



Weekly Newsletter 15th October 2018

Headteacher's News

In the last couple of days our three Y3 classes have taken centre stage at our **Harvest Festival** celebration at St Mary's church, entertaining everyone with their drama- and music-enhanced performance, and reminding all in attendance of the key messages and values of this important event in the Christian calendar. It was lovely to see so many parents in attendance, making the services real whole community events. Thank you very much to those that were able to donate some food of one kind or another – I am told that the collection (see picture on the right) is much bigger than we have collected in the past, and it serves as a very good visual representation of how compassionate and caring our school community is. The recipients of the donations will be the *'Christian Kitchen'* who cook hot meals every night of the year in Walthamstow Market, and *Mill Grove Children's Home*.



On another topic, a couple of parents have recently spoken to me about **Pupil Premium** funding; this was very timely as we have just finished accounting for the 2017-18 funding we received to improve outcomes for pupils from families who qualify for the Pupil Premium. In total we receive a ring-fenced £100,000 each year to target resources at Pupil Premium children in order to support their academic and all-round development. Often this will take the form of very specific interventions, trips or events taking place to support the Pupil Premium pupils' progress, but just as often the funds will be used to create much broader, highly fertile conditions for learning at St Mary's so that there are clear and measurable benefits for the Pupil Premium pupils and very good *indirect* benefits for everyone else; an example of this would be the use of Pupil Premium funds to reduce class sizes when we stream pupils in the mornings – everyone benefits. We are required to demonstrate the impact of our very large Pupil Premium funding and can show the vast gap between Pupil Premium pupils' attainment at St Mary's compared to how Pupil Premium pupils typically attain nationally. Non-Pupil Premium pupils do excellently as well, for a number of reasons, including benefiting from the indirect effects of the school's Pupil Premium expenditure without which a number of school-wide resources or strategies might not be viable.

A pupil that receives Pupil Premium funding is a pupil whose family has been in receipt of Free School Meals at any point, however briefly, between Year Rec and 6. This method of identifying pupils who are economically disadvantaged is a rather clumsy one in some respects but it is probably better than alternative measurements that have sometimes been proposed. Because school meals are given freely in Year Rec, 1 and 2 at the moment, parents tend not to fill out the form to receive 'free' school meals until their child enters the juniors (where meals are no longer free), but I would urge any YRec, Y1 and Y2 parents who suspect they might qualify to complete the free school meals form because each child that is subsequently categorised as qualifying for Pupil Premium makes a big difference to the schools' finances. It may seem odd to complete a form requesting free school meals when they are free already in the infants, but that is the way the system works! A further letter will be issued to YRec-2 parents very soon with more explicit information about how you qualify and what you need to do to qualify – in a nutshell, if

only 6 or 7 infant parents from our 270 infant parents completed the form we would have in excess of £10,000 extra in the kitty.

Finally, on Friday last week while enjoying the unusually warm weather and cloudless sky, I conducted a quick survey of some Y1 and Y2 jumpers left on the bench while the children played in the Sports Park. Of the 25 or so jumpers (it was a warm day as I said!) that I perused, around 50% of them had both first-name *and* surname; about 30% had a first-name only; and about 20% had no name at all. Of all the jumpers, only about 3 out of the 25 had a class name written on them. What I would like to do is get some of our ever-eager-to-do-jobs-Year 6s to regularly return lost property to classes as we know how very frustrating it is for parents when expensive uniform items regularly go astray. In order for this to be done it is going to be necessary for the child's *whole name* to be written (as some first-names are very popular) and the *class name* to be written too – if this is done routinely, then redistributing the lost property will be a quick and easy job for our Y6 monitors. Lots of children have very nice labels sewn in their clothing, but where these labels are used, please also write in the class name – it might not enhance the look but it will help us if it goes missing! Thank you for your help with all of this.

Parent Consultation Meetings

This message was sent separately to parents earlier today, but in case any parents missed it...

There was an error in dates with the Parent Consultation evenings in the last newsletter. They will take place on Wednesday 7th from 3.40pm to 6pm and again on Thursday 8th November from 3.40pm to 7pm. We are trialling a new method of booking your appointment. Please log on to your Parentmail account and select "Events". You will see the two evenings listed – find the name of your child's class teacher and select your slot. If you have more than one child at the school, both teachers should be listed and you can choose an appointment for each teacher. Bear in mind that it is probably best not to book two consecutive appointments if that is the case – e.g. not 3.40 and 3.50 – 3.40 and 4pm would be better to allow for any slight over-run, and for you to move from one teacher to the other. Once a slot is allocated, it is no longer visible as "available". If, for any reason, you cannot book on line, please do come to the school office. Slots will be available to book from 9am this morning.

Year 6 Trip

On Monday, a few of the Y6 children visited Oxford University; a trip they thoroughly enjoyed. Throughout the day, they generated their own 'big questions' and used those questions as a focus for a group debate. The children enjoyed a tour around the different college grounds; learned about the history of the university; got to visit one of the university libraries and were given the opportunity to explore the architecture of the awe-inspiring buildings. Oxford University certainly raised the children's horizons and encouraged them to aspire to achieve great things in the future, so that maybe they too could one day attend the famous institution.



Photographs

Your child should have brought home a proof of their school photograph yesterday. Please place your order as soon as possible, but definitely by 31st October. There is an option to order on line if you wish to do so and photos can be delivered to school or to your home address.

Contact Information

May we remind parents that it is your responsibility to ensure we are kept up to date with any changes in your own personal details – home address, relevant phone numbers and e-mails etc. It is so important that we have correct details in case we need to contact you at any point.

School Day Reminders

Chestnut Avenue North and South entrances are for Children from Years 1 to 6. The entrance in Brooke Road is for Reception children only. 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.

PFA News

The PFA met for the first time a few weeks' ago to welcome new members and begin to plan the year ahead. We were super excited to see so many new and old faces join us for a welcome drink. There's lots of brilliant enthusiasm to continue to support our children and the school this year. For example, Carmel King co-ordinated a book amnesty last week to ask parents to bring in chapter books. This was not to provide a book supply for the school; it's simply an ask to parents that if they have any unused chapter books, to bring them in; thanks to everyone that has bought in books and the parents that have been really supportive of this initiative.

We've also settled on a date for the **Christmas Fair; Saturday 1st December** from midday. Please save the date. We'll be holding our **second PFA meeting this Thursday evening (18th October)** from 8pm at Fiona James's house to organise the Christmas Fair - all welcome! Please let Fi Barrett or Fiona James know if you can make it at least 24 hours in advance, and we'll send address details (feefbarrett@hotmail.com and fi.james2100@outlook.com). Thanks all!

Fiona Barrett & Fiona James (PFA Co-Chairs)

Class Corner – Y4-Attlee

In Year 4-Attlee we have been doing amazing work in the afternoons. We have been working hard as geographers, scientists, theologians and swimmers.

In Topic, we looked at the British coastline to identify key features and how these were formed. The key concept we have been learning about has been 'erosion', which is the process by which coastal features are formed via the impact of the weather – the picture on the right illustrates this.



During our science lessons, we have been investigating sound. We had a really fun experiment measuring the loudness of different musical instruments (in decibels) and making our own musical shakers using different materials in Pringle tubes.

The story of Creation has been our focus for R.E. this half-term. We have had fantastic discussions on Friday afternoons and I am really impressed with the respect 4-Attlee have for others with different beliefs and opinions.

Lastly, every single child in 4 Attlee has made exponential progress with their swimming. We went every day for the first two weeks of term and had an amazing time, got fitter and improved what is a highly valuable life skill.

Mr Sands and Y4-Attlee

Local Police Drop-in Sessions

Our local community police officers have contacted us regarding a series of drop-in sessions to discuss any problems or issues you may have. Officers from the **Safer Neighbourhood Teams** will be holding 1 hour contact sessions on the following days. If you want to report a problem or simply have a chat, go along and speak to them.

16th October 1pm – Walthamstow Village square, Orford Rd E17

26th October 3pm – YMCA café, Forest road E17

Whole School Attendance and Punctuality

The whole school attendance target is **96.5%**. Each week we will advise you of the percentage we achieved. Last week, we achieved **97.2%** which exceeds our target figure. There were 56 late marks across the school, which we hope will improve after the half term break.

Attendance and Punctuality Winner

Well done to **4W** who had the best attendance figures for last week, with a perfect 100%.

Punctuality is very important, not only for school, but in life generally. Children who are regularly late for school miss vital morning information and a late start often sets the tone for the day. We will also let you know each week the class achieving the best punctuality. Well done to **Reception Wilson, 1 Attlee and 4 Wilson** who all had perfect punctuality. Well done everyone. Keep it up!

Assemblies

Parents are welcome to join us for our Monday and Friday assemblies – Friday is followed by a coffee morning. We will be splitting assemblies – **Morris and Wilson** will be 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 too. Dates will be published in our date's section.

Stars of the Week

Our first Stars of this academic year were presented in assembly on Friday. Well done to the following:

Y1A- Ted	Y1M- Remi	Y1W- Thea H
Y2A- Evan	Y2M- Zuzanna	Y2W- Elsie
Y3A- Malina	Y3M- Sonny M	Y3W- Amanda
Y4A- Mya	Y4M- Summer	Y4W- Raphael
Y5A- Cruz	Y5M- Mariam	Y5W- Tishauna
Y6A- Rafael B	Y6M- Cameron	Y6W- Joshua

School Lunches

Just a quick reminder, school meals are now £2.20 per day, which is £11.00 per week. For those parents who prefer to pay half termly, the cost of dinner money for this half term will be £72.60 - or for the full term, until Christmas, will be £158.40. Payment may be made on ParentPay at any time and accounts should be kept in credit at all times.

If your child has packed lunch, please remember that we are a healthy school and packed lunches should not include cakes, sweets, biscuits. No glass bottles or fizzy drinks either please. Thank you.

Diary Dates

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

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

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: 07759 978 824

Nursery: stmarysnursery.net

Church: www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk

Monday 15 th October	9.30 – Morris Houses in Church for Harvest Festival 1.30 – Attlee Houses in Church for Harvest Festival 6pm – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS
Tuesday 16 th October	9.30 – Wilson Houses in Church for Harvest Festival
Thursday 18 th October	Last Day of School- School finishes at 3.30pm 8pm - PFA Meeting – See info above
Friday 19 th October	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 29 th October	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL Y4 Wilson 2 Week Swimming Sessions
Wednesday 7 th November	Parent Consultation Evening – details to follow
Thursday 8 th November	Parent Consultation Evening – details to follow
Saturday 17 th November	9.30am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS
Monday 10 th December	10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS
Monday 7 th January 2019	10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS

St Mary's Term Dates 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

First Half (32 Days)

INSET – Monday 3rd September, Tuesday 4th September 2018

Start – Wednesday 5th September 2018

End – Thursday 18th October 2018

INSET – Friday 19th October 2018

Half Term: Monday 22nd October 2018 - Friday 26th October 2018

Second Half (39 Days)

Start – Monday 29th October 2018

End – Thursday 20th December 2018

Holidays: Friday 21st December 2018 to Friday 4th January 2018

Spring Term 2019

First Half (29 Days)

INSET – Monday 7th January 2019

Start – Tuesday 8th January 2019

End - Friday 15th February 2019

Half Term: Monday 18th February 2019 – Friday 22nd February 2019

Second Half (30 Days)

Start - Monday 25th February 2019

End – Friday 5th April 2019

Holidays: Monday 8th April to Monday 22nd April 2019

Summer Term 2019

First Half (23 Days)

Start – Tuesday 23rd April 2019

End - Friday 24th May 2019

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2019 - Friday 31st May 2019

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2019

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 27th May 2019 (during Half Term)

Second Half (37 Days)

Start - Monday 3rd June 2019

End – Tuesday 23rd July 2019