



# St Mark's C.E. Junior School

*Reaching in, Reaching up, Reaching out*

## NEWSLETTER 6 (NL6)

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

### Important Dates for T2/3

#### **December**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

MUFTI (Non-uniform day) – items for the class hampers please in lieu of money  
Y3 Christmas Performance 10.00 am – All Y3 parents are cordially invited to join us  
**Be Bright Be Seen** day (see information below)  
Friends of St Mark's Christmas Draw 3.30 pm in the school hall – everyone invited  
Christmas Dinner for children  
Carol Service 7.00 pm at St Mark's Church – pls note this a change of venue  
T2 Ends  
EOTA (End of Term Assembly) – Certificates of Merit, Lion Awards etc

#### **January**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

School Closed – No children or staff in

T3 Starts

Y6 Parents Information evening regarding SATs (National Curriculum tests) in May  
What are they? How will they affect children? What are the reporting outcomes? Implications?  
How does school support and challenge? How can parents help? And many more questions...  
Early Steps starts (Sycamore Room)

Don't forget Tea and Chat sessions are **every Friday from 9.00 – 10.00 am** in the Sycamore Room. Norma Hallett can be contacted via the shop, e-mail or by mobile on **07873 427658**.

### Parenting Groups

I will be running two Triple P parenting groups in the New Year, one during the day and one in the evening. The course consists of 4 weekly 2 hour sessions plus a catch up session after half term held in the Hub and there is no charge! They will be on Tuesday evenings, **January 17<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>** and **February 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>** from 7-9pm, **or** on Wednesday mornings, **January 18<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>** and **February 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 9.15-11.15am. If you would like to join us please reserve your place with me via The Shop, [n.hallett@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:n.hallett@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk) or 07873 427658.

### SEND Tea & Chat

Being a parent of a child with Special Educational Need or Disability can be challenging at times but you are not alone and support is available. After the success of our first meeting last month, we hope to continue with a group offering parents the opportunity to meet and share ideas, tips and offer advice in a friendly environment. Come and join us for a drink and a chat on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** 2016 from 9.00 -10.00 am in Hub 3. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

### Christmas Draw – Raffle Tickets

Final reminder that all raffle tickets need to be back in school by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** with the Draw being held on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** in the school hall. Please return all tickets including any unsold ones and any money raised to school tomorrow. There are further tickets available from the office should you require more. There will be a MUFTI day on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December** when in return for wearing non-uniform, the children should bring a contribution for the class hamper. This should be anything you would be pleased to receive i.e. Chocolate, Cake, Bottles, Gift Items. Please come along and support this major fund-raiser. Thank you, Norma .

### Early Steps

Many thanks to all the parents and professionals who were able to attend the information session run by PBS earlier this week about Early Steps – a 'hands on' opportunity for addressing a multitude of school readiness issues. Regular sessions will begin from **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017**.

### Chess Opportunity

Wiltshire Junior Chess are holding a fun day tournament in Salisbury on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** (at Leehurst Swan). Age categories open are U9, U11, and U18. Full details and entry forms can be found on the Wiltshire Junior Chess website.

### Campus Travel Plan

Our Somerset Road site of four schools is working to develop a single Campus Travel Plan, which aims to reduce car-borne journeys wherever practical, promote sustainable modes of transport and most importantly improve safety for all users. For us to be successful it is vital we have current, accurate and representative data about journeys to and from the campus. If you have more than one child, you can just give one response unless the information does not apply to both/all children. Please complete the survey by no later than today - Thursday 1st December 2016. Every response really matters. Thank you in anticipation. <https://goo.gl/Rtme3S>

Getting the best from everyone, by everyone giving their best

### **Easyfundraising**

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online this Christmas you could be raising a free donation for St Mark's C. E. Junior School? There are over 3,100 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis and Sainsbury's and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

To get started, all you have to do is:

#### **1. Join.**

Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarksschool/> and sign up for free.

#### **2. Shop.**

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

#### **3. Raise.**

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to us and it won't cost you a penny extra!

Please help us this Christmas by giving more than a gift - there are no catches or hidden charges and St Mark's will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarksschool/>

### **Some reminders**

1. Children are still arriving at school without coats – they may arrive and be picked up in a warm car but they need a coat for break and lunchtime.
2. We have just disposed of a large quantity of unclaimed 'lost property'. Please make sure your child's name is in all items to avoid having to pay again to replace it. This is especially true of school jumpers.
3. We have recently added new litter bins on site to rectify some litter issues. Please be vigilant with litter, especially the coffee cups, when leaving the site. Please use the bins or take them home as many are ending up in the local community.
4. Y4 Parents – a text was recently sent out asking parents to meet their Y4 children outside the white doors of the west corridor (Y4 entrance/exit) rather than further out on the main playground – unintentionally creating a 'no man's land'. The teachers are much keener to have this handover directly outside the doors rather than not knowing where some of the children disperse to. We know not everyone can do this. If they are making their own way to the gate/steps or meeting a child minder/attending ASK etc please pop a note in the communication book. If you are picking up please help us make the handover more secure. Thank you in anticipation.

### **Y6 Information Evening – January**

On **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January** we will be hosting a Y6 information evening for parents and will be discussing SATs, Reports, Teacher Assessments, preparation for/post SATs, secondary transfer and to answer any question parents may have about the remaining time in primary education. The meeting will be held in the hall at 7.00 pm – finished before 8.00 pm

### **School Dinners**

As reported back in September the price of a school dinner is reluctantly increasing to £2.20 from January 2017. We have fixed our price, despite steadily rising costs, for nearly seven years but we are unable to sustain this.

### **Be Bright Be Seen**

As the evenings and mornings get darker, we would like to encourage pupils to make sure they are seen when they are out cycling and scooting. We are, therefore, holding a **Be Bright Be Seen** day on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Any pupil who cycles or scoots to school can leave their uniform at home and, instead, wear bright clothes and accessories to make themselves more visible. This can be anything that helps get them noticed – neon/bright clothes, bright bags, reflective gear, high-vis clothing, tin foil, fairy lights etc.

If your child is coming to school on a scooter or bike, a Be Bright session will take place at lunchtime where s/he will have a chance to decorate it with reflective stickers and ribbon.

We hope your child will wish to take part in this initiative and look forward to seeing him/her with their bicycle/scooter on the 9<sup>th</sup>! Mrs. H. Hortop, PSHE Leader