



**ST MARY MAGDALENE SCHOOL
WOOLWICH CAMPUS**
Spring 2020 Newsletter – Number 1



Welcome Back and Happy New Year.

We hope you all had a much-needed rest over the Christmas break.

THIS HALF TERM WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON FAITH AND START THIS HALF TERM LOOKING AT COURAGE.

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

A BIG THANK YOU

We would like to thank you for the cards and lovely Christmas gifts you have given to the staff - we appreciate your kindness and are grateful for your generosity. At certain times of year, particularly at Christmas and at the end of the school year, it has become a tradition for parents and children to buy gifts for school staff. The staff are mindful of the thought that goes into the gifts and messages of thanks. While all gifts will be received with sincere appreciation and gratitude, they are not expected. Working with your children and families is a reward we are privileged to have.



Letters have gone out about the clubs running this term. If you have any questions please ask Miss Thomas – Home School Link Worker and Clubs Coordinator.

THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The school gates open at 8.30am every day. School starts at 8.50am and all children should be in the playground by 8.45am. Children from year 1-year 5 line up in the Muga pitch at the start of the day. Pupils should be collected promptly from school at 3.15pm. Reception pupils are collected from their classroom door, Year 5 and 6 pupils are collected from the amphitheatre and pupils from year 1-4 should be collected from the Muga pitch.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

It is that time of year when the application window has opened for pupils who are due to start primary school next September (children born between 1st September 2015 – 31st August 2016). If you would like to apply for a place for a younger sibling at any of our school sites, please contact any of the school offices. Please note if you attend church it is very important that you obtain a supplementary form from the office and ask your church leader to write you a clerical reference.

The deadline for applications to be received is
Wednesday 15th January 2020



PARENT WORKSHOPS

Date	Time	Workshop title	For?
5.2.20	9 -10 am	Safety online	All parents
13.2.20	9-10am	Sharing faith and culture in school	All parents
15.1.20	9-10am	A whistle stop tour of the SEND Code of Practice.	All parents
2.3.20	9 -10 am	Supporting your child with maths at home	All parents

LEADERSHIP TEAM

If you need to talk to a member of the leadership team, we are always happy to help. We are available in the mornings and afternoons when we are on the gate. If this is not a good time for you then please telephone the school office to make a convenient appointment time or we can speak on the telephone.

NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome Parminda Plaha who has joined Hawkins class as their full-time teaching assistant and Jesmila Jailany who will be working in Nursery part-time to support the lunchtime provision.

YEAR 4 SCHOOL JOURNEY

Year 4 will be off on their residential on Monday 9th – Friday 13th March. They will be going to Rock UK which is in Northampton, Norfolk Lakes. The Year 4 staff and Mrs Amao will be accompanying the classes. Our children will be taking part in a range of activities aimed at developing teamwork, independence and confidence. We know they are going to have a great time.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

It is the intention of this Federation to offer a high - quality education for each of its pupils. For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend school regularly and punctually. Parents of children who have any unauthorised absence and unauthorised holidays may be at risk of legal action. In order to avoid any confusion, if your child is away for legitimate reasons please ensure you follow this guidance: -

1. Make any dentist/doctor/hospital appointments outside of school hours.
2. Contact the school to discuss issues with senior members of staff rather than keep your child away.
3. Birthdays, holidays, relatives' visits, shopping trips, your own ill health are not reasons to keep your child away from school.

We will not authorise any holidays/ overseas trips in term time unless travel is necessary for exceptional circumstances. There is no automatic entitlement in law to time off school to go on holiday.

In order to promote attendance, each week, the class with the highest attendance will be presented a cup during Friday collective worship and also receive 10 minutes extra playtime as a reward.

If your child is absent you must:

Contact the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence, advising of the reason and likely length of absence, by telephoning the school office. (A phone call will be made to parents each time the child has been marked with an unauthorised absence code and no reason has been given for the absence). Contact the school on the subsequent days of absence as necessary. Provide evidence where possible supporting the reason for absence.



CLASS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Class assemblies will take place throughout the Spring and Summer term and you are welcome to come along and find out what your children have been learning about. Your child's class teacher will let you know in advance when the assembly will be taking place.

UNIFORM

PLEASE ENSURE ALL CLOTHES ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME. Lost property will be given to charity at the end of each term. Please can every child come to school in the correct uniform as outlined below.

UNIFORM POLICY

Girls	Grey skirt or trousers or pinafore dress, yellow polo shirt/ blouse, burgundy sweatshirt/ cardigan/ jumper
Boys	Grey trousers, yellow polo shirt, burgundy sweatshirt/ cardigan/ jumper
Footwear	Safe, flat sensible shoes or trainers – black in colour
Jewellery	Small studs and a wrist watch if your child can tell the time

PE KIT

We ask that pupils wear white t- shirts, dark coloured shorts and trainers/plimsolls for PE. As it is cold, jogging bottoms should be worn for outdoor PE. Please ensure children bring their kit, in a bag, every Monday and take it home on Friday for washing. Every pupil who is in school is expected to do PE and therefore if they forget their kit may be asked to wear some of the school's spare PE kit.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners are FREE to all children in year groups R, 1 and 2. Please take up this opportunity. Dinners are prepared and cooked fresh each day in our own kitchen. For Year 3 - 5 pupils the cost of a school dinner is £2.60 a day. All dinners must be paid for in **advance**. School dinners cost £13.00 a week which is:

- 1st half term = £62.40
- 2nd half term = £65

The total for the whole term is £127.40.

PACKED LUNCH

If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please ensure it is healthy and does not include nuts, sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks. A packed lunch could include sandwiches/wraps, pasta, beans, yoghurt, cheese, salad, vegetables or a portion of fruit. All packed lunch bags should be well labelled. Packed lunches should be placed on the lunchbox trolley in the morning and they will be stored in a **fridge** prior to lunchtime.

If your child wishes to change from packed lunch to school dinners, please ensure you let the school office know. This is to ensure all children receive a meal.

SNACKS

Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 will be provided with a piece of fruit each day. Pupils in Year 3 - 5 are permitted to bring in fruit **only** for a snack at break time.

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open every day for general enquiries during the following times
8:30 am – 9:30 am
and

3pm – 3:30 pm

We would politely ask that you try and avoid visiting the office outside of these times as the office staff are often very busy and may not be able to assist you.

We ask that if you are making any payment for trips, uniform or school dinners, you do so with the correct money.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

NO PENS DAY - Wednesday 22nd January details to follow.

INSET DAY – Friday 31st January 2020

STEM WEEK – 3rd – 7th of February 2020. More details to follow.

NUMBER DAY - Friday 7th February 2020 details to follow.

OPEN AFTERNOON: Wednesday 12th February at 2.00pm. You will be able to meet class teachers to discuss your child's progress and look at some of their books. We will use the online booking system as before to book appointments. Information regarding this will be sent out nearer the time. **School will finish at 1.30pm.** Please arrange for your child to be collected earlier this day. There **will be** After School Club.

HALF TERM: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2020. We close for this on Friday 14th February at 3.15pm.

WORLD BOOK DAY – Thursday 5th of March 2020. Details to follow.

SPORTS RELIEF - 9th – 13th March, more details to follow.

EASTER SERVICE: At St Mary's Church. EYFS & KS1 – Tuesday 31st March at 10.am. Then on Wednesday 1st April, a service for Year 5 and 6 at 10am and a service for Year 3 and 4 at 2pm. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us in the Church.

EASTER ACTIVITIES – Easter bonnet parade – Thursday 2nd April. More details to follow.

EASTER HOLIDAYS: Monday 6th April 2020 - Friday 17th April 2020. We break up at **2.00 pm** on Friday 3rd April. Parents are invited to the final collective worship at 1.15 pm. There **will be no** After School Club on this day.

The pupils' first day back to school after the holiday is **8.50 am** on Monday 20th April 2020.

Federation Chaplin's Message

A Time of Blessing

Happy New Year! I hope you felt blessed over the Christmas and New Year break. This month is a time of blessing for several different reasons. New Year sees us blessing each other with best wishes for bright prospects and good opportunities to follow in the coming 12 months. Everyone hoping that the next year will be better than the last. Epiphany – the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus and the Holy Family – sees many people asking for blessings upon their homes. Some chalk the message '20+C+M+B+20' above their doors. This is a traditional blessing that reminds us of the blessings of the wise men (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) and how we hope to be blessed. It includes crosses that remind us that the baby Jesus is also the Jesus who died for us and rose again. It also includes CMB which is short for the Latin phrase 'bless this house'.

Lastly at the beginning of February we remember Candlemas - The Celebration of Jesus being presented to the Temple and being blessed as being the light of the world. In some churches we bless the candles we will use as they remind us of God sending His Light into the world. My prayer is that you feel blessed by God as you begin a new year and a new decade. My hope is that you find blessing in all that you do and offer blessing in all that you say.

And my challenge to you is that you find ways of blessing your community, church, school, families and homes.

May God the Father keep you in all your days.

May God the Son shield you in all your ways.

May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.

May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you and pour upon you blessing and light.

Amen.

Rev. Dominic Hubbuck

Chaplain – Koinonia Federation Schools

Assistant Priest – East Greenwich Team Ministry