



# St Mark's C.E. Junior School

*Reaching in, Reaching up, Reaching out*

## NEWSLETTER 1 (NL1)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Important Dates for Term 1 (T1)

#### **September**

Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Parents' Meeting about Osmington Bay – starts at 7.00 pm in the Hall
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11+ Test for boys at Bishop Wordsworth School (BWS)
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11+ Test for girls at South Wilts Girls School (SWGGS)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Food donations for Harvest Service into school – stored in each classroom until the Service
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	MacMillan Big Coffee Morning; 9.00 – 11.00 am on 'The Street' – all parents invited

#### **October**

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Harvest Service at St Mark's Church at 10.00 am – all Y4 parents are cordially invited to join us
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Appointments for Parents' Evening can made via the office, by phone or email
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos (individual and siblings within school) by Yellow – am
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	T1 Ends – half term holiday begins
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Secondary School Application – applications must be in to Wiltshire Council without fail T2 Starts – Children back to school

### Tea and Chat

Don't forget Tea and Chat sessions are **every Friday from 9.00 – 10.00 am** in the Sycamore Room. Norma Hallett (PSA) can be contacted via the shop, e-mail ([n.hallett@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:n.hallett@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk)) or by mobile on **07873 427658**.

### Big Coffee Morning (Not the coffees – the event) for Macmillan Nursing

On **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September** we will be raising money for Macmillan by taking part in the *World's Biggest Coffee Morning*. Our event will be held on 'The Street' (the area between The Shop and the Car Park) from 9.00 am. The children will be able to buy cakes/refreshments at 10.00 am until 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing you there. We would be grateful for any donations of cakes, large or small, to help us [support Macmillan](#). Please note there will be no separate Tea and Chat on this day.

### Harvest Service

Our Harvest Service will be held on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** at St Mark's Church. Parents of Y4 children are cordially invited to join us (10.00 – 11.00 am). Although we would be delighted to invite all parents, the church cannot accommodate us all. Y3 parents will be invited to the Christmas service/production, Y5 to Easter and Y6 to the end of year events. It is customary for children to bring in items to donate to the Trussell Trust to boost the Salisbury food bank for the homeless and those in need of a little help. Children can bring in items from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September** where they will be kept in each classroom and will be then taken to the church. Please click the link to find out the most appropriate [kinds of food donations](#) that will make the biggest difference. Thank you in anticipation.

### Applying for secondary school places

Parents with children in Y6 need to decide on a secondary school place before **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016**. Please visit: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/> to apply on line or to find more information click the link <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/2015-16-finding-a-secondary-school-place.pdf>

### PE Days – polite reminder for kit

Monday –	No PE am	Y5 pm
Tuesday –	Y4 am	Y4 pm
Wednesday –	Y3 am	House competitions etc pm (tbc)
Thursday –	Y6 am	Y3 pm
Friday –	Y5 am	Y6 pm

### Claim your free school meals

Our school gets hundreds of extra pounds to help your child if you register for free school meals or fill in a simple form ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)) At present all children in Reception, Y1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal. Children in a junior school (Y3-6) are not entitled. However, if you are receiving a qualifying benefit, the school could be entitled to an extra £1320 Pupil Premium to support your child. Please ask in the school office or see Norma for more information. We use this extra money to subsidise school trips, provide specialist support, purchase specific resources, develop strategies to better engage children and parents both in and out of school – and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make a bigger difference.

### Dinner Money

As reported at the start of term we have held our school dinner prices at £2.00 – this is guaranteed until Christmas. Please be aware that the flexibility we offer for school dinners i.e. mix and match with sandwiches, inadvertently makes the administration more costly and difficult to manage. This is because money can be sent in on an ad hoc basis. Where possible we would really like dinner money in on a **Monday** in a named, sealed envelope for the week ahead. If your child is ever absent the credit is carried over automatically as giving weekly refunds would be impossible. Many parents prefer to set up a healthy credit e.g. £50 to cover a few weeks at a time. We appreciate not everyone can or would wish to do this but it does save the office chasing late payments. Thank you in anticipation.

### Mobile Phones

For those who are not aware we operate a 'no mobile phones rule' at St Mark's. Children are not allowed mobiles on site under any circumstances. This includes children having them switched off and kept 'hidden in a bag'.

### Remaining TD Days 2016-17

#3 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

#4 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

#5 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Able, Gifted, Talented and Interested

Each year the Local Authority offers opportunities for some children to attend some special events held at Braeside in Devizes. These opportunities cost money and although are considered very good by many, not as 'open' as many would like. Previously we would have identified some children who may have enjoyed or benefitted from attending. However, other factors often interfered e.g. cost, transport, supervision etc. Some parents chose to apply and some did not. I enclose a link to the website for everyone to browse if they wish. If any parent wants to apply please print P10/11 and submit to the Headteacher for it to be endorsed. Please read the course materials carefully to determine suitability. [http://www.braeside-education.co.uk/uploads/3/4/5/1/34515523/booklet\\_autumn-winter\\_2016-2017\\_website.pdf](http://www.braeside-education.co.uk/uploads/3/4/5/1/34515523/booklet_autumn-winter_2016-2017_website.pdf)

In the meantime we offer some of our own opportunities at no cost to parents and during school time. However, we can only offer a limited programme. If any parents can offer or would be interested in offering something in school please let the headteacher know on [head@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk). Thank you in anticipation.

### Opportunities for parents to see the school

On **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** we are inviting all parents to visit the school and see the children as part of an open afternoon. All existing parents are cordially invited to join us from 1.30 pm until 3.00 pm. Please enter the school via Reception – no need to book or sign in – the double doors will be on free swing for you to make your own way in. The governors will be in school, as our third annual event to learn more and be directly involved, if any parents would like to meet and talk to them.

### Governors 2016-17 (Correct as 01-09-16)

Parents	Community	Foundation	Staff
Karen Chalcraft	Sue Bale	Ali Bailey – St Francis	Bev Dalton
Stuart Perkins	Roy Bexon (Chair)	Pat Wain – St Thomas	Gareth Flemington – Ex Officio
Lorna Reeve	Neil Curtis	Rev Jim Findlay – Ex officio	Nicky Phillips
<b>Clerk:</b> Lisa Parrott	Jo Woods		Fina Stannard

### Y2 Parents

Prospective parents are also invited to join us on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 1.30 pm to listen to a talk from a Headteacher (in the Hall), have a tour by Ambassadors and have an opportunity to ask questions and make an informed decision before applying for a school place for Y3.

Some polite reminders for the term ahead...

- Children must tie their long back (boys as well as girls) for all PE lessons. Please provide hair bands – we receive growing requests from children for elastic bands via the Office.
- Children have to remove their earrings for PE lessons – they need to do this themselves. If children cannot do this themselves we recommend parents remove them on the day of lessons and put them back in later the same day. If this is not possible parents must provide a roll of medical tape to keep them safe.
- Please be aware that many children are experiencing sores/blisters whilst breaking in their new shoes. Please be vigilant and provide any plasters from home if they require them
- The main gates are closed daily at 8.50 am and 3.45 pm. Please make sure you have exited the playground by then.
- Parents cannot park in the main car park from 8.40 am until 9.10 am – as instructed by the signs. At this peak time it is important that the turning circle is clear and the drop off zone available. If any parent needs to park they must respectfully do so off site. We respectfully remind parents wishing to use Bishopdown Road to not park on the pavement opposite the steps – it causes congestion, ill-feeling and makes Mary's crossing job even harder and unsafe.

### MDSAs

We still have vacancies for MDSAs (Mid-day Supervisory Assistants) to work for 1.5 hours daily during term time. Please contact the Headteacher for more details if you are interested on [head@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk)