



Weekly Newsletter
Monday 26th February 2018



Head's Message

This week is Open Week at St Mary's and I do hope that you are able to attend the sessions taking place around the school, or have possibly already enjoyed one. The Open Day gives parents the chance to see what lessons are like at St Mary's - how they are delivered, resourced and structured. They will, I am sure, also give parents the chance to see what life is like on the inside of the school beyond the pick-up and drop-off that bookends the typical day. There will be the opportunity for parents to view displays in classrooms and corridors, and in doing so to see the fruits of their child's labour.

Later in the week another annual event takes place. On Thursday, the classrooms, corridors and halls will be full of literary characters as the children dress up as their favourite book characters. The staff will also be joining in and, if I can locate my dressing gown, I will attend as Arthur Dent from the Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy. Having seen the photos of the last World Book Day in 2017 (still displayed on the left as you enter from the main office), I am very confident that later this week we will transform St Mary's into an imaginative scene that would rival anything in Hogwarts or Narnia (and with snow possibly on the way, that would be very fitting!).

I'd like to finish by reminding parents that, with very cold weather this week and possibly more snow on the way, we are *highly unlikely* to close due to adverse conditions, so parents should always assume that we are open.

Mr O'Brien, Head Teacher

Attendance and Punctuality

Punctuality was good last week, with just 37 late marks across the school. We continue to strive towards a lower number than that, but well done on the improvement. RW, IW and 6W all had everyone here on time every day. No perfect 100% attendance this week, but well done to 6A who achieved 98.85%.

Whole School Attendance and punctuality

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Last week we slipped just below our target at 95.63%. From September 2017 to February, attendance remains just above the target at 96.49. There have been 1006 late marks from the beginning of this academic year to date.

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.

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. A letter will go out very soon to let pupils and parents know exactly when the run will take place at the cricket ground. It is likely to be in the week beginning 12th March now.

School Gardening Club

Thank you to those of you who have put yourselves forward for our Gardening Club. There are still a couple of spaces left. Please contact the school office if you are interested in taking part.

Parents' Prayer Club

It was good to see a few new faces at our Parent Prayer Club. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8th March. We would love you to 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.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day this week on Thursday 1st March. We are looking forward to seeing all the inventive costumes on display

Stars of the Week

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

1A Hector and Freya
1M Lottie and Luke A
1W Gabriel and Lis
2A Rakshan and Angelo
2M Sonny C and Elizabeth
2W Paul and Lucas
3A Arthur and Lola
3M Elliot and Herbie
3W Idris and Kaylee
4A Myles and Marion
4M Esme and Gabriel
4W Alfie and Klaudia
5A Eva and Charlotte
5M Syzmon and Tanya
5W Billie and Lolu
6A Matthew and Rylie
6M Atara and Damien
6W Amelie and Lucy

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



Vestry House Museum Activities

Vestry House Museum organise regular free family events for pre-school and primary-aged children and their parents. These events take place once a month on a Sunday afternoon and during school holidays. They are an excellent way for parents to engage with their children in creative and learning activities, as well as finding out about our local heritage. Please see below some details of forthcoming events:

Sunday 11 March 2018 - 'Spring Blooms' - **1:30-4:00pm. Free**

For families of all ages. Celebrate springtime and Mothering Sunday by decorating a flowerpot inspired by Vestry's beautiful garden and William Morris's flower designs. Then plant a seedling in the pot, take it home and watch it grow. No booking needed, just drop-in.

Class Corner

In 4 Attlee this week we have been learning about the ancient Mayans - how they built their pyramids, how they sacrificed people to their gods, and even how they invented chocolate! We have also been looking at the properties of different solids in our science lesson, and classifying materials based on these properties. In RE, we have been exploring the religion of Judaism, and how people of this faith celebrate special events. We have also helped to decide on a name for Mr. Cladingboel's new pet python - Bernice won, with the name Pandora. We are all in the process of collecting sponsors for our sponsored bus run, and we hope to raise a lot of money. Keep an eye out for us on World Book Day this Thursday, as we will all be dressed as our favourite characters!

Mr Cladingboel and 4Attlee

SHINE

SHINE has now relocated to St Saviours and will continue for the rest of this term as follows:

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

Year 6 Achievement school continues here at St Marys.

Book Fair

Don't forget our Book Fair is here and available before school and after school, until the morning of 1st March, when it will be collected.

Suntrap School Holiday Club - booking now for the Easter holidays

For children aged 8-12 years only (no adults allowed). Just £29 per day or all three days for £80. Drop off 10am, pick up 4pm. Six hours of fun!

Bring snacks & packed lunch. Wear old clothes ready for an outdoor adventure!

Enquire today. Call 0208508 0611 or drop us an email at suntrap.centre@walthamforest.gov.uk

Activities are:

BioBlitz Pokemon Adventure - Wednesday 3rd April

Become a wildlife explorer for the day, going on a scientific expedition gaining points for every animal you find and identify in the habitats of Epping Forest. Who can get the most points - now go catch 'em all!

Stone Age Warriors - Thursday 4th April

Can you survive a day in Epping Forest during the Stone Age? Build shelters, light a fire, boil water, make a pot and make your own cave painting like a Stone Age Warrior.

Science Extraordinaire – Friday 5th April. An active fun packed day of outdoor science experiments.

Can you make your own ice cream, the most disgusting coloured slime and build a water rocket that travels high into the sky?

Useful Contacts

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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

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
Thursday 1 st March	Class 2M and Class 5W Class assembly Celebration of World Book Day
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 15 th March	Class 4A Class assembly
Thursday 22 nd March	9.05 – Parents’ Prayer Club
Friday 23 rd March	Year 5 to Science Museum
Thursday 29 th March	School closes for Easter Holiday – 2pm close
Monday 1 ⁶ 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 for the school year (190 pupil days plus 5 inset days).