



**Weekly Newsletter
Monday 19th March 2018**



Head's Message

Over the last few weeks, we have had lots of parents joining us during the course of the day for various events: daily 'Challenge' sessions in Reception classes; a dyslexia workshop for parents of SEN pupils; Parent Open Days before half-term; parent & child sponsored runs in the playground last week; and Class/Friday assemblies, which continue to be very well supported. The recent after-school subject-specific workshops that we have run have been a little less busy by comparison. Last week staff held a maths workshop for parents and some parents came and found it very helpful, but we would like some feedback on how we can raise attendance at these types of workshops and how we can put on these events in such a way that meets the wishes of parents. We would be willing to look at the timing and location of the workshops to see if they could be adjusted to better fit around parents' busy schedules. If you have any ideas as to how to take this forward please do email the school office at school@st-marys-coe.waltham.sch.uk and put 'Parent Workshop' in the title slot so that it gets passed swiftly to senior leaders. We would be very grateful for any good ideas.

On a different note, our attendance figures are not as high as we would like at present; this is due to various reasons, including the snow of a few days ago. One thing that we would like to reduce is the number of children that need to be sent home once they are in school. Children often forget about their headache/tummy ache/sore throat once they are in school with their friends, but we are finding with a small number of families, the child's condition is being discussed at such length in the morning with the classteacher (in the presence of the child) that the child is then unduly influenced by that overheard conversation and more likely to say they feel unwell later in the day. If your child is not feeling 100% do please feel free to let us know, but please do so in a subtle manner so the child gets their 'School Head' on and casts their minor sniffles/cough to one side and gets on with the day. Of course, during the course of the day, if the staff think that a child is unwell, they will make sure that a call is made home to alert the parent – if this decision is left to the staff to make then we can be more sure that the child's illness merits them going home. Thank you in advance for your help with this. *Mr O'Brien, Head Teacher*

Parents' Prayer Club

It's lovely to see some of our parents regularly attending Parent Prayer Club and we would be very happy to see some new faces at our next meeting this Thursday, 22nd March. We would love you to join us starting the day with a reflection and a prayer. Please join us. Meet at the school office at 9.05. We aim to finish by 9.25am.

SHINE

SHINE continues at St Saviours this coming Saturday, which is the last for this half term.

SHINE SPRING TERM St Mary's 9am – 2pm Saturday 24th March

After our Easter Holiday, SHINE remains at St Saviours as follows:

Saturday 21st April
Saturday 28th April
Saturday 12th May
Saturday 19th May

HALF TERM

Saturday 16th June
Saturday 23rd June
Saturday 30th June
Saturday 7th July
Saturday 14th July
Payment of £13.50 for the Summer Term will be due after the Easter holiday.

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	Annabelle H & Edward
1M	Missy & Shade
1W	Filip & Lilimae
2A	Zahra & Raphael
2M	Grace L & Mia
2W	Amanda & Natasha
3A	Joshua & Brian
3M	Coco & Jahfari
3W	Rudy & Sadie
4A	Amber & Rhys
4M	Izabella & Kieron
4W	Lindsey Kate & Jonny
5A	Evie Smith & Kamarli
5M	Ariana & Mia
5W	Saoirse & Reiley
6A	Sofija & Jack
6M	Rhiley & Shanice
6W	Louise & Leticia

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



Sport Relief

This Friday 23rd March, we will be supporting this year's Sport Relief by dressing up in sporting attire, or as your favourite sports personality. We would ask, if possible, for a contribution of £1. Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing generosity for all causes we support in school.



Attendance and Punctuality

Punctuality was slightly better last week, but only just, with 56 late marks! There are still too many children arriving late – very often just by five minutes or so. A very slight change in your morning routine could help to get your child to school on time. Please could you really make a super effort for the last couple of weeks of the spring term to get our punctuality figures down.

Class 5A achieved the best attendance last week, with an almost perfect 99.23%. Well done to RW, 1A, 1W, 2A, 3M and 6W who all had a perfect punctuality record with everyone here on time every day.

Whole School Attendance and punctuality

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. Attendance improved last week but we are still short of our target at 95.6%.

From September 2017 to last week, attendance remains just short of that target at 96.2%. There have been 1189 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 continue to be split by Key Stages, while Fridays remain split by Houses. After the Easter break, it will be all change for Friday's with Wilson House in the School Hall, and Attlee and Morris houses in the Gym.

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

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

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

After School Clubs

This is the last week for After School activity clubs, and for Year 6 boosters. A letter will go out in the first week of the Summer Term inviting parents to apply for clubs for the Summer Term. Breakfast club continues until next Thursday as normal, and Tea Time Club until Wednesday evening. There is no Tea Time Club next Thursday, 29th, as we finish at 2pm for the Easter holiday.

Library Bus Sponsored Run

We had our first few classes complete their run last week. It was great fun and library bus sponsorship money from those first few classes has already started arriving at the school office.

Remaining class runs have been re-scheduled for the school playground, as follows:

Tue 20th March 1.45pm Y5

Wed 21st March 9.30am Y4

Thu 22nd March 9.00am YRec

Thu 22nd March 2.20pm Y6

We would ideally like the sponsorship money sent in to school by the end of this term, Thursday 29th March.

Class Corner

5 Attlee have had an excellent term thus far, constantly and consistently engaging with all aspects of our learning.

In Topic, we have had a broad overview of "jobs, pollution and Africa" and, in Art and Design, have begun to design our very own flip-flops. What has been particularly exciting for the children has been the opportunities to advertise and interview for "jobs through the ages", research modern life in Kenya and write a letter to the Mayor of London about the ongoing issue of pollution in London and further afield.

We have been studying "electricity" in Science, particularly looking at how to create circuits, the different types and what affects them. Furthermore, we have delved deeper into the effects electricity has had on society as a whole, as well as in our daily lives, and debated whether life would be better in a world with no electricity whatsoever. The excitement in every lesson is electric (sorry!) and we all can't wait for our trip to the Science museum!

We also look forward to our Easter church service where we, along with 4 Attlee, will be performing an Oscar-worthy retelling of the Easter Story, which we have been learning about in greater detail in our R.E. lessons.

All in all, it has been a thoroughly enjoyable term for myself and (hopefully!) the children and we are all looking forward to what Summer Term holds... unless, of course, it's another 'Beast from the East!'

Mr Banks and 5 Attlee

Key dates and times for the Spring Term 2018

Tuesday 20 th March	1.45pm – Year 5 Sponsored run in playground
Wednesday 21 st March	9.30am – Year 4 Sponsored run in playground
Thursday 22 nd March	9.00 – Reception classes sponsored run in playground 9.05 – Parents' Prayer Club 9.05 – Class 4A rearranged Class assembly 2.20 – Year 6 Sponsored run in playground
Friday 23 rd March	Year 5 to Science Museum Sports Relief Day - £1 contribution to dress up as your favourite sports personality, or in sporting attire.
Saturday 24 th March	Last SHINE of Spring Term
Monday 26 th March	9.30 – Attlee Houses to Church for Easter Service 2.00 – Morris Houses to Church for Easter Service
Tuesday 27 th March	9.30 – Wilson Houses to Church for Easter Service
Thursday 29 th March	School closes for Easter Holiday – 2pm close
Monday 16 th April	School returns for Summer Term
Saturday 21 st April	SHINE returns at St Saviours
Thursday 26 th April	3.30 - EYFS Literacy Workshop for Parents

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).