



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

St Mark's News

13th September 2019

Issue 1

www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a great summer and managed to find time to have fun and relax.

We also welcome our new parents and children to our lovely school. It was lovely to see so many happy faces return to school on Wednesday; we enjoyed welcoming the children back and hearing all about their summer holidays! We hope your children are settling well into their new classes. If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Initially, you should speak with your child's teacher at the end of the day, or you can make an appointment to meet with the Phase Leader, Deputy Headteacher (*Mr Jones*) or myself. Alternatively, you can contact us via the office.

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

Ms Braithwaite

Secondary Transfer/Osington Bay Meeting

All Y6 parents are invited to come along to discuss the Secondary transfer process and the Y6 school journey on Wednesday 25th 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.

We are a nut free school

Last term we noticed an increase in nut related foods arriving in the form of lunches and snacks and we as a team wanted to remind all of our parents and carers that we are a completely nut free school. This ban is in order to protect both the children and staff with severe allergies to all kinds of nuts. This includes any form of peanut butter and Nutella. We would also like to add that our policy against allergy risk foods/snacks also includes sesame seeds. Thank you!

McMillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 27th 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.

Dates For Your Diary

Y6 Class Assembly	Tuesday 24 th September 10am
Y4 Class Assembly	Tuesday 1 st October 10am
Y3 Class Assembly	Tuesday 8 th October 10am
Y2 Class Assembly	Tuesday 16 th October 10am
Y1 Class Assembly	Tuesday 5 th November 10am
Y5 Class Assembly	Tuesday 12 th November 10am
Rec Class Assembly	Tuesday 19 th November 10am
Half term	Mon 21 st -Fri 25 th October
Parent consultations	Thurs 21 st Nov - 3.45 onwards
End of term	Friday 20 th December -2pm

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

Psalm 119 Vs 105

St Mark's School Vision



Continuing to raise school attendance and punctuality

Please read the following information regarding school attendance and punctuality this year.

Communication is key

Remember that if your child is too ill to attend school and needs to recover at home you must inform the school 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 if the illness progresses. Where possible please make any medical appointments out of school hours and bring copies of medical letters into the office.



Holidays in term time.

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. The school can easily spot children who go for extra holidays either side of school terms and such absences will not be authorised.



Low attendance and penalty notices

If your child's attendance level drops for any reason, your child will be discussed at school intervention meetings. Parents may be asked to meet with Mr Jones and Ayesha Taylor if there is cause for concern. If there is no improvement in your child's attendance and punctuality a referral to the Local Authority's Access and Engagement service can be made. The school has a duty to inform parents that penalty notices can be issued for unauthorised absence, lateness and holidays. Both parents can be fined £60 for every child effected by poor attendance (if paid within 21 days) rising to £120 (if paid within 28 days).

Attendance



Last year we just missed reaching our school attendance target, (which remains at 97%), by 0.4%. With your help and encouragement we will be working hard this year to ensure that we have the best attendance of any school in Islington. Thank you for your support.

What is persistent absence?

Children whose attendance falls to 90% or below 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. By the end of the last school year there were 10 children on this list. If the child's attendance fails to improve following intervention, parents may be issued with a court order by the local authority.



A child's right to learn.

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life and is a legal requirement for every child. 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 know as soon as possible.