



St Mark's C.E. Junior School

Reaching in, Reaching up, Reaching out

NEWSLETTER 2 (NL2)

Thursday 29th September 2016

Important Dates for Term 1 (T1)

September

Friday 30th MacMillan Big Coffee Morning; 9.00 – 11.00 am on 'The Street' – all parents invited

October

Monday 3rd Harvest Service at St Mark's Church at 10.00 am – all Y4 parents are cordially invited to join us

Monday 10th Appointments for Parents' Evening can be made via the office, by phone or email

Friends Meeting – Hub 3 2.00 pm

Friday 14th School Photos (individual and siblings within school) by Yellow – am

Wednesday 19th Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm

Thursday 20th Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm

Friday 21st T1 Ends – half-term holiday begins

Monday 31st 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) or by mobile on **07873 427658**.

Applying for secondary school places

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

PE Days

Monday –	No PE am	Y5 pm
Tuesday –	Y3 am	Y4 pm
Wednesday –	Y4 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) 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.

Y2 Parents

Prospective parents are also invited to join us on **Wednesday 2nd 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.

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

Praying Parents

Meet every Monday morning in term time, from around 9 to 9:30am, any parents or carers are welcome to join us in Hub 3 to pray. We pray for everyone in the school community - staff, children and families. And we're very happy to accept prayer requests if you have a specific topic on your heart (friendships, safety, illnesses, family - etc). There will be a box by Norma's shop for prayer requests. We're Christians from a range of churches around Salisbury - and you're very welcome to join us. It's a lovely way to start the week - we all need some peace and love after a Monday morning school run!

Breakfast Club

Please note that Breakfast Club (Wyndham Park) doors close at 8.20am and the cost is now £3.50 per child.

Tuck Shop

The kitchen runs a daily 'tuck shop' which has proved popular for several years. The updated price list is below:

- Mini Pizza or Bacon Roll (Fridays only) 50p
- Selection of fresh fruit 30p
- Freshly Baked bread roll 30p (one per child)
- Chocolate Milk (150ml poured) 30p
- Apple Juice 35p
- Fruit juice (150 ml) poured out 30p
- Raisins 25p
- Bottled Water 50p

£1 is more than sufficient for children to bring in.

BWS Familiarisation and study skills

Bishops are offering 11+ familiarisation and study skills sessions (6 weekly sessions at BWS) to children, both Y5 and Y6. Sessions begin on 05-10-16 or 25-01-17 or 10-05-17. Please contact the school office for more details.

The Friends of St Mark's

Quiz Night

The Friends of St Mark's will be hosting their first social event of the year, a Quiz Night, on Friday 14th October 2016. This is an adults only event and will start at 8.00 pm with doors opening at 7.30 pm. Cost is £2.50 per person on the door. Teams can be a maximum of 8 people. If you wish to join in but don't have a team see Norma in the Shop who can find you one! Each team should bring a raffle prize and a bottle of wine which the winning team will take home. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please come along and help us make this fun evening a success.

Facebook

Did you know the Friends of St Mark's have a Facebook group?

As a member you can get lots of information about upcoming events, get to know other parents and ask questions if you're not sure about something. Just search for - The Friends of St Mark's and ask to join.

Next Meeting

The next Friends meeting will be on **Monday 10th October** at 2.00 pm in Hub 3, everyone welcome.

Cake Sale Opportunity

Some of our former students are holding a cake sale to raise much needed funds to purchase new cheerleading uniforms. This will take place on **Friday 4th November** at The Barrington centre In Bishopdown 3.30 – 5.00 pm. All are welcome.

Parent Questionnaire

Like many large organisations, including all schools, we rely on regular feedback to affirm that we are doing enough of the right things and addressing any short comings we may experience. Although we survey parents directly with a questionnaire each year parents are also encouraged to visit OfSTED's direct information gathering portal called Parent View (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>) to share their feedback about St Mark's.

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'.

Some polite reminders

- In addition to our excellent new kitchen we have new drinking fountains on the external wall of kitchen. Previously the drainage pipework was routinely damaged by children standing on the exposed pipework. Please be vigilant with children attempting to stand or climb on the pipework and remind them of making good choices.
- Children are not allowed to bring in toys etc from home – this includes trading cards. Experience tells us this leads to many issues over ownership, changed minds etc
- Please note that the main gates (outside Mr Nelham's bungalow) to the car park are for vehicles only. Pedestrians should only use one of the three pedestrian gates. I have received several messages of concern from drivers encountering families and unattended children walking through the car park oblivious to the traffic around them.
- The cones in the turning circle are there to funnel traffic into the drop off zone for a quick exit. If you need to stop and help children out of the car please use alternative spaces outside the site as it slows the flow of vehicles
- Please avoid allowing children to exit vehicles whilst 'waiting' for the drop off zone outside Mr Nelham's bungalow. This encourages more children walking in front of traffic. Please allow time and use the paths on site.
- When picking up Y3 children, in particular, it would be useful and safer to know if you are unable to collect and have asked a friend to do so. This makes the teachers know who to release children to. This can be done by a quick note in the communication book, a telephone call to the office or an email. Many thanks.

Important Changes for January 2017

At the end of T2 we will be losing Ms Phillips as our Deputy Headteacher and SENCO as she leaves to take up the post of Principal at St Michael's (Figheldean) Primary School. This promotion is a great opportunity and source of enormous pride. At the same time we are sad to losing an outstanding, committed and loyal colleague. I am sure that in the coming weeks you will share with me in offering our sincerest thanks, congratulations and best wishes to her.