



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Friday 8th January 2016

### Welcome Back

It is so lovely to see the children back at school, with great attitudes—ready to learn. We hope everyone had a very happy Christmas and New Year.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term ahead at St Mary's. Teachers have already started planning trips and events for their classes over the next few weeks.

Dates for your diary this term:

#### Golden Assemblies

8.1.16	Attendance Assembly
15.1.16	Year 1
22.1.16	Year 6
29.1.16	Year 5
5.2.16	Year 4

#### International Day—Friday 26th February

We will be focusing this year on some of the countries represented in our school, particularly those in the Middle East, and children will be learning about these countries in their classes. We invite all children to dress in clothes from their home countries on this day, and the Friends will be running our annual International Afternoon food and cultural event. It should be a very special day for us all.

### Attendance

Attendance for last term was **94.9%**. Our target for the year is **96%**, and so we are still looking to improve attendance across the school.

Last term, girls and children with special educational needs had the best attendance in the school—a huge well done! We also had some children whose attendance improved significantly last term and a large number of children with 100% attendance. They will be receiving a special letter and treat for their efforts—congratulations. Please note that missing school, especially for holidays during term time and other unauthorised absences, is one of the most important factors in children not achieving academically. It is against the law for children to be absent from school without a reason and you could be subject to a penalty notice.

**Let's work together to try and achieve our target!**



### Admissions Consultation

On Tuesday 12th January, there will be an open meeting for parents to discuss the proposed admissions criteria for 2017. A panel of school Governors will be there to answer any questions you might have. There will also be an Arabic translator for parents who would find that helpful. It will be in the school hall at 9am—all welcome.

### Mobile Phones and Photographs

Please note that mobile phones should not be used in any classrooms at any times, or anywhere in the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is for the safety of our pupils. Regarding photos or videos, these should not be taken anywhere on school property (including the playground), except with permission from the Headteacher. This also applies to Friday assemblies, where parents only have permission to take photos of their own children. **Photos and videos of children from this school should not be uploaded to social media (eg Facebook, Instagram etc)** except where parents post photos of their own children at their own risk.

### Coffee Mornings—every Wednesday 9—10

Topics this term include:

13th January: 'Screen Time and Balance...HELP! Tips to get your family back!'

20th January: 'Parents GUIDE to Help understand and prevent BULLYING'

27th January: 'The White Stuff- SUGAR Facts and easy swap TIPS'- hosted by our School Nurse, Jess Streeting

### Year 6 'on the buses'!



On Tuesday, Year 6 started the new term with a Citizenship workshop at the London Transport Museum. The children took part in 7 sessions about bus safety, road safety, train safety, first aid, dealing with strangers, cyber safety and fire safety. They really enjoyed themselves and were extremely well behaved! Everyone learnt something new, including the fact that a bus weighs 18 tonnes!

With best wishes for the weekend,  
Emily Norman—Headteacher