St Mark's CE Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 2nd September 2014
www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Issue 1

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope that you and your children had a very restful and enjoyable holiday and are glad to be back at school. I also hope that your children are ready for the many fun, challenging and creative opportunities that we will provide throughout the year.

New staff and children

Welcome also to the new children at St Mark's – thank you parents for choosing our school. We will ensure that you and your children quickly become and feel part of the St Mark's community. Our school is a very special place to be. Welcome also to new staff members, Sarah Hickman (Year 2 teacher), Jordan Demant (Year 3 teacher), Rochelle Robb (Year 5 teacher), Pierre Galliet and Kate Campbell (Teaching Assistants), all of whom have very quickly become part of the St Mark's staff team.

Learning Zone

Mrs Farquharson and Ms Iwanicki are both now working in the Mitford Building and have established a base that they have called the 'Learning Zone'. Here, they will be working with identified groups of children. They will also be providing additional teacher support to class teachers at different times throughout the day. Mrs Farquharson will continue to be the teacher in charge of the infant team and Ms Iwanicki will be in charge of the junior team.

School Redevelopment Works

When surveyed, children always say that the areas of school where they want to see improvements are toilets and the playground. I am pleased to report that both these areas have been addressed over the summer holiday. There are new toilets in the junior part of the building on the first floor and the playground has been resurfaced with new game line markings embedded into the surface. Children will be shown how to use these by our teaching assistants. The children were very excited when they returned to school yesterday and gave their approval to these changes.

Class Names

As you may remember, last term we ran a competition to establish class names throughout our school. From the shortlist, children favoured calling their classes after gemstones. Therefore, see the year group and its corresponding gemstone name below. There has been some discussion about whether or not some of the names are actual gemstones, but after much research, we can assure you that they are.

Reception = Emerald Class

Year 1 = Sapphire Class

Year 2 = Ruby Class

Year 3 = Opal Class

Year 4 = Coral Class

Year 5 = Jet Class

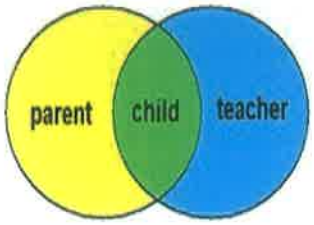
Year 6 = Onyx Class

Parent Communication

You should have received a text or seen on the school website that we have 'Meet the Teacher and Parent Meetings' tomorrow after school. The infant meetings take place from 3.45-4.05pm and the junior meetings are from 4.10-4.30pm. We know that some of our parents may have two or more children in the infants and/or juniors. Therefore, please make a separate appointment to see your child's class teacher should this be the case. As ever, we will continue with our open-door policy of meeting with parents before and after school at mutually convenient times.

This Friday, you will receive a letter from your child's class teacher which will outline the key subject areas as well as routines and procedures that your child will be following this year. Do read this letter and become familiar with key information such as swimming days, PE kit requirements and what you can do to further help support your child's learning at home.

Home/School Agreement



Please find attached to this newsletter an updated copy of our Home/School Agreement. New and different in this policy is our statement relating to safeguarding your children and what this means for both you and our school. Please can I ask that you read and complete it (for each child if more than one at our school) and return it to school at your earliest convenience, but by next Friday (12th September).
This policy demonstrates your and our school's commitment to working successfully in partnership for the benefit of your child(ren).

Term Dates 2014-15

Please also find attached to this newsletter an updated copy of the term dates for 2014-15. We discovered that we were potentially doing an additional day at school this academic year so this has since been amended. We will now have an INSET (staff training) Day on Monday 3rd November. Please add this date to your calendars.

Coffee Mornings

Ayesha Taylor, our School Home Support Worker will be providing a list of Coffee Morning dates and themes by the end of this week. Please do come along to meet new parents, to find out about key elements of the school's work and to have a coffee or tea. There is a welcome back to school coffee morning next week Thursday morning (11th September) at 9am where any ideas for future coffee morning will also be discussed.

As ever, we are hopeful of another very successful year at St Mark's. This can only be achieved if we have your full support in all that we endeavour to provide for your children. We value your comments and contributions towards all aspects of your child's learning and about school progress generally. Therefore, please be forthcoming and help us to do as great a job as we are able to.

We look forward to working with even more of you throughout the year ahead.

With very best wishes,

Calvin Henry, Martha Braithwaite & Staff

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

St Mark's Church of England Primary School

TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2014/15	
Autumn Term 2014	**Total Days: 75**
Term Starts:	Monday 1st September 2014 – INSET DAY
Children return:	Tuesday 2nd September 2014
Half Term:	Monday 27th October 2014 – Friday 31st October 2014
	Monday 3rd November 2014 – INSET Day
Children return:	Tuesday 4th November 2014
Term Ends:	Friday 19th December 2014
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22nd December 2014 to Friday 2nd January 2015
Spring Term 2015	**Total Days: 55**
Term Starts:	Monday 5th January 2015 – INSET Day
Children return:	Tuesday 6th January 2015
Half Term:	Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2015
Children return:	Monday 23rd February 2015
Term Ends:	Friday 27th March 2015
Easter Holidays:	Good Friday 3rd April 2015 / Easter Monday 6th April 2015
Spring Holidays:	Monday 30th March 2015 – Friday 10th April 2015
Summer Term 2015	**Total Days: 65**
Term Starts:	Monday 13th April – INSET Day
Children return:	Tuesday 14th April 2015
Half Term:	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2015
Children return:	Monday 1st June 2015
Terms Ends:	Friday 17th July 2015
	Monday 20th July 2015 – INSET Day
Bank Holidays	May Day Monday – 4th May 2015
	Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 25th May 2015
	Summer Bank Holiday - Monday 31st August 2015

The total number of pupil days is 190
INSET Days = 5TOTAL DAYS 195

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admin@st-marks.islington.sch.uk
Headteacher: Calvin Henry
Head of School Martha Braithwaite
Assistant Head: Sarah Bearfoot

Healthy School

GLOBAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

International School Award

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St Mark's CE Primary School
Home School Agreement

At St Mark's CE Primary School parents, carers, children and staff work together as partners. We aim to create a stimulating, challenging and fun learning environment where children are able to achieve to the best of their abilities in all areas and be responsible members of the school community.

We believe that success comes from:

- understanding your child's needs and interests and creating challenging and fun lessons to meet them
- expecting the very best from your child and giving them the support and encouragement to achieve well
- understanding that a child needs to develop their whole character from sparking their imagination to encouraging an inquiring mind
- children developing understanding, respect and tolerance of the backgrounds and beliefs of all members of the school community
- valuing the important role that parents play in raising children and helping with their learning

Headteacher: Calvin Henry
Telephone No: 020 7272 5967
Fax: 020 7561 9013
Website: www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to:

- bring your child to school on time and collect him/her punctually at the end of the school day
- show an interest in your child's work and be positive about it
- support your child's learning by working with him/her at home
- involve yourself as much as possible with the life of the school and keep up-to-date with events, including attending meetings and supporting events
- let the school know if anything happens at home that might affect your child's behaviour or school work
- not take holidays in school time (see Attendance & Punctuality Policy, page 3)
- make sure your child has any equipment he/she needs for school
- inform the school of any absence
- give pre-authorised consent to your child participating in local visits such as to local parks, St Mark's Church, etc
- encourage your child to lead a healthy lifestyle
- support all school policies (main policies are available outside of the school office)

Signed Parent _____

Print name _____

Child's name _____

Safeguarding Principles

Safeguarding is the protection of children from abuse and neglect that may negatively affect their health and development and ensuring that they experience safe and effective care.

St Mark's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its pupils. An important part of this is working with parents positively, openly and honestly.

Parents are encouraged to talk to the class teacher or head teacher if they have concerns which they want to share with school about home or school.

We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission or it is necessary to do so in order to protect a child.

St Mark's School will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm.

We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all of our pupils.

Some of our key policies that deal with Safeguarding include the areas below. These policies are available on the school website or directly from the school office.

However we need all parents/carers to sign our E-Safety and Use of digital images agreement forms overleaf

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day	**Name of School**	**St Mark's CE Primary**
	Date of next Review	**July 2015**
	Reviewed by	

As the parent, carer or legal guardian of the above child, I give permission for my child to have access to use the Internet, London Grid for Learning (LGfL) email* and other ICT facilities at school.

I know that my child has signed an e-safety agreement form and that they have a copy of **the 'rules for responsible ICT use'.**

I accept that ultimately the school cannot be held responsible for the nature and content of materials accessed through the Internet and mobile technologies, but I understand that the school will take every reasonable precaution to keep my child safe and to prevent children from accessing inappropriate materials. These steps include using an educationally filtered service, restricted access email*, employing appropriate teaching practices and teaching E-Safety skills to children in line with the school's scheme of work.

I understand that the school can check my child's computer files, and the Internet sites visited, and that if they have concerns about their E-Safety or E-Behaviour, that they will contact me.

I will support the school by promoting safe use of the Internet and digital technology at home and will inform the school if I have any concerns over my child's E-Safety.

Child's name: _____

Parent/Carer's signature: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

*At our school we only use London Grid for Learning with children. The email is safe as children can only email others in their class. We do not set up individual email accounts. If we choose to let children communicate with others outside of the school, we only do so under supervision and with those approved by the school.

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Use of digital images – photography, video, mobile telephones and social media

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we need your permission before we can photograph or make recordings of your child.

We adhere to the following rules for any external use of digital images:

- **If your child is named, we avoid using his/her photograph.**
- **If your child's photograph is used, we avoid naming him/her.**

Where showcasing examples of children's work, we only use their first names, rather than their full names. If showcasing digital video work to an external audience or images of children (e.g. on school website), we ensure that children are not referred to by name. Also,

- only images of children in suitable dress are used
- should school staff take photographs or videos these images/videos are only ever downloaded and used in school. Should they be used for any other purpose (e.g. presentations), permission is always sought from parents beforehand
- our school will allow parents and carers to take photographs and video images of their children during school events, including shows and assemblies and will seek permission from the parents of other children and/or the school should they want to include other children in images and videos with their children. It is understood that such images will not be shared with others, including uploading images and videos to social networking sites. If this is abused, the school will reserve the right to review and change this policy
- use of mobile telephones on the school site is strictly prohibited

I have read and understood this document. I understand that images will only be used to support learning activities or in publicity that reasonably promotes the work of the school and for no other purpose.

Child's name: _____

Parent/Carer signature: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____