



Weekly Newsletter

7th October 2019

Next week from Monday onwards we will be having a **'Soft Start'** at the beginning of the day. Our two other schools in the trust have been starting the day like this for a number of months and have found it to have many benefits. With the Soft Start, at 8.40am, 15 minutes earlier than the official start to the day at 8.55am, children will be able to enter the building and head to their classroom under the supervision of various staff carefully positioned in corridors and staircases. Parents leave the premises once their child has entered the building, and the same rule about parents never being in the building unattended by an adult remains. Whilst the children are heading along corridors, their class teachers will be in classrooms waiting for them and as soon as the children enter the room (once they've greeted the teacher and each other), they'll settle down to some activity while music plays softly in the background. Instead of having the children lining up formally at the start of each day they will be doing something productive prior to the register being taken and having a more relaxed start - no congested lining up and no long lines in corridors on the way to class/assembly! The few minutes spent each morning prior to the registration being taken from 8.55am onwards will prove valuable over time as children practice key skills in what will be a calm, welcoming atmosphere.

In terms of parent/teacher communication in the mornings, we have always encouraged dialogue to take place after the school day has ended as there is more time to devote to it at that time of the day, and this approach will not change. Should a parent wish to send an urgent message to the teacher in the morning, this will be done through the main office using the communication book and box. Messages and any items (forgotten lunch boxes/PE kit etc) are sent around to class teachers from this box at two times of the day, as explained in a previous school newsletter in September.

Y1-3 children coming in for the Soft Start will enter the building through the blue door beside Y1Attlee (to the right of the gym) and **Y4-6** will enter through the gym door. In both cases, the children will then walk to their classes along the same route each day, supervised by smiling adults as they proceed through the school. Any children arriving at 8.55am, still our official start time, will walk to class in the same way through the same Soft Start entrances, as described above. Formal registration takes place at 8.55am, so any child not arriving until that time won't be marked in as 'late'.

The Soft Start is a trial that will be evaluated after a period of time to see how beneficial it proves. We hope that it will add a warm and more enjoyable start to the day for the children and look forward to its launch on Monday.

Matt O'Brien
Headteacher

School Photos

Apologies for the cancellation of our individual photos last week. We have now re-booked, and the photographers will be returning on 7th November. We are unable to take pictures with younger or older siblings who do not attend St Marys.

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%. Last week we achieved 96.7% and since September, attendance has been 96.9%.

Attendance and Punctuality Winner

Well done to 1 Attlee who had a perfect 100% attendance last week, for the second week running. Well done! They were joined by 4 Attlee who also achieved 100% attendance. Punctuality was particularly good last week with only 28 late marks across the school. Well done in particular to Reception Attlee, 2Wilson, 3Attlee, 4Wilson, 6Attlee and 6Wilson who had a perfect 100% punctuality record.

Stars of the Week

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

1 Attlee	Frida	4 Attlee	Alana
1 Morris	Darrell	4 Morris	Zion
1 Wilson	Albert	4 Wilson	Amanda
2 Attlee	Ava	5 Attlee	Zachary
2 Morris	Edith	5 Morris	Erin
2 Wilson	Arlie	5 Wilson	Minnie
3 Attlee	Chloe	6 Attlee	Olivia
3 Morris	Toby	6 Morris	Emilija
3 Wilson	Emma	6 Wilson	Zakiyyah

Reception Intake September 2020

Children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 will need to apply this year between October and 15th January 2020 for admission in September 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.

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 £70.40 - 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.

PFA Welcome Event

New Reception parents and other Y1-6 newcomers to St Mary's are welcome to come and join our PFA at their welcome event on Friday at the Made in Portugal Café on Shernhall Street. Please drop in any time between 3.30 and 6.30. Light refreshments and complimentary bouncy castle available. See you there!

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 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
Tuesday 28 th April	Sharing Age Related Expectations
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

<i>Monday 7th October</i>	<i>4W Start swimming – Daily until Friday 18th</i>
<i>Friday 11th October</i>	<i>6A and 6M to Imperial War Museum 3.30 to 6.30 – PFA Welcome Event at 'Made in Portugal' Cafe</i>
<i>Monday 14th October</i>	<i>10am – Prospective Parent Meeting</i>
<i>Wednesday 16th October</i>	<i>Year 5 to William Morris Gallery 3.45pm – 7.00 pm – Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening – details to follow</i>
<i>Thursday 17th October</i>	<i>3.45pm – 6.00 pm – Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening – details to follow</i>
<i>Friday 18th October</i>	<i>6W to Imperial War Museum School closes for half term break (usual time)</i>
<i>Monday 28th October</i>	<i>Return to School</i>
<i>Thursday 7th November</i>	<i>School Photographs – Individuals and siblings</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 4th 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