



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

# St Mark's News

26<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
Issue 9

[www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk](http://www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are almost at the end of the first half of spring term and it is time for Y6 to dedicate themselves to SATs revision! Mr Peacock is already preparing for Booster sessions before school and will be running Easter School for Y6 pupils alongside Mr Jones. It is vitally important that all Y6 children are in school on time and attend every day, including the Booster sessions so that they can achieve the best results possible. Letters will be sent home soon. Thank you parents for your support with this. Wishing you a restful weekend.

Ms Braithwaite

## Energy drinks are Not for Children

Parents, please encourage your children and young family members to not choose Energy drinks when they are out and about and thirsty. The label on every energy can says it all: 'not recommended for children', but 69% of adolescents and 24% of under 10s are drinking them. As part of Jamie Oliver's campaign to cut childhood obesity and promote healthy diets for children, he is calling on the government to put age restrictions on the sale of energy drinks so that they are no longer available to under 16-year-olds. We support his plans.

## Year 2 Parents to Lunch

Next week, we are inviting parents of children in Y2 to have lunch with their child. This is a wonderful opportunity to taste the delicious food our children enjoy on a daily basis. This is a very popular event for the children and they love having a parent or family member dining with them. Next term we will be inviting parents of Reception and Y1 classes to join their children for lunch, so look out for these invitations.

## St Mark's Quiz Night

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, St Mark's Family organised a Quiz Night for parents and staff of St Mark's. The evening was very well attended and a great success. Our Chair of Governors was the Quizmaster and had set some very challenging questions for the teams to answer. The St Mark's Staff team came a very close second in the overall results having been beaten by just 4 points! The evening was great fun and a great opportunity to meet the school community. We would like to thank St Mark's Family for organising the event.

## Parent Gym Continues

We would like to remind you that Parent Gym is running at the school on Monday mornings and is open to all St Mark's parents. These free workshops provide a fun and interactive framework to help you to help your child do their very best at school. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided and sessions begin at 9am in the Learning Zone.

## Some sad news

It is with much sadness that I inform you of the death of our once Music teacher, Clair Friedman. Clair taught at the school for over 30 years until 2012.

Many staff, past and present, were still in contact with her, several of us spending time with her last year at the Almeida. Clair's piano playing was not only a sight to behold but also a firm memory for lots of the songs we still sing today. At our 2009 Ofsted, Clair played in the assembly and the inspector commented on it in our report stating: The hall rocked to the joyful singing of pupils and staff together.

## Class assemblies

Year 6 started off this year's class assemblies with a journey through the Shang Dynasty. The class sang, acted, informed and amused us with their learning so far. Y5 will be presenting their assembly on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see the list of dates below for all other classes.

Y4	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February
Y3	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Y2	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
Y1	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Rec	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March
Nursery	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March

## Bible Verse of the Week

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God'  
Matthew 5 vs9



## St Mark's Football Teams Winning Streak Continues



**St Mark's Boys** played brilliantly, putting Ambler under lots of pressure. The end result winning 2-0. It could have been many more; their goal keeper made some brilliant saves. Benji was back on the score sheet for St Mark's with yet another 2 goals. The rest of the team showed fantastic chemistry and team spirit.

Reporter: Josiah Y6

**St Mark's Girls** played a brilliant match against Amber. They managed to win by 3-1. Well done to Mia for scoring 2 amazing goals, the other was a fortuitous own goal. The girls showed a fantastic attitude. Well done for winning two games in a row!

Reporter: Daniella Y6



### Holidays in Term Time are not authorised

**Please be aware that the school will not authorise any holidays in term time.** Families do have the many long weeks of the summer holidays to look forward to, so if you are booking your holiday, please be aware that the school breaks up on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm**. Term dates are given to parents well in advance of the school year beginning' and can be viewed on our website. Alternatively a printed copy is available at the school office on request.

The last few weeks of term are always packed with stimulating and fun learning activities and no child should miss.

The school has a duty to report any extra holidays taken in term time to the Local Authority and parents can receive a Fixed Penalty Notice or even a court summons for holidays taken during term time. Any holidays that are taken at this time will not be authorised unless there are truly exceptional circumstances and a request form explaining the special circumstance must be completed **prior to the holiday being booked**.

In addition, every year a handful of pupils do not return on the correct start date in September. Please make sure that the date of the start of term is in your diary so that you are aware when you are booking your holiday. **All children must return to school on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**. Children who have not returned to school will be marked as having an unauthorised absence unless a valid reason is provided.

If you would like to speak to someone regarding your child's school attendance, please make an appointment to see Ayesha Taylor, our School Home Support Practitioner on any Wednesday or Thursday.