



As a staff we'd like to express our collective thanks for the really positive start we've had for this year. Your efforts to support the school with learning and behaviour make a real difference to the daily experiences of staff and pupils at our school. I've been reflecting on my first half-term at the school and particularly the school motto, '*Show by a good life that your works are done of gentleness born of wisdom*' and I've been very much impressed with how staff, families and pupils model to each other the 'show' part of the motto daily through small, but impressive acts of care and service. As a leadership team, we've spent time together evaluating how the school is performing and set priorities for the year which we will share with you next half term.

Please do support your child by keeping up with daily reading (such as newspapers, picture books, magazines and chapter books) and any regular maths work (shape spotting, mental arithmetic times tables) to keep those brain cells active over the break. We hope that you have a relaxing half-term with your families and return on **Monday 31 October** ready for hard work and lots of fun. **Ms Luzmore**

Children in the playground

A few very young children have been spotted left unaccompanied at the beginning of the day in the playground. There is not school supervision of children during this time and it must be made clear that it is parental responsibility until the beginning of the school day. Children in year 6 who come to school alone are allowed to be unsupervised. If you have work commitments, then children are most welcome to join **breakfast club**. Please contact Donna in the office for details.

Chocolate in lunch boxes

While we appreciate that our pupils may be allowed to enjoy the treats at home, we would politely ask that children do not bring chocolate bars as part of their packed lunches. As well as trying to promote healthy balanced eating habits, a number of chocolate products contain nuts and we have children with serious allergies to consider. To avoid any time or money wasted over the issue, any chocolate bars seen in lunch boxes after half-term will be removed and returned at the end of the day. Many thanks for your support.

Assembly themes

This week, **Ms Luzmore** spoke to the school about the 'The Windrush' boat, which carried people from Jamaica to England in 1948. We thought about both the good and bad side of the experiences of those who immigrated here and the life of Sam King MBE who helped to start Notting Hill Carnival. **Rev April** spoke to the school about more of King David's life and how we can resist envy and jealousy, which can be a destructive force in our lives.

Parent Meetings

Thank you to all who attended parent meetings over the last couple of days. If you haven't had the opportunity to discuss your child's progress, please contact their class teacher after half term. Questionnaires were given out. If you did not manage to fill one in and return it, please pop into the office as soon as possible. Results of these will be shared during the next half term.

Attendance

We want the children at St Mary Magdalene to have the best possible start in life which includes being in for lessons and forming good habits for future education and employment. There are strong links between the progress and attainment of children and their attendance, which is why we and the government take the issue seriously. Good attendance is considered as **96% and above** attendance. While 90% may seem like good attendance, it is the equivalent of having 1 day absent in every 2 weeks. Sometimes attendance rates in end of year reports can seem like a shock so, after half-term, we will contact families with lower rates of attendance and see if there is any support the school can offer.

Dates for your diary

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|-----------------------|--|
| Monday 31 October | Year 4 trip to Horniman Museum |
| Wednesday 2 November | Year 6 Hothorpe Hall Meeting - 4.30pm |
| Wednesday 9 November | Year 5 Sayers Croft Meeting – 4.30pm |
| Friday 11 November | Year 4 Class Assembly – 2.45pm |
| Thursday 17 November | Year 6 PTSA Cake Sale |
| Friday 18 November | Year 2 Class Assembly – 2.45pm |
| Friday 2 December | Year 1 Class Assembly – 2.45pm |
| Thursday 8 December | Christmas Tea Party |
| Monday 19 December | Year 3, 4 & 5 to Snow White Pantomime |
| Tuesday 20 December | Year R, 1 and 2 to Little Angel Theatre Year 6 to Sleeping Beauty |
| Wednesday 21 December | Last day of term. |
| Friday 6 January | Inset Day for staff |
| Monday 9 January | Spring term starts for pupils |

Message from outgoing PTSA chair Inge

Thank you so much for the very generous gift, chocolates, card and flowers that I received at the PTSA AGM! It was completely unexpected! I am really touched and very grateful. It has been great working with all of you and I am looking forward to popping in occasionally to catch up with all of you and some of the brilliant events that the PTSA organises in future.

Remember the war

By Sophie

Remember the war,
Remember the war,
Millions of soldiers lay dead on the floor,
The deafening bang of shells exploding,
And they shoot the Germans to whom they're opposing

Remember the war,
Remember the war.

Remember the war,
Remember the war,
Down in the trenches life was tough,
And the living conditions were terribly rough,
The air filled with deadly mustard gas,
Which gathers up in a toxic mass,
Remember the war,
Remember the war.

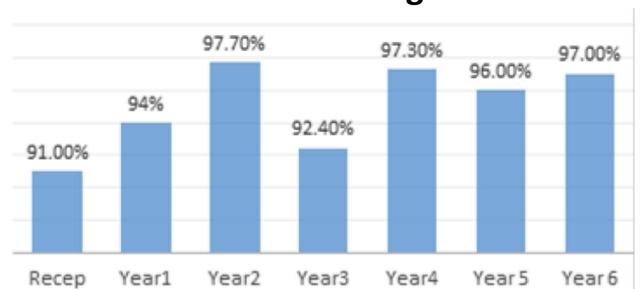
Remember the war,
Remember the war,
When soldiers lay dead on the floor,
When in the trenches life was tough,
When poppies grew in Flanders Fields,
We remember the war on Remembrance Day,
We remember the war, we remember the war.

Poetry in Year 6

Year 6 have been writing war poetry this week as part of their work on conflict and resolution. They produced some impressive poems, one which we wished to share.



Last week's attendance figures



Remember: every day counts!