



Weekly Newsletter
Monday 29th January 2018



Head's Message

Thank you to all the parents that completed the online questionnaire in the week of the parent/teacher meetings. We had 123 responses in total which is a good sample from which to draw conclusions.

Overall, parents appeared to be very satisfied with the school's work. For example, 94% of parents said that their children were happy at SM's (2% 'didn't know'). 98% said that their child made good progress at SM's and teaching was *at least* good. Not a single parent of the 123 respondents said that leadership and management at SM's was *not* at least good. 94% thought their child was well-cared for at the school (2% 'didn't know'). 94% said that they believed behaviour was at least good at SM's (6% 'don't know'). The feedback was very pleasing, but we want *all* parents to be fully satisfied so we will continue working hard to ensure that this is the case.

The comments and suggestions that parents wrote were also very helpful and we will aim to take them on board where we can. Mid-year is not an ideal time to implement substantial new things, but we will use the views of parents to help us to self-evaluate and action plan for the future later in the school year.

Meanwhile this week launched with an act of collective worship that looked at the importance of faith and the confidence that it can give us. The children heard the story of the healing of Naaman and at the end of the assembly, the Leading Lights (a group of appointed pupils) invited other pupils to record their responses to the narrative in the reflection box. Faith (one of the school's seven adopted Christian values) will form the basis of the assembly theme throughout the week.

Best wishes,

Mr O'Brien
Headteacher

Whole School Attendance and punctuality

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Last week, attendance fell below our target at 95.88 and from 6th September 2017 remains above the target at 96.84%. There have been 892 late marks from the beginning of this academic year to date.

ParentPay Items

Activity clubs are now available to pay for this term via ParentPay. Music fees will be added on there this week.

Year 6 parents, don't forget, 31st March will be here before we know it so don't forget to keep making payments towards the residential trip.

Attendance and Punctuality

Punctuality across the school was very slightly better last week but there were still 70 late marks, which is far too many. Please try to get your child to school on time as the start of the day provides them with vital information for the day ahead. Well done to Reception Wilson who are leading the way with excellent punctuality with nobody being late last week. At the other end of the school, 6Wilson had perfect attendance. Well done everyone. Keep it up.

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 has enjoyed meeting many of you over the last couple of weeks but would love to meet more! Why not join him for a quick chat 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 9.00 to 10.00am. 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.

Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week for last week:

- 1 Attlee: Indiana and Miles
- 1 Morris: Ada and Ellie
- 1 Wilson: Grace and Filip
- 2 Attlee: Tise and Nicole
- 2 Morris: Ethan and Grace W
- 2 Wilson: Sophie and Penny
- 3 Attlee: Graham and Emili
- 3 Morris: Natty and Martha
- 3 Wilson: Jack and Sharon
- 4 Attlee: Harry and Naya
- 4 Morris: Eliza and Lucia
- 4 Wilson: Rae and Ethan
- 5 Attlee: Alfie and Harry
- 5 Morris: Aaliyah and Damilola
- 5 Wilson: Karim and Eleonore
- 6 Attlee: Zora and Julienne
- 6 Morris: Abdullah and Neriah
- 6 Wilson: Katherine and Mia

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:

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.

Book Fair

Following our hugely successful Autumn Book Fair, our Spring fair is almost upon us. Books will be available to purchase from after school on 22nd February until before school on 1st March, when it will be collected.

Class Corner

What a busy term it has been for year 3 Attlee so far!

We kicked off the term with 2 fantastic wow days. We explored traditional tales focusing on Cinderella and realised that not all Cinderella's are the same. Using our ideas we created our own version of Cinderella set in Walthamstow.

The children had such fantastically creative ideas, including Cindy arriving on a scooter and wearing trainers to the ball!

On our second wow day the children came to school dressed as Romans and carried amazing shields that they had made during the holidays. When looking at our new Topic, The Romans, we discussed what life was like in Roman Britain, we were surprised to learn that Romans invented hearing systems and loved a day at the Spa! To finish off the day we held a battle re-enactment focusing on different formations used by the Roman army.

Just last week we went on a big day out to the science museum, we headed straight to the WonderLab which was filled with amazing experiments for the children to get involved with. In the words of the children, it was EPIC!

Big thank you to all of the parents who helped - couldn't have done it without you!
Miss Hanley and 3 Attlee

Vestry House Activities

Like every second Sunday of the month, we have another fun activity for families to make and do together on Sunday 11 February 2018. This time we focus on Valentine's Day, so our arts and crafts event at the Vestry House Museum will be 'Victorian Valentines'.

We are very excited to have Victorian Valentines as our theme this February. Anyone wishing to attend this event will be encouraged to write their own traditional Victorian poem in a greetings card of their own making, and then give it to someone special.

Victorian Valentines — Make Your Own Greetings Card

Sunday 11th February 2018

1:30-4:00pm, The event is Free.

For families of all ages

No booking needed, just drop-in.

Christian Aid

You may recall that late last year we raised a magnificent £650 for our supported charity, Christian Aid. This means they will actually receive £1300 as the government are going to match that money. We have had a formal thanks for our donation and will be giving our on-going support for the rest of this year.

Our School Council will begin working on a new initiative called "Count your Blessings" and you will receive further information about this in due course

LBWF Health and Wellbeing Event

Please see attached at the end of this newsletter a flyer that some of you may find helpful regarding a health and wellbeing event being held this Thursday at Leytonstone Library.

SHINE

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

SHINE SPRING TERM
St Mary's 9am – 2pm
BACK AT ST MARY'S
Saturday 3rd February
SPRING HALF TERM

Climate Change Competition

Miss Cherry has organised our participation in a Climate change competition and entry forms have been available for children to collect throughout school so many have made a start on their entry already. Further information and an entry form are attached to the end of this newsletter. Entrants must be between 7 and 14 years of age and the closing date is 2nd February.

Parents Prayer Club

Starting this Thursday, and fortnightly thereafter, we will be re-starting our Parents' Prayer Club. Come and join us to start the day with a reflection and a prayer. If you would like to take part, please come to the school office for 9.05. We aim to finish by 9.25am.

School Lunches

Healthy eating is always a subject that is high on everyone's agenda and we are conscious that, as a school with a Healthy Eating status, we need to be aware of providing a healthy, balanced menu for our children at lunchtime. To ensure we are offering the very best, we have invited three companies to tender for the provision of our school lunches.

All three companies will be visiting St Mary's school on 6th March to present and let the panel taste the food. We will be inviting children from St Mary's, St Saviours and St Margaret's to be part of a taste panel. A member of parent council will be on the panel as well as a staff member. The panel will award the contract to the company that has the highest score.

We are looking to start our new lunches when we return after the May half-term, in the first week of June.

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



FirstNews

NEWS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

COMPETITION
TIME!



Do you want to make your voice heard?

Do you want to take action against climate change and inspire others to take action too?

Do you think you could be a climate change champion?

If you answered 'yes' to these questions, take a form and see what you need to do.

Closing date

Friday 2nd February 2018

See Miss Cherry if you have any questions.



Competition entry form

To enter, young people will need to produce a written or filmed climate change news report on one of the following options:

- What the future might look like if we take action on climate change; **or**
- What the future might look like if we choose not to take action;

At the end of their reports, please ask pupils to finish the sentence: *“My promise to the planet is...”*

About the competition:

Young people aged 7-14, and attending a UK school, are eligible to enter the competition. The school will also need to be registered for Earth Hour.

Closing date for entries is Friday 2nd February 2018.

Your pupils can submit either a **written news report** of up to 150 words or a **filmed news report** lasting no longer than 60 seconds. Their reports can be filmed on a phone - it's what they say, and how they say it, that we're interested in. Their reports should be clear, concise, factually correct and very engaging.

In both instances, you will need to include a completed copy of this entry form.

Entry details:

Pupil name:			
Pupil's age:		Class:	
School name:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Teacher's name:			
Teacher's email address:			

Written news report:

(Up to 150 words)

“My promise to the planet is...”

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Thursday 1st February Health and Wellbeing Event

You are invited to find out what is available locally to promote your health and wellbeing and take part in some free taster activities

Time: 10am—6.30pm

Venue: The Hall, 1st floor (wheelchair accessible)
Leytonstone Library,
6 Church Lane, E11 1HG



A range of tasters including Mindfulness, Life Coaching, Laughter Yoga and Indian Classical Dance.

Get information and chat to those offering a range of support and activities available around the borough.

Meet Sam, your Local Area Coordinator—offering support to residents with disabilities, mental health needs, older people, their families /carers.

You can contact Sam Tallant on 07730 766 458 by email sam.tallant@walthamforest.gov.uk or just pop by on the day

local area
coordination
network



Key dates and times for the Spring Term 2018

Monday 29 th January	Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – FGM
Thursday 1 st February	Class Assemblies: 3W and 6W 9.05 – Parents’ Prayer Club Parent Council Meeting 3.45 to 4.45pm
Monday 5 th February	Candlemas Services in Church: Attlee Houses- 9:30-10:30 and Morris Houses- 2:00-3:00 Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – RE
Tuesday 6 th February	Candlemas Service in Church - Wilson Houses- 9:30-10:30
Friday 9 th February	School closes for Half Term Holiday – normal school day
Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February	HALF TERM BREAK
Thursday 22 nd February to Thursday 1 st March	Book Fair in school
Friday 2 nd March	Year 4 at Science Museum
Monday 5 th March	Parent Workshop – 4-4.30 – ICT

Term Dates 2018

Spring Term 2018 – First Half (26 Days)

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).