



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

# St Mark's News

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Issue 9

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. I am sure by now you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will not re-open until at least the 8th March. While I am disappointed that children will not be back in after half term, I am pleased that we have a date to work to and hope that this remains. This week I have been joining many of the online class sessions and as a team, we are continually sharing best practice and looking for ways we can improve what we are doing. I know it is not easy to home school and I am genuinely pleased with your commitment and support. Please continue to contact the school with any concerns, technical difficulties and questions.

I am hoping for another snowy weekend, it provided some much needed excitement and enjoyment, which was good for the soul. Best wishes, Ms Braithwaite

## Phone Calls

We will be continuing to contact all families by phone. The class teacher or a member of support staff will undertake these short phone calls that are an opportunity for us to touch base with you and see how home schooling is going. If we are unable to make contact with you, we will also be visiting in person. As you can appreciate, certain families will be prioritised but please be reminded that you do not need to 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 (google classroom or admin@) or by ringing school directly.

## Celebration Assembly

Thank you to all the families who joined us last week for our first online celebration assembly. Please remember to be in the waiting room before 10.30 to be admitted. We are unable to admit late comers.

## Keeping Positive.

Check out the fun [Bow wowza website](#), narrated by dogs and full of creative activities, which helps pupils develop a positive mindset in a range of topics including journaling, gratitude, self-compassion and emotions. There is also a section on [activities for families to do at home](#) and they have some fun videos, including one on [meditation](#).

## COVID INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Please remember to check the Islington Website for information about the support that is available to you: <https://www.islington.gov.uk>

### Resident Support Scheme

The [Resident Support Scheme](#) is available for Islington residents who are facing extreme hardship. Grants can be given to help if you are on a low income and struggling financially, in need of essential household items, or if there is a cut to Housing Benefit and you are finding it hard to meet your rent payments.

### Worried about a family?

If a family needs help with their shopping, collecting medicines, or if they have money worries, they can call the [We are Islington](#) helpline on 020 7527 8222, seven days a week, 9am-5pm.

Many Islington families will be worried about the financial impact this unprecedented situation might have on them and their families, especially if they test positive and have to self-isolate.

### Support for residents self-isolating

[Test and Trace Support Payments](#) are available for residents who have been told through NHS Test and Trace that they must self-isolate and who are in employment or are self-employed, on a low income and in receipt of certain benefits, and will lose money because they cannot work from home.

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

*Psalm 119 Vs 105*

*St Mark's School Vision*