



Revd April Retirement

It is with much love and sadness that I write to tell you that Revd April made the decision to retire last academic year. She is now ready to 'go public' with that news. It goes without saying that Revd April is such a huge part of our school community and a support to many pupils, parents and staff including myself. We will obviously want to say more closer to the time but for now, I leave you with her words. **Ms Luzmore** *It is age not enthusiasm and health not hope have convinced me that it is time to retire from the chaplaincy post at St. Mary Magdalene Academy. In considering this decision over last term and the summer, I have already begun to feel the loss of the outstanding students, staff, parents, and purpose of this place. I will leave at the end of October. I look forward to hearing the continuing joy and achievement of the Academy.* **April Keech**

Languages at SMMA Primary

This year, we will be offering weekly French lessons as the language throughout the school. Through the secondary school, we benefit from having their expert teachers deliver our language curriculum. While we will continue to maintain links with the Mandarin department, sadly their teaching timetables this year did not allow for them to be teaching regularly in Primary. Secondary school timetables change annually and I work closely with Ms Linsley to look for opportunities to work together. Languages at Reception and KS1 are not part of the national curriculum, so we feel very proud to be able to offer these to our students in our state school.

Maths news!

We are happy to announce our new online resource for maths - Sumdog! Sumdog is a fantastic website that uses motivating games to encourage students to practise their maths skills. One of the most valuable aspects of this site is the way in which it can be personalised and tailored to match the individual child and their current need. When the children log on for the first time, they will answer a few questions designed to find the correct level for them. Once they have completed this diagnostic assessment, the children will be given questions suitable for their level, and they will be based on a target skill that Sumdog has identified as needing further practise. Each time a child becomes confident at answering questions about that skill, Sumdog automatically selects a new area to develop. We will be launching Sumdog in school next week; at which time the children will complete the diagnostic test. Following that, your child's teacher will send their individual username and password home. The log in details you will receive can be used to access Sumdog from any computer.



Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)

This year, we will continue to focus on the Key Instant Recall Facts. These are a set of key mental maths objectives which help to form a solid foundation for mathematics. At the beginning of each half term, a new KIRF will be introduced to every year group. The teacher will teach this in an initial lesson and revisit the objective weekly. We will then send home the objective with ways to support your child at home. Last year teachers found that focusing on one key objective weekly resulted in more progress, and the children were motivated to learn and build their fluency! The point of the repetition is to really embed these facts in their memory. If you have any questions or need any support, please contact me or your child's class teacher.

Miss Eastlake (Maths subject leader)



Story Garden

We've been thinking hard about how we use the outside spaces across the school over the last year and have been turning an unused green roof space into a campfire style story garden. Year 1 were the first class to use it and loved listening to a story in a different environment.

Dates for Autumn Term

September

Wed 19 - Reception Meet the teacher 9am
 Wed 19—Jeans for Genes day
 Thur 20—PTSA Welcome BBQ after school
 Fri 21—Individual pupil photos
 Wed 24 Year 6 Parent lunch
 Thur 27—Phonics workshop Rec—Year 2
 Fri 28—Macmillan Coffee morning

October

Wed 3—Year 4 Parent lunch
 Wed 3—PTSA AGM 7.30pm
 Thur 4—KS1 Maths workshop
 Mon 8—Year 5 and 6 Shakespeare w/shop
 Fri 12—Harvest Festival 9am (TBC)
 Fri 12—Year 3 Class Assembly 3pm
 Tues 16—Flu vaccine Rec—Year 5
 Tues 16—Year 6 PTSA cake sale
 Wed 17—last day of half term
 Thur 18—INSET day
 Fri 19—INSET day
 Mon 22—Fri 26 HALF TERM
 Tues 30—Parent's Evening
 Wed 31—Parent's Evening

November

Thur 1—KS2 Maths workshop
 Fri 2—Year 2 Class Assembly
 Tues 6—Year 3 Parent lunch
 Wed 7—Year 5 and 6 Shakespeare Theatre Trip
 Fri 9—Year 1 Class Assembly
 Tues 13—Year 5 Parent lunch
 Fri 16—Year 6 Class Assembly
 Wed 21—Year 1 Parent lunch
 Thur 22 Year 5 PTSA cake sale
 Fri 24—Year 5 Class Assembly

December

Thur 6—PTSA Christmas Fair
 Fri 7—KS2 Pantomime trip
 Tue 18—Rec and KS1 Pantomime trip
 Thur 20—last day of term. Finish at **1.30pm**

Jeans for Genes day is Wednesday 19

September. Money raised goes to causes such as providing support for families with children with genetic disorders, undertaking important research into attempting to find cures and treatment as well as producing educational resources. Children can wear an item of denim in exchange for a donation of £1. Thank you!

Look out for **curriculum letters** on Monday. These go out at the start of each term and summarise what was discussed at the 'meet the teacher' meetings last week. Please read through carefully and let us know if you have any questions.

Pupil Progress Meetings

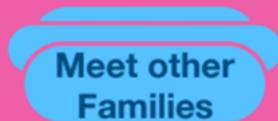
This week, the teachers from Year 1—6 met with Mr Standing and Mr Luzmore to discuss each child in detail, how they've settled in and what support they might need in the coming year. This is something we do every term to track progress and attainment of each child as well as how they are getting on socially. If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to get in contact sooner rather than later.

In this **week's assemblies, Mr Standing**, read the story 'Tusk, Tusk' which explored themes of differences and conflict between two types of elephants and how we can embrace diversity. **Mr Nouth** led an assembly on how Saul became Paul when he had vision from God and how we too can all choose to make changes for the better. In **Ms Luzmore's** assembly we looked at the traditions surrounding the Jewish new year festival of Rosh Hashanah.

SMMA Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) invites you to...

SMMA WELCOME BBQ

Thursday 20th September, 3.30pm-5pm
in the playground



Burger/Hot dog £1 or free for reception children families

SRE Parent meeting

Thank you to all the parents who attended the SRE consultation this morning. We were impressed with the high number who took the time to come in and listen to Mr Standing and Lorraine King, from Islington, talk about our PSHE curriculum. We felt it was really important that our curriculum, how it fits in with Islington's scheme and what is covered across primary was presented to parents clearly and that they were given the opportunity to ask questions, discuss ideas and share information on the subject. The feedback from the session was very positive and we have come away with some useful ideas on how to develop the curriculum further and continue a constructive, transparent dialogue between teachers, parents and the borough. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would like further information on our PSHE and SRE curriculum, please come in to talk to Mr Standing or your child's class teacher. We can also provide you with access to useful websites, the Islington PSHE scheme, details of our school curriculum and useful book lists on the subject.

Houses

In our school, we have four different houses (Africa, Americas, Europe and Asia) that all children are placed into at the beginning of their time at SMMA. Siblings are always put into the same house. Throughout the year, we award house points which are collected weekly and shared in our celebration assembly. House points can be awarded for demonstrating our values, in actions and through work which shows effort. Each week, a trophy is given the colours of the house to wear.

Last week's attendance figures

