



Weekly Newsletter
Monday 19th February 2018



Head's Message

Coming back from half-term, it is always lovely to hear of the various activities that the children have been engaging in with their families in the week away, from skiing in the mountains of Poland to more local trips to the Science Museum (to pick just a couple of trips gleefully mentioned by children in my walk around the playground today). Many of the children have also been active gaining sponsors for our up-and-coming sponsored-run at the cricket ground. No walk around the corridors of the school is complete without a smiling child telling me how much they have raised so far, or how many laps of the cricket ground they have challenged themselves to run in March. A letter with more information about the sponsored event will follow soon.

This week in my column I would like to take the opportunity to request that parents park their cars more sensitively in Brooke Road, at the front of the school, when dropping off and picking up their children (particularly for clubs). Lots of parents have complained that a minority of parents are stopping their cars in the very middle of the road, getting out with their children, entering the building and then returning to their car before leaving the area. This is often done with the

engine of the car still running - known as 'idling'. This engine 'idling' is anti-social and insensitive to the needs of others: it blocks the road for other users (if the car is left in the middle of the road) and causes an unnecessary build-up of exhaust fumes right next to the main entrance where hundreds of children come and go every day. In recent years, the problem of exhaust fumes and the effect they have on public health (including the ever increasing percentage of children suffering from asthma) has rightly received a great deal of publicity. This method of parking also makes it more hazardous for children to cross the road - the section of road outside the school should be left clear.

I would urge any parents that need to drop-off and pick-up by car (and sometimes this is unavoidable) to make use of the free parking in the locality in the mornings: parking is free until 10.00 in the school's immediate surroundings so leaving the house just a couple of minutes earlier will allow time to find a spot in a neighbouring street. After school there are lots of parking bays available in neighbouring streets and tickets

can be purchased easily and not expensively. Senior staff at St Mary's will be monitoring the situation and will also be calling in the assistance of traffic wardens to enforce safe parking.

All of the above also applies to the roads adjacent to the two playground entrances. In those roads, a fortnight ago, I asked two parents to change their parking habits; the parents in question respectfully responded by promising that they would, and I am sure that any other parents spoken to in a similar fashion will be similarly respectful and mindful that the school has a duty to protect its children's health and safety.

Mr O'Brien, Head Teacher

Assemblies:

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

Library Bus Sponsored Run

We are all excited at the prospect of our forthcoming sponsored run in aid of our Library Bus. Everyone will take part, regardless of whether or not they have any sponsors. A paper copy of the sponsor form is available from the school office.

Congratulations

We have started this term with some lovely news. Miss Greaves was married just before half term. We wish the new Mrs Bamgboye and her husband every happiness for the future.



Stars of the Week

Well done to our Stars of the Week for the week before half term:

- 1 Attlee: Apolonia and Sion
- 1 Morris: Shade and Toby
- 1 Wilson: Elsie and Gabriel
- 2 Attlee: Rakshan and Holly B
- 2 Morris: Leandre and Olga
- 2 Wilson: Rayyan and Destinee
- 3 Attlee: Martha and Mya
- 3 Morris: Nile and Eden
- 3 Wilson: Rebecca and Ellis
- 4 Attlee: Abass and Bernice
- 4 Morris: Arlo and Eliza
- 4 Wilson: Tessa and Sean
- 5 Attlee: Jayden and Caleb
- 5 Morris: Luke and Frankie
- 5 Wilson: Loneasha and Fawn
- 6 Attlee: Imogen and Joe
- 6 Morris: Mary and Kamaira
- 6 Wilson: Rhianna and Ethan

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



Parent Workshops

Our parent workshop for this term will be as follows:

5th March - ICT

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

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day next week on Thursday 1st June. We are looking forward to seeing all the inventive costumes on display. A poster was sent home to you yesterday with a few costume ideas.

Attendance and Punctuality

Punctuality across the school was still quite good in the week before half term, with 40 late marks. Thank you to those who have made a conscious effort to be on time more regularly. This improvement meant that 1M, 2A, 2W, 5W, 6A and 6W all had zero late marks, which is great. Well done to all those classes, and in particular to 1M, 2A, 2W and 6A who had no late marks for the second week running. 4A had the best attendance, a perfect 100%

Whole School Attendance and punctuality

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. The last week before half term, with lots of children off sick, attendance dipped to 91.46%. From September 2017 to February, attendance remains just above the target at 96.53. There have been 969 late marks from the beginning of this academic year to date.

ParentPay Items

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

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

In 3W we have been working very hard all term. We have been looking at the history of the Romans. We have also been looking at Roman purses and what they could have been used for. Our RE sessions have focused on the fruits of the spirit; we have been discussing what this means and how we reflect them in our everyday life. In literacy we have had so much fun looking at persuasive writing techniques. Well done 3W on a successful term.

Miss Safo and 3 Wilson

Meet our Head

Mr O'Brien has enjoyed meeting many of you on Fridays over his first half-term with us, but would love to meet more parents and members of our school community in the coming weeks. Mr O'Brien will not be available *this* Friday but you would be welcome to join him for a quick chat at the coffee morning following Friday morning's assembly *next* week.

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.

School Gardening Club

Would you be interested in growing organic herbs, fruits and vegetables for the school children? The school is looking for some ambitious parents who would be willing to group together to create a school gardening club. The group would need to be led by parents and ideally their children, perhaps tending to the garden on weekends or before and after school. It is in the *idea stages* at the moment and we hope can be developed further by the gardening team! If you would be interested in developing this idea and committing to taking part, please express your interest with the school office. You will be contacted by email when we reach 5 volunteers.

Parents' Prayer Club

Our Parent Prayer Club 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.

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 24th February
Saturday 3rd March
Saturday 10th March
Saturday 17th March
Saturday 24th March

Year 6 Achievement school continues here at St Marys.

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.

Waltham Forest Anti-Idling Campaign

Linked to Mr O'Brien's comments on page 1, we would like to remind everyone that as a school we are still supporting the Waltham Forest Anti-idling campaign.

In London, 9,400 people die from illnesses related to air quality every year. Waltham Forest's Air Quality Action Plan includes 38 actions that aim to improve the quality of the air residents breathe every day. As part of the plan, the council has commissioned research on several air quality topics including the impact of the traditional car-based school run.

The plan also includes proposals to increase the number of electric vehicles the council uses and the number of charging points available across the borough, and encourages Play Streets days for children to enjoy playing in clean, non-polluted air.

Cllr Loakes said: "It is so important that we as a council do everything in our power to improve the quality of air we all breathe. That is why we hold anti-idling operations regularly outside our schools, to educate parents about the impact that their idling cars can have on the developing lungs of their own children - our youngest residents.

Please continue to help us improve the air quality around our school by not idling your car when dropping off or collecting your child after school.

Young Voices Event at the O2

On 31st January, children from St Marys and St Saviours school choirs were very excited to attend the Young Voices concert at the O2. The children learnt a total of 13 songs off by heart, that they have been practising since September! Attending the concerts were over 7000 children and 16,000 parents in the audience.

The children sang a range of songs from around the world: Some of our favourites were the song 'Africa' and a medley of children's TV theme songs. The performance was accompanied by pop stars, Beatboxers and urban street dancers and even included a Star Wars moment! It really was a night to remember!

Our thanks to Miss Baron for leading the choir so beautifully and to all the staff who accompanied the children on this trip.

Road Safety Awareness

On the subject of cars..... Please could we ask you to be mindful of your driving around the school at the start and end of the school day. Two of our children had a very near miss with a parent reversing into our carpark at speed after dropping their own child off.

Also all of our parents accompanying children who have scooters or bicycles need to be mindful of crossing the school car park entrance as cars could be entering or leaving. Be aware and take care!

Key dates and times for the Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 21 st February	Year 1 Trip to Transport Museum
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

Second Half Spring Term (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 Summer Term (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).