



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

# St Mark's News

14<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
Issue 17

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

What fun we've had at school today with our 'celebrity' dress up day. Children have been involved in games, sports and a very special assembly. Thank you to all families who contributed to the day by dressing up and donating to our two charities; Grenfell and Cancer Research. Well done to the school council for organizing the event!

Over the weekend please try and have a look at our website which is bursting with news and exciting events that have been happening this week for STEAM week. Once again children have been experiencing many new skills and activities. Many thanks to Mr Peacock for his organisation of this too.

Best wishes,  
Ms Braithwaite

## Sports Day – New Date

Unfortunately, due to the very wet weather we had on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, we had to cancel our Sports Day at Finsbury Park. However, we have managed to re-arrange and Sports Day will be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July at the same venue. More information regarding the event will be sent out nearer the time.

## Sponsored Reading Fundraiser

Thank you so much to one of our parents who organised the sponsored reading challenge which children took part in before the half term holiday. The children managed to raise £402 and Osbourne Books donated 25% which increased our spending amount to £520. Books have already been purchased and distributed to Early Years and the School Library.

## St Mark's Summer Fair – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Plans for the Summer Fair are progressing and volunteers are needed! Donations for the Tombola stand will be gratefully received and should be left at the school office (unwanted gifts or new items only please). We need help with both organising and running the event so any time you can give will be appreciated. Look out for meeting dates and requests to help run the stalls at the Fair. If you are able to help, please let the school office know. With more people on board this Fair could be the best one yet!

## NSPCC's Assembly – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

We are pleased to welcome the NSPCC in next week to deliver their 'Speak Out – Stay Safe' programme during assembly. This is a nationwide programme for every primary school aged child in the UK and Channel Isles. Children in Years 5 and 6 will also take part in a workshop during the afternoon.

## Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for Kids at The Young Academy

Designed to empower the weak against the strong, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is the world's fastest growing martial art. With consistent practice, it provides a child with the ability to stay calm under pressure and to defend themselves with bully-proof confidence. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is also a perfect way for children to develop body awareness, empathy, physical and mental resilience and increased fitness, in a positive and fun environment. The increase in concentration and discipline that can contribute directly to your child's school life and performance is just an added bonus.

We'll be delivering a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu demonstration and information session in Finsbury Park, N4 from 4 - 5 p.m. on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. If you and your child(ren) would like to see, feel and understand a little more about *The Gentle Art*, email us at [demo@youngacademy.co.uk](mailto:demo@youngacademy.co.uk) for an invitation and location details. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

*Psalm 119 Vs 105*

*St Mark's School Vision*

# Child Protection-St Mark's CE Primary School's Role

*“Children and young people have a right to be protected from harm. Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment.”*

The following information outlines our school procedures in relation to Child Protection. .

## Child Protection in school: information for parents and carers

**This leaflet aims to help parents understand the school's duty in keeping children safe and the procedures which we, as a school, have to follow.**

At St Mark's CE Primary School we see children's welfare as of paramount importance. We are committed to working with parents to ensure that our pupils have a happy, safe and good learning environment both at school and at home.

As a school we are committed to and have a legal duty to safeguard your child's welfare. We follow the model policies and protocols outlined by Islington Safeguarding Board in order to ensure the welfare of all children.

All members of staff in school are trained in safeguarding children and are committed to ensuring the safety of all our pupils.

If the school is worried about a pupil's welfare and if a child is at risk of harm, the school must follow:-

- the law (the school has a legal duty to pass on information)
- guidance from the Department for Education
- local multi-agency child protection procedures.

### What sort of harm?

Harm in these circumstances, means child abuse or child maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by harming them or not acting to prevent harm.

Harm is defined by the NSPCC as:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse including FGM
- neglect.

Enquiries also have to be made if a child is living with someone who has previously been involved in the abuse of another child.

### What will school do?

If a member of staff is concerned that a child is at risk of suffering harm, they will report it to one of the designated members of staff responsible for child protection matters.

**(Matt Jones (DSL), Martha Braithwaite, Liz Vitrano and Sarah Bearfoot)**

The designated member of staff will then investigate the matter and seek advice from social services. Following advice from Children's Social Care (CSC) a referral is made if there is a level of concern. If the child is referred, school must share all relevant information about the pupil. The Date Protection Act allows schools to share personal information with other agencies where there are child protection concerns about a child.

School may let the child's parent(s) know when the child is referred, but will not contact parent(s) if advised not to by CSC.

### In certain situations

Children's Social Care will contact the parents/carer to let them know what is happening as soon as possible.

A social worker, sometimes together with a police officer, will talk to everyone in the family. The social worker will talk to all children who are old enough to find out how they feel and what worries them. CSC will take a lead on which intervention is most appropriate for the case. If necessary, a Child Protection or a Child in Need plan may be put in place.

### Will my child be taken away from me?

This is often a very real concern for families. In most cases, it is assessed that it is in the best interests of the child to remain at home with their families. This is often where problems are sorted out most effectively.

However, the law says that Children's Social Care must make sure that children are safe. If it is not safe for a child to continue to live at home the social worker will see if the child can stay with another member of the family. If that is not possible the social worker will arrange for the child to stay with a foster carer or in a children's residential home until an assessment is made whether or not the child can return home.

### What happens after the investigation?

One of several things may happen after the investigation:

- No further action is taken.
- Advice and support is offered (this may be provided by other professionals or agencies).
- A meeting is arranged to decide what will happen next.

### Further information

Further information can be found from the sources detailed below:

- School policies, including the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children policies. These can be found on our website and on request from the school office.
- NSPCC ([www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk))
- Islington Safeguarding Board ([www.islingtonscb.org.uk](http://www.islingtonscb.org.uk))