



## Weekly Newsletter

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016



### **Head of School's Message:**

Dear parents and carers,

As I write the final newsletter for the term, it is hard to believe we are already 1/3 through the academic year. At this time of the year, the staff are reflecting on children's progress and thinking forward to their next steps and how they can provide new and exciting ways of learning for 2017. We have had a very successful start to the academic year and this is due to the hard work of the entire staff team and to you – parents and carers – who embrace new initiatives, communicate with us effectively and are committed to building those strong relationships that make us a community.

Yet again, the PFA exemplified this strong sense of community by providing us with another amazing Christmas Fayre, complete with a Santa's grotto that had its own fire place and home-made treats (I bought a jar of pickled onions which I am looking forward to opening over Christmas!). The craft tables in the gym didn't disappoint- our parents and carers showing their creativity and enjoyment of craft! And we must not forget the vast array of beautiful sweet and savoury food on sale- Mr Lemouchi enjoyed some lovely hot chips topped off with a Christmas cup cake for pudding! The silent disco was a fun experience – definitely worth that 50p!

What a joy to see all ages enjoying this special time of the year and to have St Mary's School at the heart of this gathering. Thank you so much to all parents and carers who helped organise or who came along with the children.

Looking forward to next week, we will be finishing school on the Wednesday at 2pm. Please could you ensure that your children are collected on time so that staff can finish up ready for Christmas.

Christmas parties will be held that Wednesday morning. Your child's class teacher will communicate with parents regarding party food. The children can come to school in non-uniform for the day.

Finally, we do hope to see you at church Next Monday or Tuesday. Please come and celebrate the spirit of Christmas and the wonder of the nativity.

Have a pleasant week,

Mrs Rider

### **Parking outside School**

Please could we ask again that you be more considerate when parking around school. It is not acceptable to double-park in Brooke Road, or to park on the zig-zags. Your actions in doing so could endanger the lives of our children.

### **Prayer Group**

Our last Prayer Group meeting for this term will take place next week at 9.05am on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, our last day of term. All Welcome

### **Stars of the Week**

Congratulations to the following children who were nominated as Stars of the week last week:

1A Annabel and Noah  
1M Shreya and Leondre  
1W Lucas and Natasha  
2A Audrey and Malaikah  
2M Scarlett and coco  
2W Idris and Minnie  
3A Erin/Myles/Zavier  
3M Donte and Davinia  
3W Lindsay-Kate and Phoebe  
4A Harry and Simon  
4M Ariana and Elliot  
4W Reiley and Laurie  
5A Damali and Rachel  
5M Shanice and Abdullah  
5W Jeverl and Debra  
6A Chloe and Ruby  
Well done everyone. Keep up the good work.

### **Lunch Menu**

The Waltham Forest lunch menu is now available to view on our website, or by visiting <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/school-meals>. If you are unable to access either, please ask at the school office for a paper copy.

### **After School Club**

Don't forget, as we finish at 2pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, there will be **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB** that day.

## Whole School Attendance

The whole school attendance target is 96.5%. We had a good week last week, and exceeded our target at 97.3%. Well done.

### Attendance Winner

No 100% attendance last week, but well done to 1 Attlee and 4 Attlee who had an almost perfect 99.33%.

### Punctuality Awards

Year 1 are our new punctuality champions with 1 Attlee and 1 Wilson both having everyone here on time every day last week – well done!

Punctuality continues to be on the high side, with 67 late marks across the school. Please could we make a real effort in the last full week of term to really try and get here on time!

### SHINE and Achievement School

SHINE and Achievement School have both now finished for this term.

SHINE re-starts on 7<sup>th</sup> January, and this term will be here at St Mary's.

Year 6 should have received a letter via e-mail regarding Achievement School for next term. Please return your reply slip by this Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you.

Dates for Achievement School for next term are:

<b>Venue for SHINE and ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL at St Mary's Spring term I</b>
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January 7 <sup>th</sup> 2017
January 14 <sup>th</sup> 2017
January 21 <sup>st</sup> 2017
January 28 <sup>th</sup> 2017
February 4 <sup>th</sup> 2017
February 25 <sup>th</sup> 2017
March 4 <sup>th</sup> 2017
March 11 <sup>th</sup> 2017
March 18 <sup>th</sup> 2017 – NB this is a full day for SHINE – 8am to 6pm
March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2017

## Christmas Jumper Day

Don't forget to get ready for our Annual Christmas Jumper Day on 16<sup>th</sup> December, where children can wear a Christmas-themed jumper and give a £1 donation which we will send to Save the Children. We are really looking forward to all your Christmas creations.

### Christmas Food Bank Appeal

Thank you so much for the generosity shown by so many of our families for our Christmas Food Bank Appeal. Our donations box in the reception area is already overflowing and our appeal is not yet a week old. If you have not yet done so, and feel that you are able, all donations would be very gratefully accepted. Our final collection date Wednesday this week, 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### Class Corner

Class 2 Morris have thoroughly enjoyed the second half term of school.

In RE, we have been learning about Judaism in preparation for our trip to the Jewish museum. We have discovered many similarities and differences between Judaism and Christianity. Our favourite part was dressing up when we learnt about the celebrations of Shabbat.

In science, we have been exploring materials. We carried out an experiment to find out which materials were the most suitable to build a tent for our teddy bear. After that, we used our knowledge of waterproof materials and absorbency to design a nappy for a baby.

In topic this term we have been looking at maps. We have explored the geographical features of maps and then created our own 3D maps of Walthamstow. We have also made some beautiful paper angels to decorate the school for Christmas so please keep your eye out for them. We wish you a very Merry Christmas, from 2 Morris. *Miss McCormick and 2 Morris*

### After School Activity Clubs

All our activity clubs finish this Friday and begin again on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January. As explained in the letter sent out last week, the same children will continue until February half-term, due to a later start this term following our flood damage.

## School Admissions

Primary school entry from September 2017 (Reception class) If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 you will need to apply for a primary school place from September 2016. Your child will be due to start in September 2017. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2017.

Prospective parents are very welcome to come along to our Parent Sessions which will include a tour of the school. We have one final date for a visit, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 10am

### Weekly Reflections

#### Our value of the week is:

**TRUTH:** The Greek word for "truth" is *aletheia*, which literally means to "un-hide" or "hiding nothing." It conveys the thought that truth is always there, always open and available for all to see, with nothing being hidden or obscured. The Hebrew word for "truth" is *emeth*, which means "firmness," "constancy" and "duration." This definition implies an everlasting substance and something that can be relied upon.

**John 3:18** *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

### Useful Contacts

Address: Brooke Road, Walthamstow E179HJ

Phone: 020 8521 1066

Website:

[www.stmaryscofe.org](http://www.stmaryscofe.org)

Email: [school@st-marys-coe.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:school@st-marys-coe.waltham.sch.uk)

Teatime Club: 0775 997 8824

Nursery: [stmarysnursery.net](http://stmarysnursery.net)

Church:

[www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk](http://www.walthamstowchurch.org.uk)

## ***Key dates and times for the Autumn Term 2016***

<b><i>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>9.15 – School Nurse drop in session 4pm- Parent Workshop – Christmas Stories</i></b>
<b><i>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>Year 2 visiting the Jewish Museum – Vegetarian Packed Lunch required</i></b>
<b><i>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>Choir to sing at St Mary’s church at 6.30pm</i></b>
<b><i>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>Christmas Jumper Day and School Christmas Lunch</i></b>
<b><i>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>Wilson and Morris Houses to Church for Christmas Service – 9.45AM Reception Morris Parent Consultations</i></b>
<b><i>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>Attlee House to Church for Christmas Service – 9.45AM After School Club end of term party – 4pm Reception Morris Parent Consultations</i></b>
<b><i>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>NON UNIFORM DAY 9.05 – Parent Prayer Group <b>School closes at 2pm for Christmas Holidays</b></i></b>
<b><i>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Children return to school Tea Time Club runs as normal</i></b>
<b><i>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017</i></b>	<b><i>10am – Prospective Reception Parent tour</i></b>
<b><i>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017</i></b>	<b><i>First SHINE and Achievement School of Spring Term at St Mary’s</i></b>
<b><i>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017</i></b>	<b><i>After School Activity Clubs begin again</i></b>

## **St Mary's and St Saviour's Term Dates 2016-2017**

### **Autumn Term 2016**

#### **Second Half Autumn Term (38 Days)**

Start – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016

End - Wednesday 21st December 2016

**Holidays:** Thursday 22nd December 2016 – Monday 2nd January 2017

### **Spring Term 2017**

#### **First Half (29 Days)**

*INSET - Tuesday 3rd January 2017*

Start – Wednesday 4th January 2017

End - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Half Term:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

#### **Second Half (30 Days)**

Start - Monday 20th February 2017

End – Friday 31st March 2017

**Holidays:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Summer Term 2017**

#### **First Half (28 Days)**

Start – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

End - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Half Term:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - Friday 2nd June 2017

**Holidays** May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2017

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017

#### **Second Half (33 Days)**

Start - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017

End -Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017