

February Newsletter-Part 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you can probably deduct by this being February Newsletter Part 1, we have a plethora of information to share with you before we break next Friday.

PTA Ball

A huge thank you to the PTA for all their incredible work in organising the Ward 84 Charity Ball that takes place this Saturday at the Worsley Marriott. A reminder that silent auction bidding forms were sent home earlier this week with an unbelievable array of goodies available to bid for! For anyone wishing to submit a last minute bid (spare forms are available from the school office) they must be in by 9am tomorrow. We hope all those attending have a wonderful evening. Eat, drink and be merry!

Operation Encompass

St Mark's CE Primary has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and Greater Manchester Police. *The project is called Operation Encompass and an accompanying letter further outlining the aims can be found attached to this newsletter.* Further information can be found within the amended safeguarding policy (appendix 7) at the link below.

<http://www.stmarksce.co.uk/index2.php?p=4.6>

Safer Internet Day Tuesday 5th February 2019

Tuesday 5th February 2019 saw St Mark's children celebrate Safer Internet Day 2019. The theme for this year was 'Together for a better internet.' Please find below a series of links in order to further guide and support parents understanding around the games/apps your children are using.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/whatsapp-guide-for-parents/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/youtube-guide-for-parents/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/snapchat-parents-guide/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/tiktok-guide-for-parents/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/instagram-parents-guide/>

For further parental guidance on any additional games/apps you may be concerned about please click on the link below.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 4th-10th February

Along with children throughout the country our children have been thinking about their mental health and well-being this week. We have been discussing the need to be healthy INSIDE and OUT and what to do when we may not feel positive and happy. Our brains drive our bodies so let's **ALL** do our best to support those having a difficult journey from time to time! No one is perfect. It's Time to Talk.

Parking

Unfortunately we find ourselves having to address a minority of parents/carers when we issue yet another reminder of our policy of **NO PARKING** on the school grounds between the hours of **7:30am-5:30pm**.

Dropping off/picking up at Pre-School /WASP

Running late at 9:00am/3:30pm

Picking up from after school sports clubs

None of the above are legitimate reasons for parking on the school car park. Please could you ensure all family/friends who may collect your child/ren are aware of the policy. Thank you to those parents who continually cooperate and support the policy - it is truly appreciated.

Haircuts and School Uniform

Could we please remind parents/carers of our guidelines concerning school uniform in particular footwear. **Boots are only permitted for walking to/from school.** We ask all children wear black shoes throughout their time in school. We would also request that, in the interest of hygiene, long hair be tied back with a **plain headband or bobble**. *This guidance does also apply to boys as we have a growing number of boys with long hair.* Many thanks for your attention to these matters.

After School Clubs

Please could parents/carers of those children attending our Dance Explosion (Y5), Volleyball (KS1) Ultimate Frisbee (KS2) and Choir (KS2) after school clubs ensure they are collected at **4:30pm prompt**. Whilst everyone may be running late at one time or another we are being left with a number of children who are being collected late on a regular basis. Parents/carers unable to collect on time on a regular basis will be given a warning that their child/ren may have to forgo attendance at the club if punctuality remains a problem.

Salford Schools Cross Country

Well done to all our athletes who competed in the Salford Schools Cross Country Championships this season. Alongside outstanding individual performances the whole team contributed to a double winning success in both the overall boys and girls competition. With this in mind, a reminder that our annual end of season presentation takes place on Wednesday 6th March at 9:15am.

Further congratulations must also go to Millie, Sasha, Evie, Gabriel and Dylan who were selected to run for Salford in the Greater Manchester Championships on Saturday 2nd February at a snow covered Heaton Park. Each can be so proud of their performance in what was such a high quality elite field.

Year 3 Swimming

Swimming Lessons for our year 3 pupils will commence on Wednesday 13th February. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time as the coach leaves at 9am.

Non-Uniform Day

Children are invited to attend school in non-uniform next Friday 15th February. A donation of £1 per child/family would be appreciated for our school fund.

Thank you

Thanks to those parents who attended our first ever SEN Parental Support Workshop and Coffee Morning on Wednesday. We hope you found the time spent in school to be of use and that you managed to have a drink and a chat with other parents and professionals who were also in attendance.

Thanks also to the parents who attended our recent Bible stories assembly. Whilst you may have been few in number we hope that, alongside those governors present, you enjoyed the children sharing stories from within the Bible that linked to the half termly Christian vision focus of 'Do Not Be Afraid'

Finally thank you to those parents who supported our recent Purple Pinkie fundraiser in aid of Polio. As a school we raised over £200 to support the immunisation projects in developing countries around the world.

Yours sincerely

Mr. D Kay