



Newsletter
2nd March 2020

Headteacher's News

As well as hopefully bringing less rain and more daylight, March brings with it a few **whole school events** that we always host at this time of year. Later this week on **Thursday 5th March** it is **World Book Day** where we invite the children to dress up as a well-known, or perhaps a more obscure, favourite book character. We let parents know about the upcoming special day before half-term so hopefully we will have as many costumes on the day as we usually do, with Harry Potters filling the corridors and Alice in Wonderlands mounting the staircases. Each child will receive the annual £1 book token to reduce the cost of a good read at a local bookshop. Meanwhile on the book front, please note that the **Book Fair** continues each morning and afternoon until Thursday. For each book sold the school gets a percentage of the profits so that we can re-stock some of the class book corners. This book sale takes place in the gym off of the playground.

Next week **Parent Open Week** begins with each year group inviting in their parents to take part in a collaborative lesson in their child's classroom starting at 9am and ending at 10am. Parents that have filled out the form and returned it to school via the class teacher or directly through the office should go round to the main office on the day after drop-off from where they'll be taken to class. As previously stated, there is a maximum of 15 parents per class so parents' attendance needs to be confirmed ahead of the day. We will be sending an email to those parents who have been allocated a space. We hope that those parents able to attend enjoy spending time in their child's classroom and have some exciting hands-on fun!

As part of our work with the children to help them understand how people across the world live, and of the importance of sustainability issues and climate justice, we will be holding a **Water Day** at St Mary's on **Wednesday March 25th**. As part of this day, the children will participate in a water relay – carrying between us around 80kg of water for a total of 6 hours. We are doing this as we have heard about the work of **Christian Aid**, and about a grandmother called Rose in Kenya, who has a 6 hour round-trip each day to get the 80kg of water her family need. At the end of the day, we will weigh what we have left, so we can see how much we managed to keep; this will also help our children to think about how easy it can be to waste water. We are also going to raise money for Christian Aid's work in Kenya, where they are helping communities to build sand dams which will mean people like Rose have time and energy for their family and can grow food for themselves – with this in mind, please keep an eye out for a sponsor form linked to this event.

Matt O'Brien, HT

Pantry Photo Permission

If you have not yet done so, please don't forget to log on to ParentMail to give **permission for The Pantry to use your child's photo** as part of their lunchtime service routine. The original permission form had expired but has now been updated. Thank you.



Book Fair!



We have a fantastic array of books available to buy from our Book Fair which runs each morning from 8.40 to 9am and after school until 4pm every day until next Thursday. Please do come and have a look or give your child some money to make a purchase. Prices range from £1 up to about £15, so there is something for everyone!

Engineering Day at the Brunel Museum

We have been advised of the following event, which you may be interested in.

"I am writing to inform you of a fantastic opportunity for your students and their families to meet real engineers from across the industry at our free, family-friendly, interactive exhibition on Saturday 21st March 2020. The exhibition will be at the Brunel Museum in London (SE16 4LF) and will run from 11 – 4.30.

Please see our website (www.wes.org.uk/100violets) for more information. This exhibition has been organised by the Women's Engineering Society Early Careers Board with funding and support from the Royal Academy of Engineering through an Ingenious Grant.

We have 20 volunteers from across the industry forming 7 teams, each of whom has created a fun, engaging and interactive exhibit to showcase what they do. They are also more than happy to talk to the students about engineering, and what it really means to be 'an engineer', showcasing the breadth of the industry and challenging outdated stereotypes around engineering as a career path.

This event is designed for families and is suitable for children of any age, although targeted more towards those aged around 7 and up. We would be very appreciative if you could pass this along to your students' families, and we hope to see many of them along on the day!"

Playground Rangers

An inspired and inspiring pupil has stepped forward and declared there will be an end to any littering at St Mary's! That child is Joseph in Year 4. Joseph believes that the way to solve a problem isn't to ignore it, but to take action. So he *has* taken action. He has established a litter picking organisation - The Playground Rangers.

Equipped with gloves, jackets and litter picking equipment, the Rangers will rid the playground of litter during break and lunchtimes.

Well done Joseph for being a true Eco-Warrior!



Parents are reminded that St Mary's is a **No Nuts School**, so children should never bring in nuts at any stage. This is due to a number of our children having **severe allergies** to even the smallest trace of nuts.

Whole School Attendance

The whole school attendance target is 96.08% and in the week before half term that dipped to 93.81% . Well done to Reception Attlee who had the best attendance that week, with 98.62% attendance. Punctuality was not as good as it needs to be during the winter, but hopefully now that spring is here with brighter mornings – despite the snow shower last week – this should hopefully improve.

Our attendance last week was much better and reached 96.12%. Well done to 6W who achieved 100% attendance. Punctuality was also better overall, and Reception Wilson had every child here on time every day. Well done Reception Wilson for leading the way and being the early birds of the school.

Stars of the Week



Well done to the following pupils who were presented with their Star of the Week award in assembly on the Friday that school finished before half term.

1 Attlee	Hendrix	1 Morris	Skystorm	1 Wilson	Grace
2 Attlee	Eli	2 Morris	Morolayo	2 Wilson	Arthur W
3 Attlee	Evan	3 Morris	Lucas	3 Wilson	Filip
4 Attlee	Betty	4 Morris	Hilal	4 Wilson	Marvin
5 Attlee	Shalom	5 Morris	Stacey	5 Wilson	Dillon
6 Attlee	Doxa	6 Morris	Renaë	6 Wilson	Ethan C

Last Friday, the following children were awarded with Star of the Week:

1 Attlee	Angus	1 Morris	Elsa	1 Wilson	Olibhear
2 Attlee	Tabitha	2 Morris	Zachary	2 Wilson	Sebastian
3 Attlee	Shaydon	3 Morris	Luke	3 Wilson	Violet
4 Attlee	Betty	4 Morris	Grace	4 Wilson	Kiyanna
5 Attlee	Zachary	5 Morris	Edu	5 Wilson	Zerah
6 Attlee	Kiera	6 Morris	Mya	6 Wilson	Ellis

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.** If your child is going to be absent from school, you will be required to contact The Pantry before 9am of the day of absence to ensure no payments are taken for your child's meal. Their contact details are 02088137040 or office@thepantrycatering.co.uk.



Saturday Plus

If your child attends Saturday Plus, don't forget **we have moved to St Saviour's** where we will remain for the rest of the academic year. Below there is a list of dates - please note that there is a change from the original list due to the move of the May Bank Holiday to a Friday this year.

Saturday 7 th March
Saturday 14 th March
Saturday 21 st March
Saturday 28 th March
EASTER HOLIDAYS
Saturday 25 th April
Saturday 2 nd April
May Bank Holiday Weekend

Saturday 16 th May
Half Term
Saturday 6 th June
Saturday 13 th June
Saturday 20 th June
Saturday 27 th June
Saturday 4 th July
Saturday 11 th July

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 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

3 March 2020	<i>8pm – PFA Meeting at In Vino Veritas, Orford Road. All Welcome!</i>
5 March 2020	<i>Class Assembly – 2 Morris World Book Day – Dress up as your favourite book character</i>
9 March 2020	<i>Parents' Open Week 9am to 10am – Year 1</i>
10 March 2020	<i>Parents' Open Week 9am to 10am – Year 2</i>
11 March 2020	<i>Parents' Open Week 9am to 10am – Year 3</i>
12 March 2020	<i>Parents' Open Week 9am to 10am – Year 4 (Please note: 4-Attlee parents will be contacted by tomorrow about a change to this original date, while Morris and Wilson remain the same) Class Assembly – 2 Wilson @ 9am</i>
16 March 2020	<i>Parents' Open Week 9am to 10am – Year 5 and 6</i>
17 March 2020	<i>School Choir performing at Wembley</i>
19 March 2020	<i>Class Assembly – 1 Wilson @ 9am</i>
26 March 2020	<i>Class Assembly – 1 Attlee @ 9am</i>
2 April 2020	<i>Class Assembly – 1 Morris @ 9am</i>
Friday 3 rd April 2020	<i>School closes for Easter Break – 2pm</i>
Monday 20 th April	<i>Return to school</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: st-marys-school@genesistrust.net

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

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.