



Weekly Newsletter

31st October 2018

Headteacher's News

I hope that you had a good half-term with your child(ren) after what was a busy first term of the year. This half-term is always an eventful one too, especially as the approach to Christmas is upon us. **Year 3's performances** at St Mary's church rounded off the last half-term beautifully – they set a high standard for the next yeargroups to follow in the other seasonal events, though I am sure the infants will rise to the occasion with their much anticipated nativity in December.

Next week **parent/teacher conferences** take place and I'd urge any parents who've not made an appointment yet to do so. For the first time, we have used an electronic appointment system and it appears to have worked well. There ought to be a few free spots still available for those that need one.

In recent weeks we've held a series of **prospective parent open days**, mainly for parents considering which school they'd like their children to attend in the Reception class intake for Sep '19. We have more dates coming up on Saturday 17th November, Monday 10th December and Monday 7th January, so if you have another child due to start school in Reception in September, or if you know someone that does, these are dates to make a note of. Parents on visits so far have been particularly enthusiastic about the playground developments, which are proving to be quite a draw! On the subject of the **playground**, at the end of the school day a senior leader is responsible for making sure the playground is clear so that the gates can be locked, at which point the senior leader can then turn their mind to the various other things that require attention across the school - so please do leave the premises with your child (ren) fairly swiftly on pick-up if you are at all able to. Thank you. If you need more time to talk to the teacher then it's best to do that inside the building and to leave through the main office entrance. Our new playground has many attractions, but with cold weather due in the next few months I expect no-one will need very much encouragement to pass through the gate and get home!

A few parents and children have spoken to me about the **library bus** recently. The position at the moment is unchanged from before in that we'd still like one. The delay however is funding-related; we have a growing, but still *relatively* small fund for the project and when we have enough to make it work we'll take things forward. The library bus project has therefore become more of a medium/long term project now.

Matt O'Brien, Headteacher

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation evenings are taking place on Wednesday 7th from 3.40pm to 6pm and again on Thursday 8th November from 3.40pm to 7pm. As mentioned above, 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. If you have any problems with booking an appointment, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

Photographs

Your child will have brought home a proof of their school photograph before half-term. Please place your order **by the end of today**, as explained in the letter that was with the proof. 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.

Class Corner – Y4-Wilson

During our first half term together, Year 4 Wilson has explored the science of sound by creating musical shakers and string telephones using different materials. We have also learnt about the geography of coastlines and created our own paintings of coastlines, inspired by Matisse. Our class have loved reading 'The 13-Storey Treehouse' by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton. It is a must-read book, which combines comedy, mischief and adventure. This week, we are starting our swimming lessons at the Feel Good Centre. We can't wait to dive in!



Ms Bham and Y4-Wilson

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

Please see the PFA newsletter sent out today.

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 **96.42%** which is just under our target figure. There were 29 late marks across the school, which we hope will improve this term break.

Attendance and Punctuality Winner

To encourage good attendance, each week we present an attendance certificate to the class with the highest attendance for that week.

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 **Year 1 Morris and Y3 Wilson** who all had perfect attendance and 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, and will begin to run in the spring term. Dates will be published in our date's section.

Stars of the Week

Each week, class teachers nominate their Star of the Week. Nominees will be reported here.

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

<i>Friday 2nd November</i>	<i>Year 1 Trip to Gilwell Park</i>
<i>Wednesday 7th November</i>	<i>Parent Consultation Evening – details to follow</i>
<i>Thursday 8th November</i>	<i>Parent Consultation Evening – details to follow</i>
<i>Saturday 17th November</i>	<i>9.30am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS</i>
<i>Friday 23rd November</i>	<i>Y5M Trip to Vestry House</i>
<i>Friday 30th November</i>	<i>Y5W and Y5A Trip to Vestry House</i>
<i>Monday 10th December</i>	<i>10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS</i>
<i>Tuesday 11th December</i>	<i>Y6A and Y6M Trip to Vestry House</i>
<i>Monday 7th January 2019</i>	<i>10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS</i>

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