



Weekly Newsletter
Monday 5th February 2018



Head's Message

If you cast your mind back to last summer, you may recall reading about a proposed Library Bus that would be situated in the playground near to where the table-tennis tables are now. A few months on, we are further down the road (to keep up the travel theme) and are close to having the double-decker in position ready for its refurbishment. A quick internet search using the words Primary School Library Bus will give you a flavour of what the bus might look like when adapted for its new purpose. We expect the bus to be a wonderful and inspiring resource, one that the children are excited about visiting either in class visits or casually at break and lunchtimes (where it will offer solace from the hustle and bustle of the playground).

In the next few days you will receive a letter about our plans to raise funds for the refurbishment of the bus. The children will be undertaking a run, challenging themselves to go a distance that they will then collect sponsors for. I know of a school that ran a very similar campaign raising £7,000 in total so we are hopeful that, in our large 3-form entry school, we can raise most of what we need for the bus via this sponsored run. As well as raising funds we will of course be encouraging the children to be physically active, to set goals for themselves, and to have fun! You could add to the special event by coming along on the day of the sponsored run to participate with your child. This week we will talk to the children in assemblies about the run

and look forward to seeing the whole school community get behind the project.

Best wishes,

Mr O'Brien, Headteacher

Great News

Parents may have seen the following article in one of the local newspapers. We are delighted at the great news!

"London school awarded £96,500 from prestigious national funding award to improve children's reading"

An Outstanding primary school in Walthamstow has won £95,600 of funding from the Department for Education to improve children's attainment in London and the East of England.

St Mary's Teaching School received news this week that it was one of only a handful in London and 72 in England to be successful in a bid for the Department for Education's 'Strategic School Improvement Fund' (SSIF). This comes hot on the heels of the designation in the summer of St Mary's CofE Primary - in Brooke Road, Walthamstow - as a Teaching School, National Support School. The school's Chief Executive Officer, Beverley Hall, was also named as a National Leader of Education.

St Mary's was also graded as Outstanding by Ofsted in April 2016.

The school's 'Read Right Project' is aimed to increase children's attainment in reading by developing children's love of reading in schools as widespread as London, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Norfolk. The project will be driven by educational research, involve teacher training and see children taught in small group interventions. St Mary's is also inviting schools in North East London and the East of England to contact the school if they require, or would like to enquire about, support.

"We're delighted to have been successful in this important bid," said Beverley Hall, who created the bid with St Mary's Nursery Principal, Leann Valiquette. "It's fantastic that the funding will help us to further develop the success we have had in teaching the higher skills of reading comprehension at St Mary's and to roll this out to other schools and children in Waltham Forest and beyond.

In 2017, St Mary's children topped the government's School Performance Tables for Waltham Forest for those achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths, with 40% achieving this key measure. This compared to a national average of 9% and a Waltham Forest average of 11%."

Assemblies: change on Fridays

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

Stars of the Week

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

1 Attlee: Indiana, Clara and Shaka
1 Morris: Elliot and Aiva
1 Wilson: Christos and Jessica
2 Attlee: Rhazel and Marcus
2 Morris: Kajus and Sophia
2 Wilson: Zia and Madison
3 Attlee: Graham and Emili
3 Morris: Natty and Martha
3 Wilson: Jack and Sharon
4 Attlee: Olivia and Sam
4 Morris: Kieron and Jude
4 Wilson: Michael and Samantha
5 Attlee: Alina and Ayanna
5 Morris: Theo and Cameron
5 Wilson: Ysrael and Micah
6 Attlee: Ainsley and Aaron
6 Morris: Alfie and Jacob
6 Wilson: Thomas and Kiera

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:

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.

SHINE

Don't forget that SHINE and Achievement School have had their final sessions for this half term. SHINE will be relocating to St Saviours after the half term break, as follows:

SHINE SPRING TERM
St Mary's 9am – 2pm
AT ST SAVIOURS
Saturday 24 th February
Saturday 3 rd March
Saturday 10 th March
Saturday 17 th March
Saturday 24 th March

Year 6 Achievement school continues here at St Marys.

Attendance and Punctuality

Punctuality across the school was significantly improved last week, with late marks cut in half from the previous week with 37. Thank you to those who have made a conscious effort to be on time more regularly. This huge improvement meant that RA, 1M, 1W, 2A, 2W, 3M and 6A all had zero late marks, which is great. Well done to all those classes. 3A had the best attendance, with an almost perfect 99.26%.

Whole School Attendance and punctuality

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Last week, attendance fell just short of our target at 96.21% and from 6th September 2017 remains above the target at 96.81%. There have been 939 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.

With half term upon us next week, please take the opportunity to have a look at your account and make any outstanding payments for breakfast and after school club, school lunches and any clubs/trips/activities that you may owe for.

Thank you.

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

Meet our Head

Mr O'Brien has enjoyed meeting many of you over his first half term with us weeks but would love to meet more parents and members of our school community in the coming weeks. 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.

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.

Parents Prayer Club

We had our first Parent Prayer Club meeting last week and these will continue fortnightly, commencing on 22nd February after half term (dates are outlined in the diary section below). 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.

Class Corner

What a busy few weeks it has been for us in year 3 Morris!

Coming back from our marvellous Christmas break, our term kicked off with a bang as we started working with our new, fantastic book – Grimm Tales, by Phil Pullman. Because Cinderella was the first story that we were going to work with, the children spent the first day back immersing themselves in everything Cinderella, having fun writing Cinderella themed poems and acting out some of the scenes.

The fun did not stop there, as in preparation for our new history topic this term (the all-conquering Romans) we spent the second day as Romans. The children designed and made their own swords and helmets then capped the day off by re-enacting some of the battles that took place all those years ago. The battles, were made even more enjoyable by the inclusion of the fantastic shields the children had made over the Christmas break.

For science this term, we have started on yet another imagination-capturing topic – electricity! The children now have a greater understanding of the importance of electricity, where it comes from and how it's made. They even constructed their own parallel and series circuits. This was followed by the trip to the Science museum, which turned out to be a memorable experience for all involved. A special thank you to the parents/carers who helped on the day.

It has been a term of fun for all the children in 3M, growing, improving, friendliness, togetherness and much more. This however is just the beginning because we have high expectations of ourselves and we always strive for more.

Mr Damilura and 3 Morris

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

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	9.05 – Parents’ Prayer Club 6W Class Assembly
Thursday 27 th February, Friday 28 th and Monday 1 st March	School Open Days (Letter sent home)
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
Tuesday 6 th March	Taste Session for new school lunches
Thursday 8 th March	9.05 – Parents’ Prayer Club
Thursday 22 nd March	9.05 – Parents’ Prayer Club
Thursday 29 th March	School closes for Easter Holiday – 2pm close
Monday 16 th April	School returns for Summer Term

Term Dates 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).