



9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Dear Families and Friends of St Mary's**

It's been a very busy term! Well done to Ducklings on leading a lovely, thoughtful Collective Worship on Friendship. Thank you to Badger families for helping recreate the Fire of London – and especially to Mr Sage for being our safety warden for this event. I've also had the privilege of seeing Lions get to grip with adding fractions of differing denominators this week using concrete, pictorial and abstract representations. Please do take a look at the school website and your child's class page to see the amazing learning that has been happening across the school this term.

**School Meals – A Governor's Perspective**

If your child has not tried the new school meals yet, might I suggest they could be missing a treat!

I went down last Thursday to try them out and to hear what the children thought. The touch screen at the servery was efficient and the children seemed to enjoy using it. They then progressed to the puddings, passing the salad bar on the way and many made a stop here. I chose Vegetable Korma but it was interesting to see there was a wide choice of meals from the children – maybe Chicken Korma being the favourite that day. What really impressed me was that they stayed longer than I have seen in the past to finish their meals, and there was much less waste. I am not surprised because the food was very flavoursome and well cooked. If you haven't encouraged your child to have a school meal yet, please do so in Term 4!

Well done to Michelle and her team!

Jan Merchant - Foundation Governor

**SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS**

Last year we held a tremendously successful **Science Fair** at St Mary's, thanks to the amazing organisation and support of Jenny Scott. Classes are now working with scientists to design and carry out their own investigations. One of our visitors commented that the children had come up with much better ideas for the investigation than he had – so he is very excited to see the results! Please remember that on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March** there will be an **Open Classroom Science** event from 1.30pm – 3pm in the afternoon, which families are invited to.

Our event is funded by



## PHONICS MEETING REMINDER

We would like to invite parents/carers of EYFS and years 1, 2 and 3 to a phonics workshop on **Tuesday 20th February** at 5pm. It will be an opportunity to learn more about phonics in school and what you can do to help at home. If you would like to attend please can respond via the Event set up on Parentmail. Thank you.

**THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH – WORLD BOOK DAY.** Children are invited to dress up for this event and their Learning Log challenge is linked to this event. We will also be having a special meal day from Dolce to celebrate world book day!



Mains: Chicken Nuggets, Pasta Neapolitan,  
Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings  
Sides: Oven Baked Jacket Wedges; Baked Beans;  
Carrot Sticks; Salad Bar  
Desserts: Ice Lolly, Fresh Fruit

Please book via Live Kitchen in the usual way. Thank you.

## SCHOOL SNACKS AND LUNCHESES FROM HOME

Please could all families remember that we are a healthy school and snacks sent in from home, for break time, must be a piece of fruit or a vegetable such as carrots. Fruit winders, cereal bars, cakes etc are not permitted. We do run a fruit shop in school, so if you want to set up a “tab”, your child will be able to buy fruit every morning. School Meals have to follow strict nutritional guidelines and we would urge you to take advantage of the Dolce school meal provision. From Term 4, if you prefer your child to have “sandwiches” from home, we are asking parents to ensure these also follow healthy eating principles please. Lunchboxes should not contain chocolate, biscuits, large slices of cake, crisps or sweets. Thank you for your support with this.

### ***What to include in your child's lunchbox (FROM NHS LIVEWELL WEBSITE)***

A healthier lunchbox should:

- be based on starchy carbohydrates (bread, potatoes, rice, pasta)
- include fresh fruit and vegetables/salad
- include a source of protein such as beans and pulses, eggs, fish, meat, cheese (or dairy alternative)
- include a side dish such as a low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurt (or dairy alternative), tea cake, fruit bread, plain rice/corn cakes, homemade plain popcorn, sugar-free jelly
- include a drink such as water, skimmed or semi-skimmed milk, sugar-free or no-added-sugar drinks

The [Eatwell Guide](#) shows you how to have a healthy balanced diet and can help you decide what to put in your child's lunchbox. Find healthy lunchbox ideas at [Change4Life](#).

## FOREST SCHOOL – YEAR 3 and GROUP

Please be aware that there will be a change to the timing of Forest School Session in Week 2 - it will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, not 1<sup>st</sup> March. Thank you.

With best wishes for the February break

Miss Brown

Percentage of children who were at school <u>and</u> on time, in Term 3						
Ducklings	Rabbits	Badgers	Bees	Otters	Lions	Eagles
91%	91%	96%	94%	91%	93%	94%

Well done Badger Class!

### A note about safeguarding ....

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils please contact the school to speak to **Miss Alice Brown** (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or **Mrs Claire Brewer** (Deputy DSL). The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

### DIARY DATES 2017-2018

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	EYFS, Y1, Y2, Y3 Parent Workshop – Phonics. 5pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Parliament Outreach Visit (KS2 Assembly) and Y6 Workshop
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Forest School change of date from 1/3/18!
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day – Dressing Up!
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Fire Safety Talk
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Helen Peake – Dogs Trust Visitor KS2 Workshops
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Open Classrooms – Science Event
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Rabbits Lead Collective Worship 9.05am Y1 parents welcome
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Dance Umbrella – KS1 and KS2
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 to LifeSkills
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	PTA Easter Bingo TBC
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	EASTER Service led by Year 4 and 5 (NO AWARDS this term) End of Term 4 – usual time of 3.15pm
14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Statutory Key Stage 2 Assessment Week
21 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Healthy Choices Week
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Term 5 AWARDS TBC
24 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Life Education Van visit to School
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Tulip Class Photographs
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	PTA Summer Fair
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Production 6pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day TBC
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	B&NES Secondary School Transition Day for Year 6
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Residential
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Term 6 AWARDS and Family Open Afternoon TBC
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service

## TERM DATES 2017-2018

	INSET DAYS (School Closed to Pupils)	Start for pupils	Finish for pupils
Term 4		Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Term 5	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May
Term 6	One further INSET day to be set	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July

## TERM DATES 2018-2019

	INSET DAYS (School Closed to Pupils)	Start for pupils	Finish for pupils
Term 1	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
Term 2		Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018
Term 3		Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
Term 4		Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Term 5	3 INSET DAYS yet to be set	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Term 6		Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019

### Holidays and Penalty Notices

**Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time, including for family holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances such as a death or significant trauma in the family.** If parents or carers wish to make a request for authorisation of a term time absence because they feel it is an exceptional circumstance, they are asked to complete and submit a **Leave of Absence Request Form** in advance, stating the reason why they need to take their child out of school. Even where exceptional circumstances do exist, the school may decide not to exercise its discretion to authorise leave. Should any request for absence be refused the absence will be recorded as unauthorised in the school register. On returning from this absence, no matter what the length of that period of unauthorised leave, parents/carers will receive a standard notification letter outlining the circumstances under which they may be liable for a penalty notice. **A penalty notice will be requested should there be any further unauthorised absence during the child's time at St Mary's.** Families who persistently take their children out of school for reasons that have not been authorised will be referred to the CMES.

Penalty notices will usually be issued where a pupil has 10 or more unauthorised absences (which is equivalent to 5 days) in the 100 sessions prior to the request for a penalty notice to be issued. **A penalty notice may also be issued for a first offence.** This could be where the unauthorised absence was for an extended period and/or condoned by the parent. An example of this would be instances of unauthorised absence such as holidays taken during term time without the schools permission.