



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

St Mark's News

14th September 2018
Issue 1

www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and a particularly warm welcome to our new families. We hope that you have all had a very enjoyable and restful summer holiday and are looking forward to the year ahead. This term we welcome Mrs Lockwood, our new Y3 teacher and also Christine Kinnear who returns as our Chair of Governors. Please remember, we aim to work closely with each and every one of you, therefore should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the school.

Wishing us all another wonderful year, working in partnership together.

Ms Braithwaite

Daily Mile

This year each class will continue to complete the daily mile each day. The aim of the Daily Mile is simple – to help children improve physical, emotional, social and mental health and wellbeing by doing 15 minutes of physical activity outdoors each day. Last year we saw huge progress in the fitness and stamina of lots of our children which in turn benefitted their ability to be more focused and learn. Please ensure your child is able to take part by ensuring they have the appropriate footwear for this, they do not need their PE kit each day.

Secondary Transfer/Osmington Bay Meeting

All Y6 parents are invited to come along to discuss the Secondary transfer process and the Y6 school journey on Thursday 27th September at 4pm. Year 6 parents are also invited to meet with either myself or Mr Jones to discuss their individual preferences. Please ask at the office for an appointment.

McMillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 28th September all children are invited to come to school wearing Green in support of this national fund raising event. Coffee will be on sale in the morning for parents and there will be a cake sale after school for everyone. Contributions are greatly appreciated. We hope to raise lots of money for this very important charity.

Before and After School Supervision

Parents and carers must be aware that the school cannot provide supervision for pupils in the playground either before or after school or on parents' evenings and parent/family events. The children will be the responsibility of the parents and carer during these times, so please make sure you are aware of your child's whereabouts. Ball games should not be played.

Parent Governor Elections

Thank you to the parents who have already expressed an interest in becoming a parent governor. In the interest of fairness, information about the process will be sent out once our new Reception children have all started.

Dates For Your Diary

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| Y6 Class Assembly | Tuesday 25 th September 10am |
| Y5 Class Assembly | Tuesday 2 nd October 10am |
| Y4 Class Assembly | Tuesday 9 th October 10am |
| Y2 Class Assembly | Tuesday 16 th October 10am |
| Y3 Class Assembly | Tuesday 6 th November 10am |
| Y1 Class Assembly | Tuesday 13 th November 10am |
| Half term | Mon 22 nd -Fri 26 th October |
| Parent consultations | Thurs 29 th Nov -3.45 onwards |
| Class Parties | Thurs 20 th December |
| End of term | Friday 21 st December -2pm |

I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

Ecclesiastes 3:14

Attendance and Punctuality

Please take note of this important information regarding school attendance and punctuality.

Illness

Please remember that if your child is too ill to attend you must let the school know by informing us on the first morning of your child's illness. Parents must explain what is wrong with their child and keep the school informed every day that the illness progresses.

Low attendance

If your child's attendance level drops for any reason, your child will be discussed at regular attendance meetings in school. Parents will be asked to come into school to meet with Mr Jones and Ayesha Taylor. If there is no improvement and your child's attendance and punctuality continues to be a concern then the school will make a referral to the Local Authority's Access and Engagement service.

Persistent absence

Please note that children whose attendance has fallen below 90% are considered by the Local Authority as having a 'persistent absence' from school. These children will be placed on the school's persistent absentee list. If the child's attendance fails to improve following intervention, parents will be referred to the Local Authority.

Penalty notices.

The school has a duty to inform parents that penalty notices can be issued for unauthorised absence, lateness and holidays. Both parents can be taken to court and/or fined £60 for every child (paid within 21 days) rising to £120 each (if paid within 28 days).

Leave in term time

In accordance with national expectations, St Mark's will not authorise any holidays taken during term time. Only very exceptional absences will be authorised. Parents need to fill out a school form and put in a request *prior* to booking if they require exceptional leave. Please note that your child's school place is at risk if you take unauthorised leave from school.

Being at school.

Please arrive on time for school every day. Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life and is a statutory requirement. Research clearly demonstrates the link between regular attendance, educational progress and improved life chances. If there are any reasons why you are finding it difficult to send your child to school please let any member of the school staff team know as soon as possible.