



St Mark's News

8th December 2023
Issue 6

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in school, we have begun our Advent journey. As well as our Church service, we have thought about how we get ready for Christmas in our community, homes and in our hearts. During worship, we lit the first Advent candle, 'Hope'. The children shared how they are preparing for Christmas. During this time, when many families are getting ready for Christmas, we encourage the children to think about how we can help others, and that the most important gifts we can give are absolutely free! Advent offers us a time to think how we can show love, compassion and forgiveness to others before Christmas is here.

Many thanks to all who came to our Christmas Fair – we hope you enjoyed it. We also thank our amazing Friends of St Mark's who made the event extra special.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend.

Ms Braithwaite

Lateness

Last week we had **91 lates**. Being late is very disruptive, for not only the child who is late but also the children in school and staff. Please do whatever you need to get here on time. Children don't like being late as they miss the start of a lesson, sometimes feel embarrassed, miss out on being able to talk to their teacher in the morning and understanding the learning clearly.

A Bouncing Baby Girl

I am delighted to share the wonderful news that Kerry, our Nursery lead has safely given birth to a baby daughter. Freya Hope was born on Wednesday, both Kerry and Freya are doing well. I'm sure you'll all join me in sending them our very best wishes.

Sharing of Information

Please let the school know if your child is in receipt of a Disability badge or Personal independence payments. This information helps us to plan trips and access transport and funding more easily in some circumstances.

Football News

Reported by Sadie, J'Quan and Rufus (Taiga Class)

What a start to the football season! Our year 5 and 6 boys team have won four out of four games without conceding a single goal whilst the girls have lost only one match, conceding just two goals. The boys and girls teams have a combined goal difference of +25. This has been the best start to the season since 2016 when we won the Islington Cup! Overall, we think that the boys and girls deserve a pat on the back for their prolific form this Autumn Term!

Mobile Phone Free School

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are banned on our school premises. Whilst we understand children do bring their phones with them for use to contact you, we have a zero tolerance of their use in school. We have also noticed there has been an increase in parents using their phones on the school premises. This is unacceptable and in breach of our Safeguarding Policy. This is a gentle reminder to make you aware of this matter, and to ask for your support in ensuring the safety of everyone.

Christmas Lunch Reminder

Christmas lunch will be held on Thursday 14th December. Children are asked to wear a Christmas jumper or decorated school uniform on this day.

Dates For Your Diary

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 14 th Dec
Christingle Service in the school hall	Monday 18 th Dec at 2pm
Nativity at St Mark's Church	Tues 19 th Dec at 2pm (parents & carers welcome)
End of term	Thursday 21st Dec at 2pm

Psalm 119 Vs 105: Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.