



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

St Mark's News

16th October 2020
Issue 3

www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you that you and your families are well.

As I am sure you are aware, whilst no student or member of staff has tested positive for Covid-19 at St Mark's school, the rate of infection in Islington and across London has increased quite significantly. Given the season, the rate of 'common winter' illness has also increased and I am appreciative to those parents and carers who have been very sensible in keeping their children off school if necessary and booking them Covid-19 tests.

Tonight sees the end of households being able to mix which I know for many of our families will be a real challenge. If for any reason this leaves you feeling isolated, please feel free to speak to the school and we will do our best to support you.

This is the last newsletter before the half term break. Should the situation change regarding schools' being open, after half term, the message will be sent on School PING and displayed under NEWS on our website. All children now have their Google Classroom logins and will be directed by their teachers on this platform.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend, Ms Braithwaite

Yr. 6 Secondary Transfer

This is a reminder that the deadline for secondary transfer applications is 31st October (which is during the half term).

We are happy to assist parents with their forms up until Friday 23rd October, which is when we advise you to submit your form.

Why not sign up for ParentComms?

Using the app, you will be able to receive the outcome of your application on your mobile device. You can download the free ParentComms app from the Apple AppStore, Google Play or Windows Phone Store by registering your username and password. You will receive reminders about the closing date and any pending applications that need to be submitted by the deadline.

Drop off and Pick up times

| Class/Phase | New start time | New finish time |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Amber | 8:55 | 11:45am |
| Pearl | 8:55 | 3:00pm |
| Reception | 8:55 | 3:10pm |
| Phase 2 Y1,2,3 | 8:55 | 3:20pm |
| Phase 3 Y4,5,6 | 8.50am | 3:15pm |

Police Warning

We have been asked by the Met Police to make parents aware of a safety issue regarding what, on first appearances, appear to be 'sweets'. I am sure you saw the news last week in relation to reports of children feeling unwell having eaten what appeared to be sweets in a Camden School. The main symptoms they presented with were nausea, hyperactivity, elevated heart rates and hallucinations. Thankfully, early indications are that they will all make a full recovery.



The packaging is very similar to regular sweet wrappers.

A reminder that this term, class assemblies will be filmed and uploaded onto 'Google Classroom' for parents to view. This process is taking longer than we anticipated but please bare with us if you are waiting for your Childs' performance.

Dates For Your Diary

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Y4 Class Assembly | Tuesday 20 th October |
| Half term | Mon 26 th -Fri 30 th October |
| Parent consultations | Teachers will phone parents at allocated times during the week beginning 16 Nov |
| End of term | Friday 18 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



HARVEST Celebrations 2020 THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER

Our **Harvest Celebrations** will happen in school this year as we are unable to go to church....

We will still be collecting food for the **Foodbank**, so please bring in your donations of tins and packets next week .. **please give generously!**



In our classes we will be filmed singing our Harvest songs and these will be shown on the screen in the hall for all to see! Rev. Trev will be here to give us our Harvest talk...

So we will still all be able to share in the celebration!

Look out on the website for photos and videos!

We are inviting the children to dress up with a Harvest theme on the day and donate **£1 to Christian Aid**...



At Harvest time we thank God for all the good things He provides for us...



and we remember people around us who are in need..

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government has announced that from midnight on Friday (16 October) London will move to High (Tier 2) alert status in the new 'three-tier' system for managing the spread of coronavirus.

Coronavirus cases across London - including in our borough - have been rising rapidly. We must work together to get a grip on this now and stop the virus infecting more of our friends and loved ones. We know how devastating a disease this can be - especially for our older and more vulnerable residents.

Each of us must follow the rules and protect our community.

Act now to protect yourself, your friends and your family by:

- **No household mixing indoors** – do not meet with people from outside your household (or [support bubble](#)) indoors at any time, whether at home or in a public place, including in restaurants, pubs and places of worship.
- **Sticking with six outdoors** – do not meet in groups of more than six people at any time outdoors, and try to limit the number of people you see socially over a short period.
- **Washing your hands** - regularly and for at least 20 seconds.
- **Wearing a face-covering** - in public places, including in shops, on public transport and at the school gates.
- **Creating space** – stay 2 metres apart from people outside your household.
- **Reducing travel** - where possible.

Islington's Director of Public Health, Julie Billet, explains in this video [how to keep your family and loved ones safe as coronavirus cases rise](#).

I'd urge you also to [download the NHS Covid-19 app](#) – it's the fastest way to see if you're at risk from the virus. The faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones.

Check your symptoms – If you start to develop any coronavirus symptoms make sure you self-isolate and [book a test](#) by calling 119. We have a local testing site in Islington so it should be easier to get a test locally.

Ask for help - If you test positive or are told to isolate by Test and Trace, you must stay at home or you could be fined. The council can give you practical support to arrange things like shopping, or help you to apply for the [government grant of £500](#) if you are employed or self-employed, on a low income, and will lose money because you cannot work from home. Call the We are Islington helpline, 7 days a week on 020 7527 8222 or email weareislington@islington.gov.uk

Stay updated - Please also encourage your friends to sign up to receive regular e-bulletins like this one by visiting www.islington.gov.uk/stayupdated

It is more important than ever that we all pull together to keep our loved ones safe and I know that the wonderful people of this borough will do just that.

Our community has stood up when its most been needed during this pandemic and it is vital you keep on playing your part in fighting this deadly disease.

I welcome the news of tighter restrictions - in my view they don't go far enough, and the Government must do more to improve Test and Trace - find out more in my [media statement](#).

Cllr Richard Watts, Leader of Islington Council