



St Mark's News

8th March 2024
Issue 11

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

This month marks the 9th anniversary of our Early Years program, which was one of my inaugural projects as Substantive Headteacher. Witnessing its growth and contribution over the years has been truly remarkable. The current Year 6 students were the first children to join, and it's been a joyous journey observing their development up to this point. I extend heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Vitrano and the entire Early Years team for their unwavering dedication to providing our little ones with the best possible start. Personally, one of the highlights of my day is spending time with them during lunch.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, Ms. Braithwaite

Ramadam Mubarak

Help us to offer our support by ensuring we know if your child is fasting. This is very important, especially due to the weather and curriculum requirements such as PE and swimming. Children in KS1 are not encouraged to fast. Happy Ramadan!

Parent Meetings – Thursday 21st March

All parents and carers will be receiving a PING message inviting them to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their progress so far. Please ensure you choose a suitable slot indicating the preferred time as soon as the message comes through.

Penalty Notices

Despite our regular reminders about the importance of good attendance and punctuality, our data shows that too many of you are not sending your children to school enough. This said, from September all term time holidays will result in a penalty fine. Parent fines for unauthorised absences have been brought in under a national framework to help tackle inconsistencies in their use. A fine to parents must be considered if a child misses 5 days of school for unauthorised absence. Alongside this, costs for fines will go up from £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days and from £120 to £160 if paid in 28 days.

World book day

Thank you to Miss Godden for organising world book day and to all children who dressed up. I am always amazed by the range and creativity shown by so many of you. The children loved showing off their costumes and found much amusement in some of the staff efforts! Today children enjoyed workshops around the book 'Matilda' and much fun was had here too!

Mobile Phones

As an Early Years setting, the school has a very clear policy on mobile phones: these should not be used by children or parents on the school site. A 'no mobiles' rule protects your children, prevents accusation and should reassure you as parents. Sadly, this is required due to high profile safeguarding events involving mobile phone cameras and subsequent guidance from Ofsted. Please support us by respecting this rule.

Y6 Osmington Bay

Our Y6 children will be absent from school next week as they will be down in Dorset on their residential trip. The children will spend the week overcoming fears and pushing themselves to jump from heights, build and create and work as a team. It is a well-deserved week away ahead of their SATs. The children will be waved off on Monday at 8.30 and return on Friday evening.

Red Nose Day

Friday 15th March is Red Nose Day. Children are invited to wear red and donate £1. We will also be collecting donations on the gate so please remember to carry cash. Your generosity is appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 11 th March	Y5 Swimming continues
Monday 11 th March	Y6 to Osmington Bay
Wednesday 13 th March	Yr. 3 Parent and carers to lunch
Thursday 29 th March	End of Term – school closes at 2pm

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