

St. Mark's C.E. Primary

Sent: 24/05/2017 16:51:41

Dear Parents and Carers,

And so another half term passes in the blink of an eye. As we countdown to the upcoming break can I please ask for your attention to the following items of information below.

Well done

It seems appropriate to begin by congratulating both our Year 6 and Year 2 children who have recently completed their SATs. Their efforts throughout the tests speak volumes of how strong they are in the face of such challenge.

School Uniform

As the Summer term rolls on, can I ask all parents/carers ensure that their child/ren are dressed in the correct uniform with names on all items of uniform that they make take off during the school day. A reminder that all boys must wear black shoes and I would also request that you adhere to the ruling on both extreme haircuts and the accessories girls are allowed to wear in their hair. A further reminder that our Lost Property will be cleared out on Friday - please check the box at the back of the School Hall if your child has mislaid any items.

Parent Council

Many thanks to the Parent Council for their hard work in collating and analysing the online survey on Home School Reading. The survey has unearthed some useful findings to further explore and respond to. In addition thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey. As always your opinions are very much valued.

PTA

The PTA are busy preparing for their Summer festival on Saturday July 8th here at school. There will be a non uniform day on Friday 30th June in return for donations towards the festival. On the same day the PTA will be serving coffee and bacon butties for all parents in the morning before school...the perfect breakfast for Year 6 parents bidding their child farewell as they head off to Hothersall. The PTA are also looking to organise an Early Years disco for Nursery and Reception children after the half term break and this will be held one evening immediately after school. Further details to follow.

Extended locality consent forms

Thank you to everybody who has returned the extended locality consent form enabling teachers to take children out into the local area without requesting consent each time. Please note, as mentioned in the original letter, children would never be taken out of school

without at least 24 hours prior notice. Now consent has been given no further permission will be sought until our Educational Visits policy is next reviewed.

Worsley Woods Action Group

Our work in supporting Worsley Woods Action Group (WWAG) continues to gather momentum. You may recall that we invited you to vote online to support their work in the February newsletter. I am delighted to share with you that as a result of votes cast they were awarded the maximum amount of £5,000 from Tesco Bags of Help. This has allowed the school council to work in collaboration with WWAG on a project around designing sculptures for a woodland trail along with creating an interactive puzzle/quiz for families to complete as they walk the trail. The group are also hosting a 'Celebration of Autumn Festival' on Saturday 28th October at Beesley Green Community Centre. As a school we have agreed to support this festival given the work that WWAG do directly impacts on the environment that so many of our school community like to frequently visit. However, given they rely very much on the support via grants potentially accessible to them, I have pasted a link below inviting you to vote for them in their current round of bidding.

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

Children on the playground/car park before and after school

Could we please ask that parents/carers ensure preschool/Early Years children remain with them at all times when dropping off and picking up. A growing number of children have been seen running through the staff car park in the morning and afternoon. As I'm sure you appreciate this is incredibly dangerous despite the vigilance by all those staff using the car park. In addition there are still a number of younger children who are venturing into areas that are out of bounds, using the gym apparatus before/after school and swinging/climbing on the netball posts. The school cannot accept responsibility for any injuries sustained by those continually refusing to follow guidance given. Finally just a reminder that parents/carers of KS1 children **must** remain with them until the teacher comes out on to the playground to collect them at 8:55am each morning. Thank you for your cooperation in the matters above.

The School Gates

Please note that from after half term the Church gate, Junior Playground and Reception Playground gate will be open from **3:20pm**. This is to ensure that children who may be outside for PE or other subjects can utilize our outdoor spaces.

Mr Traynor will open the Junior Playground gate from 2.55pm-3.05pm for parents collecting from WASP only. However could we ask those collecting from WASP to leave the playground once they have collected their child from WASP. If a parent needs to access WASP at any other time during the day, they should use the intercom for access and please ensure the gate is shut behind you at all times to ensure the playground area is secure. **There should be no parents/carers waiting on any of the playgrounds before 3:20pm**. Many thanks for your attention to this change.

Dates for the diary

Don't forget to check the weekly newsletter, sent via email, especially as we enter such a busy final half term. Sports Day dates have been published alongside trips out of school and also all the key information for Year 6 children including leavers meal, end of year play, leavers assembly, leavers church service etc. These events are also listed on the school website calendar <http://www.stmarksce.co.uk/calendar.php>

Monday 22nd May 2017

The events of Monday 22nd May will sadly live long in each of our memories. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families whose loved ones were killed or injured. Whilst we are fortunate to report that no children from St Mark's were directly affected by the tragedy we would still like to assure you that all staff here in school have stressed to our children that we are here for them should they wish to talk to someone. There remains both fear and confusion amongst adults as we try to somehow make sense of what has happened. In order to help appease our worries and to show a united response Salford Local Authority have requested we share with you the following message:

'We understand that parents are worried following the tragic events in Manchester. We are in unsettling but fast changing times.

We have also seen false rumours that all Salford schools have been closed on police advice. This is absolutely untrue – please see GMP website to get the latest, accurate information <http://www.gmp.police.uk/>

It's crucial that we all try and remain calm, reassure our children and only seek or repeat information from official sources. Salford schools are open and ready to support children emotionally through chances to talk, the safety of predictable routines and spend time with their friends and teachers enjoying ordinary everyday activities.

Salford City Council works very closely with Greater Manchester Police, particularly at times like this to share any relevant safety information for the public.

GMP have stepped up patrols in our communities to provide reassurance.

Our schools have their normal security and safeguarding plans and procedures.

If anything changes the police will advise the public directly – and Salford City Council will share that information with schools and parents or carers.

Please be vigilant but our strength lies in returning to business as normal as soon as possible.'

#Westandtogether

A reminder that we break up on **Friday 26th May** and *return to school on Monday 5th June.*

At this time, more than ever, I wish each of you good health and happiness.

I hope that over the break you all get to spend quality time with those closest to you.

Mr. D Kay