



END OF TERM SPRING 1 NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th February 2023

Email: office@stmarysinfschool.org.uk or office@stmarysjunior.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Hulme. Chair of Governors: Mr B Tomkins

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs M Kenny, Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Mrs F Black & Mr S Pratsis & Mrs E Heath, Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond

A message from Mrs Hulme

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we travel into February Half Term, the realisation check is that we have now completed half of the school year, how does time pass with a blink of the eye?

We return to school after the break, into the period of Lent starting on Ash Wednesday and leading to the most important feast of Easter. The days are giving us more light and more opportunity to enjoy being outdoors together. We always feel huge hope when we see the spring flowers popping up too.

May we wish you a wonderful half term.

Congratulations to 3 Hawthorn for having the best attendance this week.



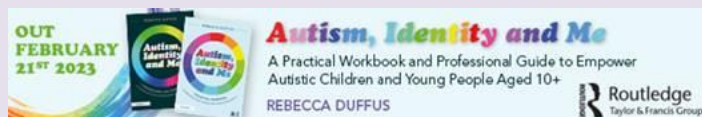
As a school, we aim for 97.4% attendance, which would bring us in line with the expectations. Unfortunately, many children had not achieved this percentage last term. We really need the help of our parents to raise our attendance this term by ensuring children are attending school each day.

Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
Froglet AM Nursery	95.9	0.223
Froglet PM Nursery	90.6	0.297
R Fox	94.4	0.425
R Hedgehog	93.0	0.236
R Squirrel	96.5	1.218
1 Robin	93.9	0.635
1 Sparrow	92.9	0.455
1 Wren	93.8	0.330
2 Heron	94.3	0.174
2 Jay	96.2	0.375
2 Woodpecker	95.6	0.556
3 Hawthorn	97.1	0.163
3 Mulberry	96.9	0.238
3 Willow	95.9	0.084
4 Ash	94.7	0.403
4 Poplar	96.4	0.691
4 Rowan	95.5	1.704
5 Birch	95.3	0.470
5 Elm	96.9	2.483
5 Sycamore	96.0	3.229
6 Chestnut	95.8	2.378
6 Copper Beech	96.2	2.309
6 Oak	96.3	2.499



Governors Fund

To date we have received £7,500.16 from parents contributing to the Governors Fund, to ensure future investment in our schools, if you have not paid the Governor's Fund as of yet, please be reminded it's not too late to log in to Parent Pay to make a donation.



The books are aimed at supporting autistic young people, their families and professionals, to help them to develop a positive understanding of their autistic identity. You can view/order the books here: <https://routledge.pub/Autism-Identity-and-Me>

To celebrate this, I am having a book launch and would love it if you could come along (and there's a 30% discount on books on the night plus goodie bags for the first 15 people!).

When: Thursday 9th March 5.30-7pm

Where: Wallington County Grammar School, Croydon Rd, Wallington SM6 7PH

What: 5.30-6 Tea/coffee and cake

6.00 Speeches including from Madam Mayor, Cllr Trish Fivey

6.30 Mingle and book browsing

If you would like to come, please could you add your name and email address to this short form (so I can get an idea of numbers):

<https://forms.gle/ahrGbDUa9gY82WaB6>

If you can think of others who would like to come along, please share this info and booking link with them. Rebecca Duffus

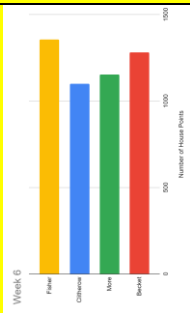
News for the week

Infant - Stars of the Week

R Hedgehog	Zachary
R Fox	Elizabeth
R Squirrel	Brooke
1 Robin	Maria
1 Sparrow	Megumi-Rose
1 Wren	Astin
2 Heron	Jorgiana
2 Jay	Vincent
2 Woodpecker	Jaxon

Junior - House Points

4th place is Clitheroe
3rd place is More
2nd place is Becket
1st place is Fisher



St. Mary's Award

3 Willow	Olaf
3 Mulberry	Imogen
3 Hawthorn	Frank
4 Poplar	Alexa-Rose
4 Ash	Will B
4 Rowan	Jake
5 Elm	Caterina
5 Sycamore	Chinuo
5 Birch	Grace M
6 Copper Beech	Milla
6 Oak	Alan
6 Chestnut	Leo



The football A team went to Holy Trinity on Thursday evening to take part in a match. The boys played brilliantly against tough competition. It was end to end for much of the match, with some really strong play from our team. The final score ended 4-4. A huge well done to everyone who took part and a big thank you to the parents and carers who supported the team.

The girls played extremely well against Hackbridge showing great spirit and determination. It was a classic '50-50' game with chances at both end, but finally Hackbridge prevailed 2-0. Notwithstanding the result, the girls should be proud of their great efforts - their heads never dropped and they played as a team encouraging each other and with great sportsmanship. Thanks to parents and carers who brought the girls to the game and cheered them on. We look forward to our next match!

On Thursday afternoon, 9 children from Year 6 went to Wallington Grammar School to take part in a table tennis competition. The pupils represented St Mary's brilliantly and played many tough opponents. A huge well done to the overall competition winners Ailean and Charlton, who made their way to the finals and then won! They have been invited to a national competition-taking place in Wolverhampton and we are so proud of them. A huge well done to everyone who took part - you were all brilliant!



Safeguarding News

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safer Internet Day 2023

Please click on the link to view the Safer Internet Day 2023 Poster - <https://www.smcs.org.uk/school-news.php>

Wednesday Word

Please click on the link below to access the weekly Wednesday Word - <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/half-term-holiday-card?pid=MTA101634&v=84.7>

Spirituality

This half term we have left behind the celebrations of Christmas and New year but the children have still been enjoying the joyful season of Christmastide. We celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany through liturgy and Mass as well as the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which follows in the week after. At the end of Christmastide, we enter a few weeks of Ordinary Time before beginning the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Children enjoyed learning about their new topics of The Local Church and how all that we do relates to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.



In addition to weekly assemblies led by the staff, Chaplaincy Team members have also been busy this half term helping with our understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. These Y6 children have made peace doves for each Junior Class and have made posters for the playground, which remind pupils to be like Chikondi the Giraffe. Chikondi explains that our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all



News from Nursery

We have had an action packed half term in the Nursery learning all about 'Fairytales'. We were tasting porridges with different toppings and had an exciting 'Fairytale Tea Party'. This half term during our PE lessons, we have played games and danced while practising a range of gross motor skills. We wondered about what would happen if we left water outside overnight and were amazed when we discovered it had frozen and created different ice decorations. In RE we have been talking about different celebrations and sharing ideas of celebrations we have experienced. E.g. birthdays, weddings, baptisms and celebrating the new arrival of our brothers and sisters. We all had a go at retelling the story of the 'Presentation at the Temple', when Simeon and Anna were waiting for Jesus, we did this using Godly play.

Next Half term our topic is 'Come Outside'. We will wonder about the changes that happen during Spring, and investigate this by planting and growing plants as well as understanding the importance of looking after our Natural world. We will also look at different life cycles and have opportunities to explore our outside environment and look for mini beasts.



News from Reception

This term we started our 'Earth and Beyond' topic. We learnt lots of facts about space and wondered what it would be like on other planets after reading, 'Alien Tea on Planet Zum Zee.' For Chinese New Year, the children learnt the story about 'The Great Race' and how Chinese New Year is celebrated. The children had their own celebration where they learnt a dragon dance and ate spring rolls. In the following weeks, we ventured to the jungle and explored African and Asian animals that live in these habitats.

The children really enjoyed observing and listening to the birds in our school grounds as we went on our class bird watching walks as part of the RSPB bird week. The children made tally marks on their bird lists to tally the amount of different birds they saw; these were then reported and submitted to the RSPB Bird Watch. We would like to express our thanks to all of the children who have posted their hard work from all their home learning onto Google Classroom. Please remember to keep practising your reading, phonics and maths over the half term and we are sure the children will also be working hard at home to complete some of their learning linked to their individual targets from parents evening. We hope that you all enjoy a well-deserved half term break, and look forward to starting our next topic 'Fairytales'.



News from Year 1

Year 1 has thoroughly enjoyed learning about our topic 'Bright Lights, Big City.' We have also really enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London in history where we have looked closely at why the Great Fire of London is a significant event and how it changed the future of London. In Art, we had so much fun creating our own landscape collage inspired by Carol Nelson.



News from Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about our topic Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. In English, we have also written an information text about castles. In maths, we have learnt about money, multiplication and division. In science, we looked at what living things need to survive and went out to look for things that were alive, things that were dead and things that had never been alive. We have also had a go at making drawbridges in DT.



News from Year 3

This half term has been so busy in our Year 3 classes and time has really flown by! In mathematics, we became function machines, capable of multiplying and dividing numbers by 10. We invented our own way of

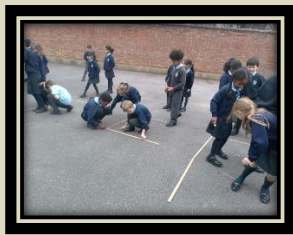
remembering how to multiply by ten by moving 'to the left, to the left' and to divide by ten we 'slide to the right'!

We have also practised measuring using metres, centimetres and millimetres. We even compared our jumps out on the playground using metre sticks, and produced a table to order the different distances using a range of units of measure.

In science, we made our own skeleton using twigs and sticks found on the playground. We labelled each of the main bones, which form our skeleton, and we have continued our learning by comparing other animal bones to those found in our bodies!

We also learned how to magnetise a needle in order to make our own compass as part of our learning about forces.

In design and technology, we have been exploring the world of pneumatics, and we have experimented using syringes and tubes to see what air pressure is capable of doing! The results were amazing, as we discovered that air under pressure cannot stay trapped; it needs an outlet and that being so, our syringes would pop! It was great fun!



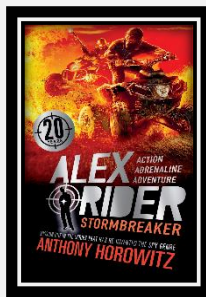
News from Year 4

This half term has been absolutely jam packed with exciting topics! At the start of this half term, we looked at our new topic of The Iron Man, which has been our focus in English, Science and D.T. After reading through it, we took the chance to create our own version as we looked into dilemma writing and writing around a problem. We have been linking this into our D.T by designing our own models of the Iron Man's head, building on our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes. In Science, we have been creating our own circuits whilst using different conductors and insulators! We have started learning all about the Vikings in History, why they came to our shores, their society and common misconceptions about them (who knew Vikings never wore horned helmets?) as well as learning about their gods and songs related to them. A huge well done to everyone in Year 4, you have all worked incredibly hard and can now have a well-earned rest. Enjoy your half term holidays!



News from Year 5

We ignored the cold, frosty mornings in Year 5, and pretended we were in ancient Greece! We shared many Greek myths in our English lessons, and had great fun inventing our own. Some of these were about a character being rewarded, but most were about a character being severely punished for their behaviour choices. Behaviour choices in the classrooms and on the playground, however, have been very good and it isn't only the teachers who have noticed this. Mr Hume, who brought an inflatable Planetarium to school, was also impressed with our knowledge. We are delighted to see so many children reading for pleasure. Stormbreaker, by Anthony Horowitz, is our current class novel. This week, we have invented a gadget for him to use. Some pupils definitely have spy potential!



News from Year 6

It has been an extremely busy half-term for Year 6 with every child taking every opportunity to learn and grow. Many of the Year 6 children have represented the school in numerous ways, whether that be showing great athleticism and sportsmanship in netball, table tennis, multi-skills and football matches or participating in Chaplaincy. We were also fortunate to have visitors from TFL come to school and help the children learn about how to safely use public transport in the build up to secondary school.

The children have shown great creativity across lots of subjects this half-term. In Art, the children built on their History knowledge of the Industrial Revolution and channelled their inner Lowrys to produce spectacular pieces of artwork focusing on perspective and vanishing points. Next half-term, the children will continue their learning in History, further exploring the changes in childhood since the Industrial Revolution and looking at key historical figures during this period of time. The children also showed great creative flair in Science whilst learning about the circulatory system, they made brilliant diagrams of the heart and how the circulatory system helps the body to function.

In English, we have been linking our learning to History by writing poems about the Holocaust. Although this was sobering, it was also very interesting and gave us an opportunity to show all our creativity. Decimals and Ratio have been the areas we concentrated on in Maths and we've been using Fluent in Five as an excellent program every morning to develop our arithmetic skills. Science was fascinating as we have been learning about the amazing circulatory system and in Geography, we have developed our knowledge of biomes - did you know that Carshalton is part of a temperate deciduous forest? We look forward to the next half term as we continue to develop our knowledge in all subjects and draw closer to SATS, our trip and the Year 6 production.

Every child has pushed themselves this half-term and have worked so hard to achieve their very best. Well done for a fantastic half-term and we look forward to continuing our learning next half-term after a well-deserved break.

