



**Weekly Newsletter  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**



### Head's Message

This week promises to bring more agreeable temperatures to our shores. The 'Beast from the East' has departed and we need not worry about snowfall and icy pavements. At St Mary's we were very pleased to stay open throughout last week's cold spell and it was great to avoid disrupting the children's learning so soon after coming back from a week off at half-term. The staff were very dedicated in coming into work and contending with the elements, and for this I am very grateful to them all. I think the decision to stay open was popular with most parents. One parent wrote to me, *"Thank you so much for staying open - despite the snow and unpredictable weather. I know, for me and my family, it wouldn't have been too difficult to have had the children home, but I know for many working families it would have been a challenge to find additional child care at short notice. I just wanted to thank all the staff because we appreciate their dedication in braving it to work and staying!"*

Having waited for better weather predictions, we will be able to let parents know when the sponsored run will take place very soon; we will write to you on that front later this week.

Mr O'Brien, Head Teacher

### Attendance and Punctuality

Considering the bad weather conditions last week, punctuality was not too bad at all. There were 62 late marks across the school, which is high but under the circumstances could have been a lot worse. Of course we continue to strive towards a lower number than that and now that the snow seems to have disappeared and spring might be just around the corner, we are sure that will improve. Well done and thank you to all our parents for making such a valiant effort to be here on time, but a special mention to RW and 4W, who still managed to get everyone here on time every day. Again, as expected due to the snow, there was no perfect 100% attendance last week, but well done to IA who had the best attendance with 97.59%.

### Whole School Attendance and punctuality

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Obviously last week we slipped well below our target at 90.85%. From September 2017 to last week, attendance fell to just below that target at 96.23%. There have been 1069 late marks from the beginning of this academic year to date.

### 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.

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### SHINE

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

<b>SHINE SPRING TERM</b>
<b>St Mary's 9am – 2pm</b>
<b>AT ST SAVIOURS</b>
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March (Trip)</b>
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>

Year 6 Achievement school continues here at St Marys.

## Stars of the Week

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

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 Lola  
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

The year is whizzing by and Year 4 Morris have had an exciting journey of growth and many achievements. We have had special moments as a class that have given us all the opportunity to see the hidden gems that reside in each other. These gems range from quality play writers and actors to angelic singers, dancers and aspiring artists.

Our class 'Light bulb moment' wall has been filling up with philosophical thoughts and questions - the latest addition: *If a commandment is 'Thou shall not kill', can Christians join the army and go to war?* Deep, very deep.

Our time of swimming closes at the end of this term and it has been a joy to see the achievements made and how many of the children have excelled and conquered fears. I must commend the class as there have been challenges thrown their way e.g. learning how to play squash, being flexible with many changes, working tirelessly even through the snowstorms and ofcourse, learning my new name Mrs Bamgboye. We hope to continue our exciting journey and end this year better than we were when we began it!

4 Morris AllStars - Forwards ever, backwards never!

**Mrs Bamgboye and 4 Morris**

## Easter Activities

During Easter Holidays, LBWF run the ever popular **Easter Holiday Activity Programme**.

There are **FREE** exciting activities and events that are running in Waltham Forest throughout the Easter break. There really is something for everyone including amazing arts and crafts, dazzling dramatics and outdoor adventures! We have **FREE** family sessions for 5 to 11 year olds and 11 to 19 year olds (25 for children with SEND). This means that there is always something fun to do. For more information please visit [www.walthamforest.gov.uk/easter](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/easter)

## 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](mailto:suntrap.centre@walthamforest.gov.uk)

Activities are:

## BioBlitz Pokemon Adventure - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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)

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

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9.05 – Parents' Prayer Club
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	3.45 – Maths Calculation Workshop
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 4A Class assembly
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	9.05 – Parents' Prayer Club
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 5 to Science Museum
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes for Easter Holiday – 2pm close
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	School returns for Summer Term

### Term Dates 2018

#### **Second Half Spring Term (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 Summer Term (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 for the school year (190 pupil days plus 5 inset days).