



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

# St Mark's News

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Issue 8

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy new year to you all; from my conversations with the children, I understand you managed to make the best of the last minute changes to the Christmas plans. Here we are again, a third lockdown and remote learning. We will continue to endeavour to do everything we can to ensure that the learning we provide is as purposeful, manageable and fun as possible. We have rolled out over 30 devices to families so far. Unfortunately, we have not yet received any from the DFE. When these arrive, we will allocate them accordingly.

Very best wishes for good health and happy home schooling.

Ms Braithwaite

## **Chair of Governors**

You will all be aware that we said goodbye to Christine Kinnear, our long serving Chair at the end of 2020. The new acting Chair is Flora Williamson (no relation to Gavin). Flora has been part of the governing body for many years and is an Islington Councillor.

## **SATS**

Statutory Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests and teacher assessments will no longer take place in summer 2021. I can appreciate the frustration with this but we hope to undertake some school assessments on the children, providing we are all back in school.

## **Phone calls During this period of Lockdown**

We will contact all families by phone. The class teacher or a member of support staff will undertake these short phone calls. It is an opportunity for us to touch base with you and see how home schooling is going. As you can appreciate, certain families will be prioritised but please can we ask that you do not wait until your call if you have any questions or queries. We hope these 'check in' calls will be a brief catch up and any problems, questions or concerns are raised beforehand through contacting school via email or ringing school directly.

## **Celebration Assembly**

Every Friday we will upload a video sharing the names of those children who have received the class teacher awards –certificates will also be posted to the children.

## **Attendance**

Teachers will be keeping a register of children who are in school, accessing Google Meets, submitting work or communicating with their teachers via Google Classroom. This is to ensure that we are in contact with all of our children and we can track their progress and engagement with home learning. If your child is unwell, please call the school in the usual way so that the teacher is aware.

## **School Places**

The fundamental reason why schools have been closed is to reduce the transmission of the virus. The more children who attend school, the greater the likelihood of the virus spreading. It is essential therefore, that we do everything we sensibly can to minimise the number of children in school. Parents and carers should only ask for a place at the school if there is no parent at home. We recognise how difficult it is having children at home when you are busy working. However, if there is a parent or carer working at home, your child should be at home.

## **Last Call**

This is the final call for parents to express their interest in joining our Zoom meeting to discuss the relaunch of our PTA.

Please email the office if you are interested in being part of the meeting and an invite will be sent to you.

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

*Psalm 119 Vs 105*

*St Mark's School Vision*