



Weekly Newsletter

6th November 2018

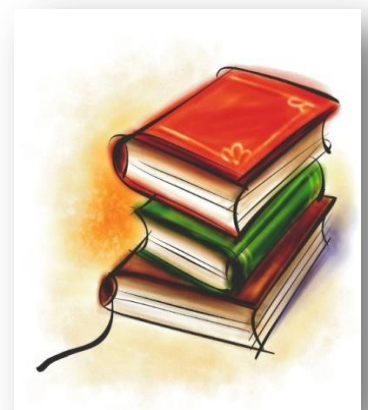
Headteacher's News

On Tuesday last week, St Mary's was honoured to be invited to represent schools in Waltham Forest at a launch event for the **2019 London Borough of Culture** (which is of course, Walthamstow!). While the grown-ups (including local and national press, TV and radio) were being given information about some of the wonderful events which will be happening in Waltham Forest from January next year, St Mary's **art ambassadors** took part in a creative workshop, as you can see in the pictures above. They listened to how local author and illustrator Benji Davies, who has a studio on the corner of Brooke and Barret Road, created his latest children's book '*Grandad's Island*'. Next, they created their own versions of Benji's parrots - which Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, and Clare Coghill, leader of Waltham Forest council, much admired. Mr Khan spent over half an hour looking at their work and talking to the children. Our children were also interviewed by BBC Radio London. Well done to Hilal, Mia, Matt, Amanda, Alexandria and Scott from Year 3 and Zack, Coco, Emili, Edie, Lilly and Sharan from Year 4 - you all represented St Mary's extremely well!



This week we have had the first of what will be weekly **whole-class cello lessons** for all pupils in Y3. A specialist tutor will join the school each week to work with our Y3s as part of the Monday morning Y3 PPA carousel. It was very exciting to see the cellos delivered on Friday and it was great to hear the children learning to play them. The lessons, taking place for a term, will serve as a taster so that those who want to pursue the instrument on a more individualised basis in the long-term can do so. In another new development, in Years 3, 4 & 5, each 3 weeks a whole day will be dedicated to a particular subject so that the children immerse themselves in either **science, music or French** – concentrating a chunk of lessons from a particular subject into one day helps to raise the profile of the subject and can lead to fantastic outcomes, and we hope that our junior children enjoy this approach.

As you will possibly already know, most of the children go straight to assembly most mornings and **read quietly** whilst waiting for the assembly to begin. If you took this 6 or 7 minutes of reading each day and added it up for a week, then term, then school year, you would get a total of at least 20 hours of extra reading practice/enjoyment. In order that the children have this time to practice, the classes need to leave the playground quite promptly in the morning, so if you have a message that you need to pass to the teacher please do so as briefly as possible, or alternatively, write them a note and hand it to them. If teachers feel that more time is needed to discuss an issue in the morning, they will ask that they talk to you after school, when time is much



more on our side. In a similar vein, in order to allow smooth transitions in the morning, **please say goodbye to your child in the line** and do not walk with them in the direction of their classroom once the class have begun to move off after the whistle has gone; this is slowing down some children's progress into school in some classes, so do please wave them off from where they line up so that they get their 'school head' on and have a clear distinction between being with their parents and being under the care of their teacher. Thank you.

The final phase of the **playground project** (mostly completed in the summer) is on the verge of being actioned, with the various items currently near the Dr Seuss mural and playground gate awaiting their new home. The new music installation and other items will, I am sure, prove worth waiting for and may well serve as a very nice early Christmas present!

Budgets remain tight at schools in this financial climate and some things that schools have been able to finance in the past are being reviewed and discontinued in some cases. All the St Mary's pupils have often visited the theatre at Christmas for a pantomime, but due to the need to use resources differently at this juncture, we don't plan to make the visit again this year. The cost of sending 600 children by coach to the theatre, and the cost of the tickets, has always been very heavily subsidised by St Mary's and we have decided to use the limited resources we have in other, equally exciting ways to enhance the curriculum all year round; the subsidised year 1 trip last week to the forest at Gilwell park for adventure activities being a good example.

Do please make a note in your diary for **Saturday 1st Dec** when the PFA will be hosting its annual **Christmas Fair**. Just like the summer fete, I am sure that it will be a great success and will contribute further, much needed funds to our wonderful PFA's coffers. Any additional offers of help for the event will always be very well received so do please email feefbarrett@hotmail.com and fi.james2100@outlook.com if you can assist in any way.



Finally, **Mrs Iram Khan** joins us this week as one of our Deputy Headteachers. Mrs Khan is very excited about working at St Mary's and I am sure that everyone, pupils and parents alike, will make her feel very welcome as she takes up her new role.

Mr O'Brien - Headteacher

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation evenings are taking place on this Wednesday the 7th November from 3.40pm to 6pm and again on Thursday 8th November from 3.40pm to 7pm. **If you have not yet booked an appointment**, please follow the instructions below.

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.

Parents' Prayer Club

We would love you to join us starting the day with a reflection and a prayer at our Parents' Prayer Club next Thursday, 15th November. Parent Prayer Club happens every other Thursday. Meet at the school office at 9.05. We aim to finish by 9.25am.

Class Corner – Y4 Morris

Well, what a fantastic first week back after half-term we had! After a very successful first half of the term, we have come back well rested and full of energy! We've all become completely immersed in our new text '*The River's Journey*' which closely links to our rivers topic. We are very much looking forward to our new science topic based on humans and animals. During RE we've started to discuss the main beliefs of Hindus and have been learning all about the many deities they worship, which is absolutely fascinating. Our maths topic has really challenged us as we've been focussing on fractions - we are beginning to add, subtract and compare them. It's been hard work, but who better to do it (and with such enthusiasm) than the one and only 4 Morris! *Mrs Barratt-Horbury and Y4-Morris*

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 **96.29%** which is just under our target figure. There were 39 late marks across the school.

Attendance and Punctuality Winner

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 2 Morris** who had best attendance figures for last week, with a perfect 100%. Well done everyone. Keep it up! Also Well Done to **Reception Wilson, Year 1 Wilson, Year 2 Wilson & Year 6 Wilson** who all had perfect punctuality!

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.

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

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

Y1A- TRIP	Y1M- TRIP	Y1W- TRIP
Y2A- Shaka	Y2M- Shade	Y2W- Hanna
Y3A- Flynn	Y3M- Grace W	Y3W- Sandra
Y4A- Joshua	Y4M- Summer	Y4W- Iris
Y5A- Treyvon	Y5M- Renucci	Y5W- Tishauna
Y6A- Caleb	Y6M- Myla	Y6W- John

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.

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

Diary Dates

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

<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>Friday 16th November</i>	<i>Year 2 Attlee and Morris Trip to Jewish Museum</i>
<i>Friday 16th November</i>	<i>Year 4 River Boat Trip</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 23rd November</i>	<i>Year 2 Wilson Trip to Jewish Museum</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