

St. Mark's C.E. Primary

Sent: 16/02/2017 15:18:16

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term can I take the opportunity to draw your attention to the following items of information:

Sickness

The last month, as I'm sure many of you know from firsthand experience with your own child/ren, has seen a whole number of nasty bugs and germs working their way through the whole school. On the back of this problem we contacted the school nurse who came in on Wednesday and delivered a whole school assembly on the importance of washing hands correctly and how to best guard and protect yourself against germs spreading. To further build on this assembly, and to allow you to be as well informed as you possibly can be, we have provided links to typical illnesses and diseases found within primary schools and what you must do to both prevent and cure. We hope you find the information of use:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Threadworms/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Chickenpox/Pages/Symptoms.aspx>

Don't forget that if your child has suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea s/he must remain off school until 48 hours have passed since any repeat incident of the illness. A child who is sent home from school with vomiting/diarrhoea must remain absent for two whole days.

Please note that within each of the links it lists symptoms, causes and **most importantly** treatment. Our intention is not to panic anyone but to ensure our school community is as happy and healthy as it can possibly be.

Preschool children on the junior playground

Could we please ask that parents/carers ensure preschool children remain with them at all times when dropping off and picking up. The lower key stage 2 staff are reporting a number of younger children going around the back of their building after 9:00am and from 3:00pm where they are putting themselves at risk of harm and also distracting the Year 3 and 4 children from their learning. In addition could we also ask that children do not swing/climb on the netball posts. They are extremely heavy and could not only seriously injure the child swinging/climbing on the post but also those stood close by.

Netball/Football

We were delighted to see our netballers register their first victory recently over Christ the King. The girls have worked incredibly hard in recent months and their team spirit, commitment and enthusiasm has always shone through. Here's to many more victories girls!

Our Year 6 footballers also won their first piece of silverware for the season reigning victorious over all other schools in the Year 6 Worsley Cup played at Walkden High School. Well done boys...now for the league.

A reminder that we have changed the way in which children are to be transported to away games. From now on children will be asked to make their own way to an away fixture. We appreciate this may pose a problem for those parents/carers who do not collect at 3:30pm but hope that through **you** making arrangements with parents/family of other children on a team, who are available to transport children, this can be easily resolved.

PTA

A big thank you to the PTA for all their hard work in organising and hosting the KS1 and KS2 discos this week. All the children involved had a wonderful time, raising much needed funds in doing so. Don't forget to buy your tickets for the upcoming PTA quiz night on Friday 3rd March. Can our two times champions be dethroned??

Parent Council

The Parent Council will shortly be asking for your opinions on home school reading via an online survey link they will be sending out. As a council they will then collate the findings and further discuss with the school so as we can best respond to your feedback as we will always strive to do.

NSPCC

Thanks in advance to any children who are taking part in the sponsored **Physical Challenge** (apologies again for the mix up) fundraiser for the NSPCC. The children listened attentively and with real empathy during the assembly on Tuesday. Any donations, big or small, from family and friends are gratefully received by the charity and can truly make a difference to the work they are able to do.

Worsley Woods Action Group

Those with a good memory may recall that in the Summer of last year we sent out the following information via a paper questionnaire that went home to all families.

'Worsley Woods Action Group intends to apply for a grant to improve the footpath through Worsley Woods, alongside the motorway, towards St Marks. The path has been used for many years by schoolchildren to walk to St Marks' School from Roe Green. We aim to get funding to improve the footpath, plant a hedge to screen the motorway and refurbish the pond in the woods alongside the school. We would like to collect your views in order to support our bid. We will not use the information in any other way. Please help us.'

The group have been very busy since then and have now also applied for £1,000 (via the link below) for the Worsley Woods Wildlife Trail. Children from St Mark's will hopefully get to

take part in a school council organised competition to draw suggested designs depicting wildlife seen in the woods to inspire the sculptor. Please can we ask you to go online and vote for the Worsley Woods Action Group (scroll down to the very bottom of the page when you open the link)

<http://www.salford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/recycle-and-reward/vote-for-a-good-cause-in-your-area/worsley-and-boothstown/>

Parents Consultation Evenings-A time for change

Parents Consultation evenings will be taking place on **Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March from 3:40-6:00pm**. For the first time we hope to trial a new online booking system that will enable you to directly select your preferred time. Mrs. Keirl will be sending out further details after the half term break. As with all things new there may be teething problems but we would ask for patience and also that should you be having difficulty you contact the school for further help and guidance.

*Please note that if your child has an Individual Plan (IP) for their learning we are asking **you do not use this system.** Instead could we ask that you arrange a meeting, on an alternative date to the 21st/22nd with the teacher as you will have done in the past.*

Readathon, Extreme Reading and World Book Day

Recently you will have received an email from Mrs. Whitehead explaining that the children will be invited to take part in a Readathon from **Monday 6th March-Friday 17th March**. The Readathon promotes reading for pleasure whilst at the same time raising money for charities, along with book tokens in return for school. In light of the error with the NSPCC sponsor forms we will now not be sending out the Readathon sponsor forms until after half term. In addition to the Readathon Mrs. Whitehead is launching the 'Get caught extreme reading' photograph competition this week. We are challenging the children to have their picture taken reading in an unusual situation or place. The winner will receive a book voucher. Finally we are celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 2nd March**. Children are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite book character on that day. **Those not dressing in character may wear their own clothes on the day.**

Thank you for your continued support, especially in response to the charities and groups we are helping out within this letter. I appreciate it must seem like we are asking a great deal in a short time period and would therefore like to remind you all our appeals are entirely voluntary.

I wish each of you a happy and very well deserved half term break.

Mr. D Kay