



Weekly Newsletter

24th September 2019



Next week is **Harvest Festival** which we will celebrate as ever at St Mary's church in three consecutive house services on the first three afternoons of the week, starting at 2pm in each case. Last year the collection of tins and dried food was overwhelming (after the previous year had been a bit lacklustre by all accounts) and I'm sure once again our children and parents will give generously. In keeping with the theme of giving, in a fortnight's time in RE lessons, all the year groups will be 'agents of change' as they devise ways of serving others and improving the local or wider community in any way they deem fit. The children will follow the example of Jesus, where through personal sacrifice he sought to improve the lives of others by putting his own needs second. I look forward to seeing what projects the children would like to engage in to make a noticeable difference to the wider world around them.

A new **improved clubs offer** went to children and parents last week and we are pleased with the volume of interest the clubs have generated. The staff have been very creative with this term's offer and children will have a lot of fun when they start their activities next week – we look forward to getting some feedback from some very excited children.

Some parents have been contacted in recent days regarding their children attending a **before or after school booster or intervention**. In some cases this will be to give much needed further help to children so that they meet age-related expectations, and in other cases so that children are able to attain to a very high level, beyond the already high level they are currently at. Whichever is the case, the sessions are not compulsory, as they take place outside of school hours, but I do urge parents to take up the offer of the free tuition as it could make all the difference come the end of the year.

Lastly, on Friday afternoon, Ms Williams organised a very successful **French afternoon** for our Y3-6 classes. French continues to be the language of choice at St Mary's and it was fun to brush up on our foreign language skills. Ms Williams writes about the activities overleaf in this newsletter. And with that, I bid you *adieu*, wishing you a *bon semaine*!

Matt O'Brien
Headteacher

School Day Reminders

Could we just remind parents that here at St Mary's we do value our 'Healthy School' status and with this in mind, key stage 1 children are provided with fruit on a daily basis. Whilst we encourage children to bring **healthy snacks** for break times, they really must be healthy – fruit, cereal bars (no nuts please). We have noticed a number of children with packets of crisps and sweets at break time. Please do not send snacks which would not be considered healthy.

Please could parents be aware of the **entrance to our staff car park in Brooke Road**. Children who scoot or cycle often go ahead of their parents at the start and end of the school day and although staff do look out for little travellers, children often shoot across that entrance without looking or stopping. Please could you speak to your children about keeping safe whilst out and about – whether they are walking, scooting or cycling!

We would like to remind parents that **Chestnut Avenue North and South entrances** are for Children from Years 1 to 6. The entrance in Brooke Road is for Reception children. If you wish to speak to a member of the office staff, please do not walk through the school, but go round and enter through the main school entrance.

School Photos

Next week, on **Tuesday 1st October**, everyone needs to wear their best uniform and bring their biggest smile as the photographer is coming to take individual and sibling pictures. We can only accommodate siblings who are in school or in our Nursery. We are unable to take pictures with younger or older siblings who do not attend St Marys.

French Day

On Friday 20th September, all KS2 classes took part in a 'French Day' – a celebration of all things French and a perfect way to kick-start a new year of exciting French language learning.

Year 3 have been designing a **French menu** and learning how to make crepes, so perhaps there will be a few budding chefs in the house this weekend!

Year 4 have been studying the **paintings of Monet** and learning all about his life, while Year 5 took part in a French-themed drama workshop with the **Freshwater Theatre Company**. Year 6 have been bravely tackling the **Napoleonic wars** and compiling fact files on the battle of Waterloo.

The children had an enjoyable day and can now look forward to their regular French lessons taking place in class once a week. Bon chance a tous!

School Uniform

School uniform can be bought from the Victoria 2 School shop (near McDonald's on Hoe Street) or ordered on line via Mapac. If you order on line, uniform is delivered to school.

Whole School Attendance

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. In our first full week back, we exceeded our target with 95.6%.

Attendance and Punctuality Winner

Reception Attlee and 4 Attlee have made a fantastic start to the new school year and both had a 100% attendance record last week. Year 3 were our early birds with both 3 Morris and 3 Wilson having everyone here on time.

Assemblies

Parents are welcome to join us for our Monday and Friday assemblies – Friday is followed by a coffee morning. Although Reception children are not yet taking part in our whole school assembly, Reception parents are of course welcome to join us. As our school has grown, space has become less and less so we will be splitting assemblies – Attlee and Morris will be in the gym (parents should enter via the playground) and Wilson in the main school hall. Class assemblies are on a Thursday morning, running throughout the year. You are more than welcome to come along to those too. Dates will be published in our dates section.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following children who were presented with Star of the Week last week:

1 Attlee	Oliver	4 Attlee	Jamia
1 Morris	Tomi	4 Morris	Shreya
1 Wilson	Matilda	4 Wilson	Dean
2 Attlee	Laurie	5 Attlee	Misan
2 Morris	Cicely	5 Morris	Sophie
2 Wilson	Ruzgar	5 Wison	Frank
3 Attlee	Isaac	6 Attlee	Harrison
3 Morris	Nimi	6 Morris	Renae
3 Wilson	Seraphina	6 Wilson	Helena

Entitlement to Free School Meals

You will have been sent via Parent Mail a letter regarding entitlement to **Free School Meals**. We have only received a small number of forms back. Please do take a moment to have a read and return your form to us. **Families who return their form to school will be entered into a prize draw to win £100.** Please return completed forms to the school office by this Friday, 27th September. Paper copies may also be obtained from the office if you are unable to print them off.

Breakfast and After School

We have now changed the format in which you can apply for our extended hours provision. If you would like your child to join our Breakfast or Tea time club, please call the office to request a form to be sent to you via Parentmail. After you have completed the form, Miss Bailey or Miss Hanley will come back to you regarding the spaces via email. Please note, no future bookings will be taken via phone and all requests to alter your existing spaces must be made via email too.

Medical Needs

May we remind you that if your child suffers from asthma, we need to have two asthma pumps in school at all times. Similarly, if your child has an epi-pen or any other medication that needs to be taken on a regular basis (not antibiotics), please could you send that medication into school as soon as possible, clearly marked with your child's name and any instructions. Please note that we are not able to administer any other medication such as antibiotics but you are welcome to come in to school to administer as necessary.

Reception Intake September 2020

Although we have only just returned to school, we are already thinking about our new Reception intake for September 2020. Children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 will need to apply this year between October and 15th January 2020. We have a series of Open Days/Evenings as follows:

Monday 14th October at 10am
Saturday 16th November at 9.30am
Monday 9th December at 6pm
Monday 13th January 2020 at 10am.

Please share with any interested parties.

Parent Workshops

During the course of the year we will be running a series of Parent Workshops on a number of subjects that parents may find useful. The workshop will begin at 3.45 and will last between 30 minutes and an hour. There will be a crèche for your child, should you wish to attend. Workshops start tomorrow and we hope to see you there.

Tuesday 24 th September	Positive Behaviour Strategies
Wednesday 2 nd October	Enjoying Reading Together
Tuesday 8 th October	Toe by Toe (By invitation only)
Tuesday 15 th October	A guide to RML
Wednesday 30 th October	Phonics and Early Reading EYFS
Wednesday 13 th November	SEND (By Invitation only)
Tuesday 19 th November	Cyber Safety
Tuesday 26 th November	EYFS Homework
Tuesday 3 rd December	Homework
Tuesday 10 th December	Christmas Stories
Tuesday 14 th January	Fabulous Phonics
Tuesday 21 st January	Magic Maths
Tuesday 28 th January	Calculation Workshop
Tuesday 4 th February	Free Online Learning
Tuesday 11 th February	Science
Tuesday 3 rd March	Gifted and Talented
Tuesday 10 th March	History Projects
Tuesday 17 th March	Handsome Handwriting
Tuesday 24 rd March	RE Curriculum
Wednesday 7 th April	Sharing Age Related Expectations
Wednesday 28 th April	Computing
Tuesday 12 th May	Writing

Tuesday 19 th May	Developing Your Child's Creativity
Tuesday 2 nd June	SRE Workshop
Tuesday 9 th June	Creative Curriculum
Tuesday 16 th June	SEND (By Invitation only)
Tuesday 23 rd June	Values and Growth Mindset

Diary Dates

Thursday 26 th September	<i>pm – 4 Attlee to visit Forest School at St Saviour's (this was re-arranged from 24th September)</i>
1 st October	<i>am - Individual and sibling photographs 2pm – Attlee Houses to Harvest Service at St Marys Church</i>
2 nd October	<i>2pm – Morris Houses to Harvest Service at St Marys Church (with the exception of 4 Morris who will be going swimming all afternoons in this week)</i>
3 rd October	<i>2pm – Wilson Houses to Harvest Service at St Marys Church</i>
16 th October	<i>3.45pm – 7.00 pm – Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening – details to follow</i>
17 th October	<i>3.45pm – 6.00 pm – Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening – details to follow</i>

Our term dates follow on the last page of this newsletter. Please be aware that the early May Bank Holiday has changed, and has not been particularly well publicised. The Bank Holiday is no longer Monday 2nd May and has been changed to Friday 8th May.

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

General Data Protection Act (GDPR)

The new GDPR is now in force. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing this policy and developing data-related policies and guidelines. Please contact the DPO with any questions about the operation of this policy or the GDPR or if you have any concerns that this policy is not being or has not been followed.

The DPO's contact details are as follows:

Data Protection Officer: Craig Stilwell, **Address:** Judicium Consulting Ltd, 72 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AE
Email: dataservices@judicium

Dates for 2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019

First half (32 days)

INSET – Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd September, and Wednesday 4th

Start –Thursday 5th September

End - Friday 18th October

Half Term: Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2019

Second half (40 days)

Start - Monday 28th October

End – Friday 20th December

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2019 to Friday 3rd January 2020

Spring Term 2020

First half (29 days)

INSET - Monday 6th January 2020

Start – Tuesday 7th January 2020

End – Friday 14th February 2020

Half Term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2020

Second Half (30 days)

Start – Monday 24th February 2020

End – Friday 3d April 2020

Easter Holiday Monday 6th April 2020 to Friday 17th April 2020

Summer Term 2020

First Half (24 days)

Start - Monday 20 April 2020

End Friday 22nd May

Bank Holidays Friday 8th May and Monday 25th May (during half term)

Half Term: Tuesday 26 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020

NB: THE EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY HAS CHANGED FROM MONDAY 4TH TO FRIDAY 8TH MAY

Second Half (35days)

Start – Monday 1st June

Finish Friday 17th July

This calendar gives a total of 195 days. Four Inset Days and one further day made up by staff from Twilight sessions gives 190 school days