



St Mark's News

27th April 2018
Issue 14

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term. I hope you all managed to get out and about over the Easter break despite the weather not being great. The children have come back to school fully recharged and ready for a fantastic term of learning. This term is a particularly busy one so please make sure you bookmark important dates below.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Best wishes,

Ms Braithwaite

Reminder

School is closed on Friday 4th May for staff training. Monday 7th is also a Bank Holiday so we will see you all on 8th May. Have a great Bank Holiday weekend when it comes.

Nursery Vacancies Reminder

If you know any children who will be three between now and September and would like a place in our Nursery class in the autumn term, please tell them to come in and fill out an application form. Our nursery provides high quality care on both a full and part time basis and has been a vital stepping stone for lots of our Reception children.

Summer Uniform - no open toe footwear

As the warmer weather improves and parents purchase new uniform, please be mindful of our uniform policy. School polo tops can be purchased from the school office. Summer dresses must be in the gingham print in Royal blue (not navy). All footwear must be black and open toe shoes are not allowed. Track suit bottoms are also not permitted.

Y6 SATs

In just over two weeks' time Y6 will be doing their SATs. The children have been working so hard, most of them attending Easter school for one week of the Holidays. Many thanks to both Mr Peacock and Mr Jones for all their hard work with this process. Following their SATs they are off to Osmington Bay for a well-earned week away. Mr. Peacock, Lance and Romy will all be accompanying them and I know they will all have an amazing time. We look forward to hearing about all their adventures in the first newsletter after half-term.

Reading Road Map

On Tuesday a group of children from Y4 and Y6 travelled down to the Emirates Stadium with other Islington pupils to meet with authors of the Reading Road Map Books. The Reading Road map has benefitted many children in our school and I have been delighted with the number of books the children have read from the project by lots of children. Reading is one of the greatest skills of life. We will be continuing our work on this fantastic project next year.

Important Dates For Your Diary

SATs week	14 th – 18 th May
Phonics Check	11 th – 15 th June
Science Week	11 th – 15 th June
Y6 to Osmington Bay	21 st – 25 th May
Summer Fair	7 th July
Sports Day	15 th June
Class photos	8 th June
Y6 End of Year Show.	12 th July

St Giles Trust – Visit to Y6

Yesterday afternoon, children in Y6 were visited by members of St Giles Trust who delivered a two part session around gang awareness and knife crime. Due to recent events in the news and within local communities, we believe that raising awareness of these issues is very important as our Y6 children transition from primary to secondary school. Thank you to all of Y6 for the maturity and engagement during these sessions.

Please see the reverse side of this newsletter for an important update regarding Free School Meals & Funding.

A good friend is a blessing from God.
1 Samuel 18 v3

Change to Free School Meals Applications

Earlier this year, some changes were made to the process of registering children for free school meals. We will no longer be handing out forms for completion by parents/carers as this process is now done on-line.

Funding for schools is determined by how many of these forms are registered and it is vital that you complete this on-line process.

Parents are now able to apply for Free School Meals using the on-line Citizens Portal.

All pupils in Islington maintained nurseries and primary schools are entitled to free school meals, but they must register to receive them.

Parents can register for free school meals in nursery and primary schools, or apply for free school meals in secondary schools using the same form on the Citizens Portal.

In order to use the Citizens Portal, parents must have their own email address and create an account. This is the same system that is now used for free early education for two-year-olds and parents can use their existing account if they already have one. Access to the portal is via the following link:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant>

It is very important that every child is registered on the portal by the middle of May. If you need help to do this please see Karen in the office so that she can go through the process with you.