



# St Mark's C.E. Junior School

*Reaching in, Reaching up, Reaching out*

## NEWSLETTER 3 (NL3)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### Important Dates for T2

#### **October**

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

#### **November**

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Day Y2 Parents Governor Day Schools Direct Launch Event
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	School Disco
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	MUFTI/Non-uniform day – In aid of Children in Need (£1 contribution)

#### **December**

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 Christmas Performance
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of St Mark's Christmas Draw 3.30 pm in the school hall – everyone invited

### 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

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate cakes and/or attend the event. It was particularly pleasing to see families enjoying a coffee and a cake with the rest of the school. Overall we raised £214.15 for Macmillan.

### 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.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **Christmas Draw**

Every year we host a wonderful event that raises much needed funds and provides families with a great opportunity to win amazing prizes, including cash, and one of the class hampers (12 plus the luxury one). To help us make this event another huge success we respectfully ask families to sell raffle tickets – we never ask or encourage youngsters to approach strangers or go door to door selling. The draw is made at 4.00 pm in the school hall – all are 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

We will be issuing our own parent questionnaire next week. To make it easier we offer two platforms – a **paper version** and an identical **electronic version**. The paper version will be available during parents' evening next week and the open afternoon – to be completed on site and posted in the box provided. The electronic version will be texted and emailed to parents at the same time. The questionnaires are anonymous and provide us with vital feedback about our strengths and next steps to be better for the sake of the children. The survey will be 'live' for 3 weeks

### **Travel Plan Surveys**

I am in the process of compiling a Travel Plan for the whole site – including the three schools and the Pre-School. This is one of the most effective ways of engaging other agencies to help us reduce traffic congestion around the immediate vicinity of the site and make travelling to school safer, less stressful and more enjoyable. In the coming weeks we will be issuing some necessary questionnaires to children, parents and staff to give relevant, up to date data of how children/staff currently travel to school and perhaps how they may wish to travel if the circumstances were more favourable e.g. safer to cycle. More details soon.

### **Some polite reminders**

- Adventure Playground – no one is allowed on the adventure playground at the end of the school day or the beginning of the day – please keep children under your direct supervision.
- Using the toilet – Please note the toilet in the mobile (between Sycamore Room and Library) is available all day until 3.30 pm when the After School Klub is on – this is for safeguarding reasons. Parents cannot use the main school building (children's toilets) to accompany their children to the toilet.

### **School Disco**

The first school disco of the year will be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November**. More details to follow.

### **Parents Evening** (19-10-16 and 20-10-16)

The first Parents' Evening Meeting of the year is essential for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the start to the academic year e.g. settling in, friendships, routines, attitudes etc. We hope all our parents are able to make one of the two evenings set aside. Meetings are usually held in the children's classrooms, except for some of the Year Leaders' classes, who have a temporary room to hold their meetings in. Their classrooms are reorganised into a 'waiting area' for all children in that year group. It is kept aside for you to view your child's work before or after your time slot. Please take as long as you need. A map is included to show where everyone will be and spares will be available on the night. Parents need be in each year group's 'waiting area' at least five minutes before their interview slot. Teachers will come and collect parents from these areas to avoid long queues forming outside rooms. Please be vigilant and patient – a smooth evening suits everyone. Don't be offended if teachers use timers to keep to agreed time slots, they help everyone stay on time. If you have to bring children please note they are parents' responsibility. They are not allowed to roam the school site, corridors or hall and should wait sensibly in the waiting area until you are finished. Free coffee, tea etc will be available in the school – outside my office. Feel free to drop by as early or as often as you like. If you wish to discuss something with Mrs Hallett (PSA) or me we are available throughout both sessions. Bookings can still be made via the school office – in person, by email ([admin@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk)) or telephone (01722 333497). Confirmation slips of times will be sent home early next week.

### **Fostering Opportunities Information Event**

We hope that you can support us in our ongoing recruitment drive to attract potential foster carers. There are 400 children in care in Wiltshire at any one time. We need to recruit about 60 additional foster carers in the next two and a half years. Fostering can offer many of these children a better way of life and change the course of their future. We would appreciate it if you could publicise our upcoming Fostering information session.

City Hall 25<sup>th</sup> October 7pm E: [fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk) [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering) 0800169 6321

### **Y6 Sponsored Event (Charity Day)**

As part of Y6 topic work the children are keen to complete a sponsored walk around Salisbury – matching the distance that many Ethiopians walk daily to obtain water. The event will be happening on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November**. More details will be available soon.