



# Primary School Newsletter - 18 October 2019

Show by a good life that your works are done by gentleness  
born of wisdom James 3:13

**Phonics workshop** for Reception class will take place on Thursday 7 November at 9am in the school hall. This will be a great chance to learn more about how we teach early reading at the school so that you can support



**Offer to families: School Health Service** are offering a free surgery on Fri, 8 Nov to meet with parents of pupils at SMMA Primary. The key focus of these would be supporting **asthma and minor illnesses**. If you would like to book an appointment that day to discuss your child's health please contact the office.



Many thanks to all who attended **Parent's Evening** this week. If you were unable to make an appointment, please arrange one with the school office after half term.

**PTSA Annual General Meeting**  
This week, we had the PTSA AGM. A huge thank you to those who attended. It was great to review the last academic year, which included lots of new events we did, like the SATS breakfasts for Y6, Easter Egg Hunt, and magic show. Our funds enabled all the children to go to the theatre last Christmas, as well as contributing £10k towards the new playground equipment. Mr Standing talked about the value PTSA brings to the school community and the enrichment to the children's education.

**Autumn term diary dates**  
**October**  
Mon 21 – 1 November – Half Term  
**November**  
Mon 4—No Wonderful writing club  
Tues 5 – Y5 & Y6 Millfield Theatre trip  
Tues 5—Reception, Y1, 2 & 3 Reading morning  
Wed 6—No after school clubs due to staff training  
Thur 7—Phonics workshop Reception 9am  
Fri 8—School Health Service surgery morning  
Fri 8—Year 2 class assembly 3pm  
Fri 15—Flu Immunisation  
Fri 15—Year 5 class assembly  
Wed 20 – Reception Parent Lunch  
Thur 21—Y2 & Y5 Fire Safety talk  
Fri 22—Year 4 class assembly 3pm  
Thur 28—Y5 Sir John Soames museum trip  
Fri 29—Reception, Y1, 2 & 3 Reading morning  
Fri 29—Y3 class assembly 3pm  
**December**  
Tues 10—Pantomime in school hall  
Wed 11 – Y4 Tate Britain  
Thur 12—Christmas lunch  
Fri 13 – Nativity (Times TBC)  
Tues 17—Keyboard assembly with Mr Mills 9am  
Tues 17 – KS2 Carol Concert (Times TBC)

**PTSA Class reps are:**  
**Reception**  
Stephen Jones & Michael Yoong  
**Year 1** Becky Pryce & Sabina Evelyn  
**Year 2** Jenna Rutherford & Ruth Brodie  
**Year 3** Guielene Gaspais & Carmen Butanoiu  
**Year 4** Shazie Mohamed  
**Year 5**—Vacant  
**Year 6** Lisa Kokkinos & Charlie Winn

**PTSA Committee**  
Jo Richards (Chair)  
Laurence Standing (Vice Chair)  
Ana Wilks (Treasurer)  
Dawn Baylon (Secretary)  
Leah Wells  
Guilene Gaspais  
Jenna Rutherford  
Ruth Brodie  
Lisa Kokkinos  
Michael Yoong  
Ali Kesson  
Marie Geneste

Have you got what it takes to be an SMMA H.E.R.O?

This week's **HEROs:**  
**Year 1 - Amadi**  
**Year 2 - April**  
**Year 3 - Alice**  
**Year 4 - Maybelle**  
**Year 5 - Adam**  
**Year 6 - Eleanor**

Throughout October, we have very much enjoyed celebrating **Black History Month**. Across the school we have been learning about different elements of Black history and culture through guest speakers, workshops, class trips and work undertaken in our classrooms.



Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a morning of literacy workshops with Nicole from New Beacon Books, a publisher that specialises in African and Caribbean literature. They shared together poems and stories that celebrated Black history and culture. In Literacy, Year 2 have been writing letters from the perspective of Nelson Mandela.

Across Key Stage 2, the children have been using the poem 'Still I Rise' by poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou as inspiration for their literacy work.

In their Unit of Inquiry, Year 4 have been learning all about Windrush and what this meant for those involved. The class have used the poetry of Maya Angelou as a platform from which to explore the poem 'Windrush Child' by John Agard. Years 5 and 6 spent a morning with Nefertiti, a published writer and poet who has actually met Maya Angelou in person. Nefertiti told the children all about Maya's life before reading a selection of both her own and Maya Angelou's poetry. The children were completely submerged in the rhythm and pace of live poetry and enjoyed this experience.



In Unit of Inquiry, Year 5 been studying the Ancient Civilisation of Nubia, located in what is today known as Sudan. This civilisation spanned several thousand years and at one point ruled over Egypt with Nubian pharaohs on the throne. As part of this inquiry, the class visited the British Museum to see the 'Sphinx of Taharqo', a very special Nubian artefact.

Year 6 have been studying the poems 'Still I Rise' and 'Caged Bird' by Maya Angelou, alongside the poem 'Sympathy' by Paul Laurence Dunbar. They have been analysing the structure and language of the poems, whilst also looking at the theme of discrimination. This has resulted in the children writing some fantastic poetry of their own.

### In this week's assemblies:

**Ms Luzmore** read from Chapter 5 of A Little History of the World. In this we heard a short history of the Jewish people in the Old Testament and how they stayed true to their belief in one God throughout many different challenges and trials. We thought about Abraham, Moses, Joseph, King Solomon and the many different journeys they went on.

We also heard about the life of Wangari Muta Maathai—environmentalist who was known as Mother of Trees due to her project planting 50 million trees in Kenya.

In **Fr Sam's** assembly we discussed the Parable of the Great Pearl from Matthew 13: 45-46

*The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.*

*The Sun beats down with mercy  
Fuelling the want on global controversy  
My body is a cage  
Prayer will never be caged  
Part of hope  
Crippled by a forced disassociation of the guilt*

*In the morning, in the evening there is light  
At the night there is none  
Even though the dawn is still some time away  
There is a light in my heart that was missing  
yesterday*

*They treated us no better than cattle or pigs  
Guilt and horror upon your face  
and finally you made your mistake.*

**Wlat Yr 6**