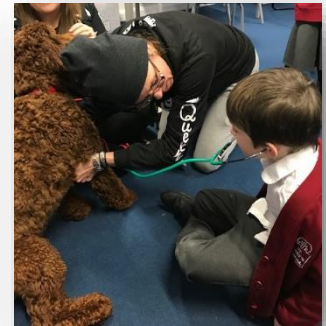
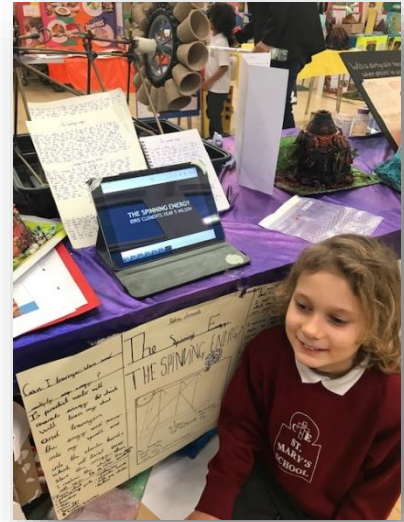




Newsletter
7th February
2020



Headteacher's News

The **new catering company** has made a good start this week with the quality of food so far a step up on what we experienced before. With all new enterprises there are going to be some initial teething problems and we have been working on one or two of those this week. The children are getting used to arriving at the food hatch and being reminded of what they and their parents decided they would have when they went online, and the service is getting quicker as the children and staff get used to this new system. Soon, when we get permission from parents for photos to be on the system, the children will be able to click on their picture on a touchscreen as they queue and this will tell them what they have ordered, which I think will be popular. The advantages of children and parents ordering meals online is that then virtually no food is wasted in the kitchen as there is no guessing about how children will choose on the day, and also it gives parents a lot more control over what their children eat – for example, it was noticeable how many children were eating green vegetables earlier this week instead of baked beans! Almost all of the parents have now successfully logged on and selected what food they want their children to have each day, so that they do not get given the default meal of baked potato with extras.

We have had some wonderful **events** in recent times and I'd like to thank parents for attending in such huge numbers. The **Science Symposium** and **Y6 Fashion Show** were both highly memorable and in case you could not make it along, some pictures are included in this edition to give a flavour of what went on.

As you were informed earlier this week, we are very lucky at St Mary's to have the excellent **Mrs Jenni Matthews** becoming the new Headteacher in June. In the meantime, I will be working very closely with Mrs Matthews to enable a very smooth transition. Just before Christmas, I let parents know that I would be leaving St Mary's at the end of May, and I am very pleased that we have secured such a wonderful successor to ensure the continued success of the school.

Mr O'Brien, Headteacher

Quiz Night - 7th March

You are invited to a **quiz night** with fish & chip supper on Sat 7 March, 6-9pm, at Frederick Bremer School, Siddeley Rd, E17 4EY. Tickets are £10 per person, including fish & chips, sausage & chips or veggie sausage & chips. Teams of a maximum of 8 people. Licensed bar plus and raffle with prizes including a Butlins holiday for 4 and tickets for Elton John or Queen & Adam Lambert at the O2. This fundraiser is to support 7 teenagers from **St Mary's Church youth group**, all ex-St Mary's pupils, going to Mexico to build a house for a family in poverty this summer. Contact Jen Powell (parent of Beth in 5W) at jenlockley@yahoo.co.uk for more info or to buy tickets.

Science Symposium

The first ever St Mary's Science Symposium was a tremendous success. This achievement could not have been possible without the massive involvement of the community and mobilization of our talented, scientific-minded children, who worked tirelessly and admirably on their projects. It is the support of the whole community that leads to a successful event like this, which can change the lives of our pupils.

First of all, we would like to thank our sponsors this year: **Empiri Box**. They supply our school with cutting edge, state of the art science resources. Their support helped us organise the symposium and to further inspire our children's naturally inquisitive minds to dream big.



Next, we have to thank our incredibly hard-working staff, who diligently and professionally collaborated to make it all possible. We hope that they have helped to encourage a lifelong interest in science and engineering.

Parents of girls, in particular, might want to note that 11th February is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (which a parent attending the symposium recently let us know about). We do everything we can to fight stereotypes and it was great to see all the boys and girls so engaged in scientific activity – we hope this interest continues long into the future and helps guide many of them towards careers where scientific knowledge and understanding is crucial.

Thanks very much to Tina Leake, a parent and veterinary doctor, and Theo, another parent, for their time and their excellent contribution to the event. A shout out to the PFA too for keeping us all refreshed throughout!

Ms Neehar & Mr Silva, Science Symposium organisers



Year 6 Fashion Show!

Last week our Y6s showed off some of their design technology products in a fantastic fashion show. As you can see from the pictures, the children made some wonderful creations and enjoyed walking down the red carpet. Thanks to **Theo**, once again, for all the help with the various technology used on the day (he is pictured below next to Mrs Nehaar).



500 Words Writing Competition

We are encouraging all of our fabulous writers at St Mary's to get creative and write a story up to 500 words! It is the 10th year of the BBC's 500 words competition and we want to dazzle the judges with the fantastic writers we have at our school. There are very exciting prizes, such as visiting Buckingham Palace, having your story illustrated and winning books for yourself and our school.

We are looking for exciting, creative and original stories up to the limit of 500 words. It can be about ANYTHING you want – space-ships, grannies, insects, time travel. The list is endless!

If you wish to submit a story, this can be done by emailing the finished piece to st-marys-school@genesistrust.net by creating a 'submitter account' on the BBC's 500 words website.

All entries must be received by Monday 24th February to the email above so that they can be submitted to the BBC.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

Class Corner – Reception Wilson

Reception Wilson are having a busy week! We have been building beanstalks and planting seeds and beans! The children have loved working collaboratively to build beanstalks using a range of materials, explaining why they have chosen those materials. They have loved planting beans and seeds in our mini garden. We also had a trip to the garden centre and learnt how to care for the beans we planted.

In their maths learning, the children have been thoroughly enjoying learning about subtraction and measuring height using non-standard measures, using new wow words such as the tallest and the shortest to measure and compare height. Well done Reception Wilson!



Annual GDPR Forms

Thank you to all those parents who completed the **annual GDPR form** and returned them back to school. If you are yet to complete the form, you will be requested to very soon so that we are clear about every parent's wishes regarding information held on them and their child. If you require another copy of this form, you are able to collect these from the school office.

Stars of the Week



Well done to the following pupils who were presented with their Star of the Week award in assembly last Friday:

1 Attlee	Erik	1 Morris	Isaiah	1 Wilson	Darcey
2 Attlee	Anaeya-Lee	2 Morris	Hollie	2 Wilson	Anabelle
3 Attlee	Freya	3 Morris	Jessica	3 Wilson	Kit
4 Attlee	Angelo	4 Morris	Joseph	4 Wilson	Rayyan
5 Attlee	Ada	5 Morris	Zakariya	5 Wilson	Farrah
6 Attlee	Marc	6 Morris	Izabella	6 Wilson	Milo

Congratulations everyone!

Finance Matters

Please could we ask that you take a look at your ParentPay account and pay any outstanding balances. School Lunches are now ordered and paid for directly with The Pantry.

Parental Communication

We have just recently started to utilise a text messaging service, and will use it to send out any head-bump or general messages to the school community. Messages are limited to 160 characters so may often be short and sweet! You will still continue to receive messages, letters, newsletters via ParentMail. Please remember that it is very important that you keep us updated as to changes in phone numbers and email addresses etc.

Whole School Attendance

The whole school attendance target is 96.08% and last week we were unfortunately below that target at 95.6%. Well done to Year 3 Wilson who had 100% attendance. No classes had perfect punctuality last week, but Year 3 Wilson and Reception Wilson had the best punctuality record with just one late mark each.

Coffee Mornings on Mondays at 8.40am

Parents are invited to join together and meet for a coffee every Monday, starting at 8.40am and ending at 9.00am. If you would like to join us, coffee will be served in the gym. Some parents may then like to stay at 9.00am to watch the Y1-3 gym assembly or Y4-6 hall one, both of which end at 9.25am. Only one parent attended this morning. Parents have asked for an opportunity to meet so we would love a few more of you to join us.

Friday Assembly

This term, Attlee Houses will have their Friday assembly in the school hall and Wilson and Morris Houses will be in the gym. This is a change to the arrangement for last term.

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.

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

Dates for your Diary

10 th February	9.30am – Morris House to Church for Candlemas Service 2pm – Attlee House to Church for Candlemas Service Class 2 Wilson Trip to Sutton House (Details to follow)
11 th February	9.30am – Wilson House to Church for Candlemas Service Class 2 Attlee Trip to Sutton House (Details to follow)
12 th February	Class 2 Morris Trip to Sutton House (Details to follow)
13 th February	4 Wilson Class Assembly @ 9am
Friday 14 th February	School Closes for Half Term break – usual finish time – <u>not 2pm</u>

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

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 3rd 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.