oskar & Yonili  
1 Wilson: Joy & Luke  
2 Attlee: Rafael & Betty  
2 Morris: Hilal & Gabrielle  
2 Wilson: Sandra & Dean  
3 Attlee: Amy & Brian  
3 Morris: Whole Class  
3 Wilson: Zerah & Georgina  
4 Attlee: Myles & Shakera  
4 Morris: Amiya & Marina  
4 Wilson: Tishauna & Olivia  
5 Attlee: Renee & Josiah  
5 Morris: Ariana & Jordi  
5 Wilson: Billie & Delrojus  
6 Attlee: Bolu & Monika  
6 Morris: Tia & Deborah  
6 Wilson: Debra & Kieram

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



### Parent workshops

Our parent workshops for this term will be as follows:

22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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### Class Corner

In 2 Wilson this week we have been going back in time and describing what life was like in 1666 (without being too gory). We've imagined what it would be like to see London burning and have been describing the events of the great fire in our diary entries. We have also looked at modern day London and produced our own city skylines in the artistic style of Stephen Wiltshire. In science we have been experimenting with magnets to hypothesize and test which matters are magnetic. We found that sometimes even if something looks metallic, it's not always magnetic!

**Mr Hill and 2Wilson**

### 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)

## **Safeguarding**

At the start of each term the staff members are updated in the changes in relation to Safeguarding. Safeguarding is the prevention of harm and is the responsibility of everyone. We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Matt O'Brien, or one of the deputy DSLs on site between 8am-6pm each day and there are posters around the school identifying the DSLs and various deputy DSLs. There is also a Designated Governor for Safeguarding. Staff have access to statutory documents and are aware of the contact details of lead professionals for advice in the local authority.

We take all aspects of safeguarding seriously and promote a positive culture where 'safeguarding is an important part of everyday life'.

Training for staff included the rationale behind the school being part of Operation Encompass (as explained below) and provided a reminder of aspects including:

- Child Protection** – covering all aspects of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual, grooming offline and online and sexual exploitation.
- Attendance** – which is why we are very active in ensuring your child is in school and if they are not; the reasons for their absence explained including a number pupils going abroad for extended lengths of time. We will also ask you to check the details we hold for your child as aware that telephone numbers and email addresses are changed regularly.
- Health and Safety** – which is why we have to ensure that gates and doors are securely closed and that our classrooms are kept tidy, alongside other shared areas of the school.
- Medication and First Aid** – which is why all medical information is shared and medication is kept up to date.
- Risk assessments** – that these are completed for all school trips and activities

We have a number of presentations that we have discussed at Parent workshops so that you are also fully informed. These have also included Prevent Information. Further information can be found at [www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent](http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent)

We also throughout the year remind the children about safeguarding and they have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Over the holidays many children have received electronic devices and very useful websites for parents include: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) and [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) so that we can ensure that children are being kept safe online.

By continuing to work together we can ensure that all the pupils, parents and staff at St Mary's are kept safe from harm.

## **Operation Encompass**

St Saviour's and St Mary's will be taking part in a multi-agency project between Waltham Forest Council, Waltham Forest Police and our Schools called Operation Encompass. Encompass has been implemented to help schools provide the appropriate support to children who have been present during an incident of domestic abuse/violence.

The school will receive a confidential phone call from the Police before 9:00hrs on the morning after any incident involving domestic abuse and there are child/ren present to witness or been involved. This allows us to use the information that has been shared in confidence, to make sure that the right support is available to child/ren and their families, who have been involved in or witnessed a domestic abuse/violence incident.

Mrs Munden, HT at St Saviours, has been designated as Key Adult at this current point for both St Mary's and St Saviour's, following training attended from Waltham Forest Police and Waltham Forest Council. There will be other key adults identified as they complete the training. We are keen to offer the best support possible to our pupils and we believe this is going to be extremely beneficial for those involved. If you have any concerns or questions, then please contact Mr O'Brien who will be happy to discuss this further.

### Key dates and times for the Spring Term 2018

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 1 Project Viewing -3-3.20pm Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – Art
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3 to Science Museum
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – FGM
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Class Assemblies: 3W and 6W
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – RE
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for Half Term Holiday – normal school day
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – ICT

### Term Dates 2018

#### **Spring Term 2018 – First Half (26 Days)**

Start – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

End – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Half Term:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#### **Second Half (29 Days)**

Start – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018

End – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Holidays: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018

#### **Summer Term 2018 – First Half (30 Days)**

Start – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

End – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Half Term:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (during Half Term)

#### **Second Half (35 Days)**

Start – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

End – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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