

St. Mark's C.E. Primary

Sent: 18/07/2017 14:29:27

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the upcoming summer break. Please find below relevant information for the remainder of this Summer term and beyond.

Leavers Service

Our leavers service takes place in church on **Thursday 20th July at 2:30pm**. As you may recall from Easter and Christmas, given our increased numbers, we are no longer able to gather together as a whole school alongside family and friends. Therefore it will only be the Key Stage 2 children who will be attending church. We are conscious however that some leavers will have siblings in Key Stage One or Early Years. With this in mind, any parent of a year 6 who will be attending the leavers service may come and collect any of their other children from school and take them to church should they so wish. Could you please let the school office or relevant class teacher know if you are intending to collect a child from Early Years/Key Stage One so they can be ready on the day.

PTA

We thank our PTA for their incredible work in fundraising for the school this year. The fairs, discos, quiz nights and coffee mornings have raised an unbelievable amount of money for the school in challenging times financially. Be sure to look out for changes over the Summer holidays to what was once 'the quiet area' within the KS2 playground. These upcoming changes have also been kindly funded by the PTA.

Parent Council

We also thank our Parent Council for their invaluable efforts this year. Their online survey on home/ school reading has been extremely informative and given us a great deal to work with in response to your feedback. The council have also worked with Mrs. Mansfield to discuss healthier lunches in Nursery and school uniform. As a result of both of these consultations the Nursery menu now has more healthy options available and we have now opted to allow girls to wear trousers in the Winter months. Be sure to look out for their collaborative project in Autumn alongside the school council focusing on social media and online gaming.

Sickness

Thankfully this year, aside of the usual minor day to day stuff, we have avoided any major outbreaks or epidemics. However can we take this opportunity to remind you that when you telephone school to inform the office of absence, due to sickness, you also indicate what the symptoms are please. This will allow us to monitor any potential outbreaks within a class or year group and also enable us to advise you on the period of absence required in line with Health Protection Agency Guidelines. We do appreciate how busy you as parents

all are, and the childcare issues absence may present, but it is vital for your child and the rest of our school family that you adhere to guidelines for keeping your child off school. Thank you in advance for following this guidance for the next academic year.

Driving and Parking in and around the school area

Once again can we thank the vast majority of parents/carers who have both driven and parked with care and consideration throughout this year. It is truly appreciated by both the whole school community. However.... we are still encountering problems with a small number of cars parking on the lane outside the church gate entrance. This is forbidden and poses a direct threat to the well being of those children and families who are using that gate in the morning and afternoon.

In addition we have had two incidents recently where children walking/cycling to and from school have been subject to very near misses courtesy of reckless drivers choosing to drive at speed, mount pavements and also opting to ignore guidance on the agreed voluntary one way system *staff and parents/carers at St Mark's adhere to:*

Travel down Woodlands Road.

Then turn right onto either Leaconfield Drive or Crossfield Drive.

Turn right on to Aviary Road.

Finally can we also remind parents/carers that you should not be using the school car park between the hours of **7:30am-5:30pm** unless you, or a member of your family dropping off/picking up, have a problem with mobility or are collecting a sick/injured child. *This ruling also applies to both breakfast and after school clubs.*

The School Gates

The church gate and junior playground gate are now open from **3:20pm not 3:00pm**. This is to ensure that children who may be outside for PE or other subjects are not in direct contact with those collecting at the end of the day. Those parents collecting from WASP will still have access via the intercom on the gate. However could we ask those collecting from WASP to shut the gate behind them please so as to ensure the playground area is secure until both gates are unlocked by Mr. Traynor. There should be no parents/carers on the playground before 3:20pm. Many thanks for your attention to this change.

Building Work

As the end of term approaches I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of renovation work that will be taking place over the Summer holidays here in school. There is planned work replacing the windows in the school hall and improvements to the surrounding roof area. This may have implications for those children in Year 5 and 6 from September in terms of how they enter/exit the school building. If necessary, further details will be sent out towards the end of the Summer holidays to all parents when we have a clearer timescale for the work taking place and a completion date. Rest assured school will be open as normal for all children on **Wednesday 6th September at 8:55am.**

And finally.....

Can I thank you all for your continued support and wish each of you and your family a safe and happy Summer break. Hopefully you'll be awarded at least a week's grace before *'I'm bored'* is first uttered.

See you all on Wednesday 6th September.

Many thanks

Mr. D Kay