



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

# St Mark's News

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Issue 4

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the half term break and managed to get some rest. It is great to see the children back with so much enthusiasm and energy towards their learning.

I am very aware that last half term was like no other for everyone. I am incredibly proud of the way all children and members of staff have responded to the new ways of doing things and adapting to measures put in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. The atmosphere in school remains very positive and I am encouraged by the great work that the children are producing. Thank you for your continued support to the school.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend,  
Ms Braithwaite

## **Social Distancing Reminder**

### **PLEASE STAY TWO METRES APART!!!**

"I know it is hard and it can be easy to forget to stand two metres apart when you're talking to others, but the virus can spread, even outdoors so it's important we follow the guidance.

"Congregating in groups is a particular problem as it means the virus can spread very quickly. Winter is approaching and with hospitals expected to get busier, it is important we all try to keep our distance in and around the school. This will help us to protect our communities and reduce the pressure on our NHS at a time when our hospitals are coming under increasing pressure."

## **Children in Need**

Next Friday is Children in Need. We are asking all children to come to school in spots or a bright colour. There will be games and activities in classes on the day that all children will take part in. Children are also asked to donate £1 to the charity.

## **Remembrance Day**

On Wednesday, the whole school will be taking part in a special Remembrance Service to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. Prior to the assembly, children will be learning about the different roles people and animals played during the war. This weekend, all children are encouraged to make a poppy to wear during school next week. Last year these came in many different colours to reflect the different groups lost. I look forward to seeing how creative everyone is this year.

## **Harvest**

We celebrated Harvest this year in a very different way! We were determined to find a way to thank God for all His goodness and what He provides for each one of us! We held our service in the hall with all the classes watching remotely and contributing with their own class song, sung in their own classes. Rev. Trev gave a Harvest talk, which helped the children think about how we can serve others at Harvest time. Your food donations were gratefully received by the Andover food bank and Christian Aid will receive the very generous £200 raised. Thank you everyone for your contributions.

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

*Psalm 119 Vs 105*

*St Mark's School Vision*

# Parents' Evening Phone Calls

We are planning to hold our parent evening consultations during the week of 16<sup>th</sup> November. Due to the current lockdown and the rise of Covid-19 infections, these will be conducted over the phone. Class teachers will phone each parent to talk about their child, Mrs. Bearfoot will also be available to parents of children with SEN. I know that many of you would prefer a face-to-face meeting, as would we however, we have to take these precautions, as keeping risks to a minimum will ensure our school stays open and limits Covid-19 cases.

In order for these phone calls to be easily organised and as productive as possible, there are guidelines as to how they will happen:

- you must book your phone call slot on School Ping in advance
- the teacher will only call during your booked phone call slot
- in many cases teachers will be calling from a withheld number and what you will see is 'No Caller Id'; the school number may not come up so you must answer your phone at this time
- If you do not pick up during your call slot, the teacher will try 3 times, after that, your slot will be gone, and it will not be rearranged. I must be firm about this as teachers are very busy during the day teaching and have marking, meetings and preparation to do in the evenings after school ends.

- the calls will last around 6-8 minutes and the teacher will give you specific information about what is going well at school as well as areas for development and you will have the opportunities to ask questions
- the calls will only be about your child's progress in learning so if you have queries about other things outside of this, the teacher will not be able to deal with them
- we advise that you find somewhere quiet to take the call and be ready and waiting for it, for the conversation to be as productive as possible
- the teacher will have made notes beforehand and will have had a conversation with any other teacher who may teach your child so that he/she can give you accurate information
- if your level of English requires that you need an interpreter, we suggest that you have someone present with you at the phone call and put the call on loudspeaker
- Please book your phone call slot as soon as possible. Once booked we will be in touch with you to confirm the number you wish the call to be made on

## **FURTHER INFORMATION TO FOLLOW ON SCHOOL PING**

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