



**Weekly
Newsletter
28th January 2019**

Headteacher's News

If your child has school dinners at St Mary's you will know that a new company, Aspens, took over the catering from the old company, Olive, towards the end of the autumn term. The transition from the one company to the other has not been as smooth as we would have liked, but good progress is being made towards a consistently higher level of service. In fairness to Aspens, they were asked to take over sooner than they had been expected to from the old company and so for a short period were using an interim menu and staff that were not going to be the staff that would be with us for the foreseeable future. Having appointed a purely trust-focused operations manager, whose job is based purely on catering at the three trust schools (and nowhere else), service is picking up and heading in a much more positive direction. Two new and experienced cooks have been appointed (where St Mary's has only ever had one) and they will be working in partnership to ensure that standards are high.

Aspens



Aspens have not yet completed the first 3-week menu cycle – they had been using an interim menu last term. Once they have reached the end of the first 3-week cycle (next week), they will have had the opportunity to see what the children like and what they don't like; this will then allow them to respond accordingly, so that the second 3-week cycle remedies any problems encountered with the first one. Having said that, the caterers have taken on board a lot of feedback already from staff and children. I have school dinners every single day and talk to children about whether they like the food, so I am well positioned to monitor the service and whilst *mostly* the service has been good, it certainly has been uneven and this is why I have had regular discussions with the caterers to feedback on what can be done to further improve. The feedback we have had from parents has been very helpful in this respect too. Ms Bailey, senior lunchtime supervisor in the hall, has also been giving constructive feedback every day and this has helped Aspens to better meet our needs. In order to track the quality of the food being served, Ms Bailey is conducting daily questionnaires, and we are also asking the School Council to give the kitchen staff some feedback. In a few weeks, we would like to ask members of the elected Parents' Council to come in at lunchtime to have lunch with the children, so that some parents get a first hand opportunity to sample the food.

One of the things I would like to reassure parents about is the amount of choice that the children have each day – there are three choices for the main meal (which includes a vegetarian option that anyone can take and which is not limited to vegetarians); this is to ensure that the children have something that they like, so that they are not failing to eat anything. Ms Bailey and her team are very good at spotting any individuals who are not eating enough and these children are monitored closely to make sure that they eat something. Sometimes we monitor children's eating habits as a response to parents asking us to check on a particular child, and we are very happy to do this. Portion sizes are chosen carefully so that there is not too much waste, and if children want more they can ask for it, and *do* receive it. The caterers have to comply with various regulations and guidelines, including the amount of salt in the food, and we ensure that they do so in order that the children are eating healthily. The new team, and in some cases some new equipment, is helping to address issues that have arisen in recent times and I continue to check on a daily basis that progress is being made to provide a service that is value for money for all concerned.

Whole school attendance and punctuality

Whole school attendance target - **96.6%**
Last week we achieved 96.5% Fantastic work!

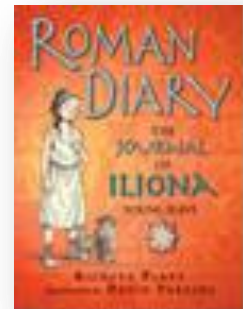


Attendance and punctuality winner

Congratulations to Year 5 Atlee who had 100% attendance last week!
Runners up with 99% was 1 Wilson and 1 Atlee. Keep up the good work!
Well-done to 2 Wilson who had no late marks!

Class Corner – Year 3

In Year 3 we have been learning about the Romans! We have recently been on a trip to the **Vestry House museum** where the children were immersed in Roman life; they learnt about daily activities in Rome, spoke to a “real” Roman soldier and even got to see some amazing artefacts. The children had an amazing time and this has even inspired them to create their own Roman armour which has been very impressive.



We are also reading a new book: **Roman Diary**, the journal of Iliona by Richard Platt. This book tells the story of a young Greek slave, Iliona, and her journey to ancient Rome. We plan to continue our exciting exploration into the lives of the Romans to discover even more as the term progresses.

School Council Cake Sale

You'll probably know that the school council members held a cake sale to raise money for their chosen charities on Friday 18th January. The children worked amazingly hard to prepare and set up, and used their salesperson skills to sell cakes donated by teachers and parents. Due to this they managed to raise a **whopping £275** which I am sure you will agree is a huge amount for a cake sale! We would like to thank all parents and teachers for supplying us with various cakes and treats and for spending their hard-earned money as without their support, our event could not have happened. I look forward to further support with our future charity events.



The charities that the **House Captains** have decided to raise money for are as follows;

Attlee – Cancer Research UK

Morris – UNICEF

Wilson – World Aid

Assemblies

Parents are welcome to join us for our Monday and Friday assemblies – Friday is followed by a coffee morning. We are splitting assemblies – **Morris and Wilson** are in the gym (parents should enter via the playground) on Fridays, and **Attlee** 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 as well. Dates will be published in our date's section.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to this week's Stars of the Week. Awards will be handed out at Friday's assembly.

Y1A - Evie-Jean

Y1M- Parise

Y1W- Toby

Y2A- Hector

Y2M-Amy

Y2W- Dulcie

Y3A- Flynn

Y3M-Whole Class!

Y3W- Esther

Y4A -Mya

Y4M-London

Y4W- Kaylee

Y5A-Sophia

Y5M-Kieron

Y5W- Ecehavi

Y6A-Alina

Y6M-Luke P

Y6W- Akinlolu



Notice Board

Art Exhibitions

We are proud to exhibit some of our up-and-coming Picasso's and Rembrandt's!

Please come and see some of the wonderful art work displayed in our Exhibition.

Friday 15th February - After school in the Gym.



Parents' Prayer Club

It was good to see some of you at our Parents' Prayer Club this last Thursday. Parent Prayer Club happens every other Thursday so our next meeting will be this Thursday the 31st January 2019. Meet at the school office at 9.05. We aim to finish by 9.25am.

Change to How We Send Out Trip Letters

In an effort to decrease the amount of paper we use in the school, we will be trialling an electronic trip letter.

The trip will appear on **Parentpay**, along with information and price.

There will be a prompt to say that you consent to your child going on the trip and also a prompt for you to pay.

If you do not have access to Parentpay or a computer, please let us know and we can still print you out a form.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair is making its way to St. Marys! It's time to start saving up some pocket money to buy a new book or stationary!

The book fair will be running from Thursday 28th of Feb until Thursday 7th April.

TT Rock Stars

Next week, we will tell you all about TT Rock Stars – an online maths program. The program is great fun and aimed at improving children's time-table knowledge. Over a hundred children have chosen to go on TT Rockstars in recent days from various year groups (we can check this!) and it is great that it is proving so popular. This is a program that children can go on if they want to and is not to be confused with maths homework which is set in the normal way and with the same online program that we have been using all year.

Diary Dates

Dates for your diary will appear in the newsletter each week. Please keep an eye out for events relevant to you.

<i>Tuesday 15th January 2019</i>	<i>Year 3 Atlee and Morris trip to Vestry House</i>
<i>Wednesday 16th January 2019</i>	<i>Year 3 Wilson trip to Vestry House</i>
<i>Thursday 17th January 2019</i>	<i>Year 4 Attlee Class Assembly</i>
<i>Thursday 24th January 2019</i>	<i>Year 3 Morris Class Assembly</i>
<i>Thursday 31st January 2019</i>	<i>Year 1 Morris Class Assembly</i>
<i>Thursday 7th February 2019</i>	<i>Year 5 Attlee Class Assembly</i>
<i>Friday 15th February 2019</i>	<i>Year 3 Hindu Temple Trip</i>
<i>Friday 15th February 2019</i>	<i>Student art exhibition opens</i>
<i>Thursday 28th February 2019</i>	<i>Scholastic book fair arrives</i>

General Data Protection Act (GDPR)

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

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