



# St Mark's News

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019  
Issue 11

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first week back has been amazing with regards to both the weather and the children's enthusiasm for learning! Spring term is always busy, especially for children in Y6 as they take on extra lessons in preparation for their SATs in early May. We are very proud of the effort they are making.

Please remember you are invited to our Ash Wednesday service next Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm at St Mark's Church where children will have the opportunity to receive the ashing. I hope to see lots of you there!

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend,  
Ms Braithwaite

### Donations for the Homeless

Once again, St Mark's teaching staff will be volunteering at the Holy Innocents Winter Night Shelter for 2 evenings during the first 2 weeks of March. The shelter have asked for donations of toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves and socks. If you would like to help to support the night shelter, we would be grateful for any of the above items. Please bring your donations to the school office so that we can take them to the shelter. Thank you for your continued support.

### Free School Meal Checks

Although lunch is provided free of charge at Islington Primary Schools, parents are still required to register their child for the free meal. This is done on-line and we have easy to follow instructions printed on the reverse of this newsletter and also available at the office. As there are quite a few who have not registered on-line we are asking parents to do this as soon as possible. The registering process takes only a few minutes. If you would like help with registering your child, please see Karen or Yesim in the office.

### Red Nose Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

We will be raising money for Comic Relief and on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Children may come to school wearing something red if they bring in a £1 donation. We will be selling red noses at the school so please buy them from us rather than the supermarkets to help us raise as much as we can for the charity.

### Times Tables & Number Ninja Awards

Well done to all children who have received a times tables or number ninja award so far this term. Thank you for putting in so much hard work. Remember, keep practicing in school and at home and you might be next!

### Children's Flower Society Spring Bulb Competition

Children in Reception, Y5, Y6 and lunchtime gardening classes have been busy growing daffodils and hyacinths for this competition. Please ensure they bring in their plants for the judging session. Lynne Eva from The London Children's Flower Society will be coming to school on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** to judge the entries. Good Luck!

### Screen Use

The Royal College of Paediatric and child Health suggests families ask a series of questions to decide whether their children spend too long at computers and on phones:

- Is your family's screen time under control?
- Does screen use interfere with what your family want to do?
- Does screen use interfere with sleep?
- Are you able to control snacking during screen time use?
- Recommendations suggest that children should limit the amount of screen in the hour before bedtime.

### Dates for Your Diary

<b>Y2 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 10am</b>
<b>Y1 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 10am</b>
<b>Rec Class Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10am</b>
<b>Nursery Assembly</b>	<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 10am</b>
<b>Parent Consultations</b>	<b>Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March 3.45 onwards</b>
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April -2pm</b>

And so we know the love that God has for us, and we trust that love.  
God is love. Those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

**John 4 v16**

## **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. If you need help to do this please see Karen in the office so that she can go through the process with you.**