



Weekly Newsletter

13th November 2018

Headteacher's News

Last week, we let you know about the **Christmas shoebox appeal**. Some parents have asked that we have another Christmas-focused charity opportunity for those that would prefer something different. We will be letting children and parents know what this alternative will be in the coming days; we have had lots of suggestions, and are not short of really good options!

Having worked with Olive Dining for the past 5 months, we have made the decision to end our relationship with the **caterers**. The school will be catered for by **Aspens** from 26th November. Aspens were a very close second during the tendering process earlier in the year; a process which included a panel of children, parents and staff. Aspens are dedicating a Genesis Area Manager to oversee our catering services across the three Genesis Trust schools and to be a direct point of contact for parents. Aspens founding principles are: 'Great tasting food'; 'Prepared using local ingredients'; 'One size does *not* fit all' and 'People before Profit'. We believe that Aspens' inclusive ethos is in line with our own and we look forward to working with them. Menus will soon be sent to parents and shared with the children.



On Friday, Children are welcome to come to school in something spotty or in their pyjamas, so long as they bring in £1.00 for **Children in Need!**

Our **school orchestra** is in full swing at the moment (an apt phrase) as our various musicians prepare for a concert for children and parents at 9am on 11th December. The orchestra will perform two festive pieces on the stage in the main hall and it will be fantastic to hear them play, as well as to see others becoming inspired to perhaps pick up an instrument themselves.

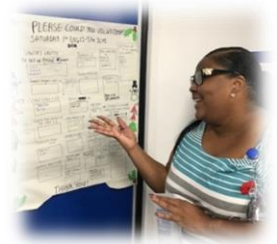


Meanwhile, the **school choir** is also working towards a performance, this time at the O2 where in January they will join with thousands of other school children in the annual Pure Voices concert. The choir will also perform an informal 'pop-up' Christmas Carol concert in the playground at home time near to the end of term. Year 3 enjoyed their first whole class cello lessons last week, whilst other classes continue to learn the recorder together; these are exiting musical times at St Mary's!

This week is **National Anti-Bullying Week** at St Mary's. In assemblies and circle-time sessions in class, we will be discussing strategies for handling potential bullying situations, both as a victim and as a bystander. Behaviour is excellent at St Mary's, but we are keen that it remains so and ensuring the children are equipped to take the right measures if they are being bullied is part of the way in which we hope to maintain those high standards.



Do please make a note in your diary for **Saturday 1st Dec** when the PFA will be hosting its annual **Christmas Fair** from 12-3pm. 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. There is a sign up list on the door by the school office – see picture on the right.



Remembrance

Yesterday, following an assembly led by Reverend Vanessa Conant, the children and staff held a two-minute silence remembering those that have given their lives in service since the end of the First World War, 100 years ago. St Mary's Church kindly gave us some poppy crosses (see photo at the top of the front page) and the children are going to write their reflections on them following what was a very thought-provoking assembly yesterday. The poppy-crosses will be displayed with hundreds of others in the grounds of St Mary's churchyard to honour those that will never be forgotten.

Parent Consultation Meetings

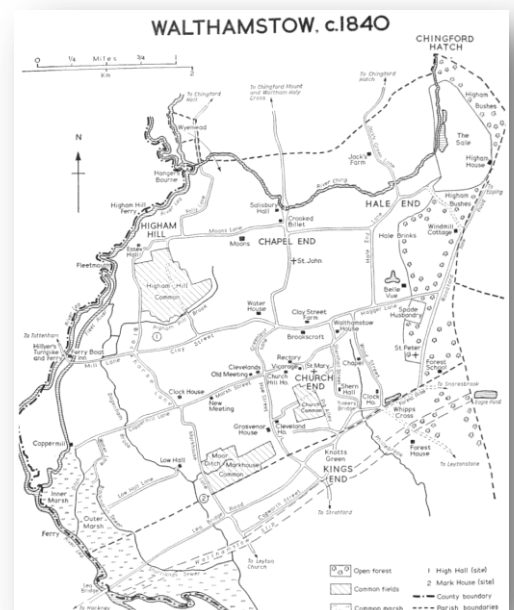
Thank you to all those parents who came along to the parent consultation meetings last week. It was good to see so many of you. If you were not able to attend and need to see your child's class teacher, please make an appointment through the school office.

Parents' Prayer Club

We would love you to join us starting the day with a reflection and a prayer at our Parents' Prayer Club this 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 – 5 Attlee

Y5A had a wonderful first half-term this academic year and have continued their verve into the second half-term, even as the darkness and cold draws ever closer - winter is coming! We are continuing our Science topic of 'Environment, Ecology and Evolution' and are constantly challenged and excited by the variety of experiments and investigations we are conducting. Everyone is excited about our Geography topic – 'My Local Area' - and we have already begun to make comparisons between Walthamstow now and in the nineteenth century. We are particularly looking forward to *actually* exploring the area around St Mary's: making observations and drawing various conclusions from these observations. We observed Remembrance Day reflectively and with great reverence, and the children showed immense respect and maturity when creating a class wreath using poppies with their thanks, thoughts and memories written on it. With such a good start, we can't wait to see what the rest of the half-term holds! *Mr Banks and 5 Attlee*



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 **96.39%** which is just under our target figure, but an improvement on the week before. There were 64 late marks across the school which is higher than we would like. Please make every effort to get your child to school on time. From September until last Friday, the whole school attendance is 97.02 which exceeds our target and there have been 381 late marks.

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 **Reception Wilson and 5 Attlee** who had best attendance figures for last week, with a perfect 100%. Well done everyone. Keep it up! Although punctuality overall was not so good last week, well done to **Reception Wilson, Year 1 Morris, Year 1 Wilson, Year 2 Morris, Year 2 Wilson & Year 3 Morris** 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- Samson	Y1M- Edith	Y1W- Matyas
Y2A- Annabelle H	Y2M- Christos	Y2W- Emma
Y3A- Alexandra	Y3M- Cameron	Y3W- Natasha
Y4A- Malaikah	Y4M- Katerina	Y4W- Krystian
Y5A- Daisy	Y5M- Jude	Y5W- Lindsay
Y6A- Grace	Y6M- Ariana	Y6W- Marni

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

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>Monday 12th November</i>	<i>4.00 – Reception Parents Phonics Workshop</i>
<i>Thursday 15th November</i>	<i>9.05 – Parents Prayer Club</i>
<i>Friday 16th November</i>	<i>Year 2 Attlee and Morris Trip to Jewish Museum 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>Thursday 29th November</i>	<i>9.05 – Parents' Prayer Club</i>
<i>Friday 30th November</i>	<i>Y5W and Y5A Trip to Vestry House</i>
<i>Saturday 1st December</i>	<i>Christmas Fair 12-3pm</i>
<i>Monday 10th December</i>	<i>10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS</i>
<i>Tuesday 11th December</i>	<i>9.05 – Performance by School Orchestra Y6A and Y6M Trip to Vestry House</i>
<i>Thursday 13th December</i>	<i>9.05 – Parents' Prayer Club</i>
<i>Monday 17th December</i>	<i>9.30 – Attlee Houses to Church for Christmas Assembly 2pm – Morris Houses to Church for Christmas Assembly</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th December</i>	<i>9.30 – Wilson Houses to Church for Christmas Assembly</i>
<i>Thursday 20th December</i>	<i>School Closes for Christmas Break at 2pm</i>
<i>Monday 7th January 2019</i>	<i>10am – PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENT VISITS</i>

St Mary's Term Dates 2018-2019

Autumn Term 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