

Friday 26th January 2018

January Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that 2018 has started well for you all and that the year ahead holds nothing but good fortune. Please find below an information packed newsletter for your attention.

Recent Staff Absence

As many of you will be aware, and may have even suffered yourselves, there have been a number of bugs 'doing the rounds' at the moment. Since the start of the new school year we have lost Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Whitehead, Mrs. Boardman, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Williams for a number of days as they have each battled to overcome flu symptoms. Fortunately we now seem to be getting back to full strength but wanted to take the time to assure you that in the absence of your child's teacher **all** work is planned and monitored by the school so as to ensure continuity and no learning time being lost.

Sickness

Can we please remind you that, in line with Health Protection Agency Guidelines, if a 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. Furthermore could we ask that when you telephone school to inform the office of sickness you also indicate what the symptoms are please. This will allow us to monitor any potential outbreaks of sickness within a class or year group and also enable us to advise you on the period of absence required. Also, just to reiterate what was included in the weekly newsletter recently, whilst we know children are well versed in the need to wash their hands after going to the toilet can you please help us to reinforce this with your child/ren at home. Washing hands thoroughly with soap/water after going to the toilet prevents a range of potential bugs/germs spreading and also ensures all our children here in school are fit and healthy. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Haircuts and School Uniform

Could we please remind parents/carers of our guidelines concerning children's haircuts. As a school we request that no child has lines shaved in to their hair or has the sides shaved excessively high up the head. We would also request that, in the interest of hygiene, long hair for girls and **boys** be tied back with a **plain headband or bobble**. Finally could parents/carers ensure that children are wearing school uniform with the St Mark's winged lion logo. Many thanks for your attention to these matters.

Parents Consultation Evenings-Reception-Year 6

Parents Consultation evenings will be taking place on **Tuesday 20th March and Wednesday 21st March** from 3:40-6:00pm. Booking times should be made via the online system. A reminder that if your child has an Individual Plan (IP) for his/her learning you **don't** need to book an appointment on the 20th/21st. You should instead make contact with the class teacher who will arrange a separate meeting time so as to allow you sufficient time to monitor and review the IP together.

PTA

The PTA continues to meet and plan events to provide both financial support for the school and also to create social opportunities for all to gather as a school family. The eagerly awaited Once Upon a Smile Charity Ball at the Marriott is nearly upon us and for the children there are Key Stage discos to look forward at the end of February. Further details on those to follow.

Football/Netball Fixtures

As we all wish the dark nights away, mid-February should see the restart of our football and netball seasons after the winter break. Please can we remind you that children are now 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.

Parking

Can we ask that all parents adhere to the ruling concerning parking on the school car park between **7:30am and 5:30pm**. Poor weather conditions, dropping off at pre-school or WASP and running late at drop off/pick up are not legitimate reasons for parking on the school car park. In addition a number of parents have been in school to complain about dangerous and reckless parking near to the church lane gate. If you are using that particular entrance you **must** park on the church car park and **not** the lane. Your cooperation is very much appreciated and ensures that our children are safe at all times.

Contact details

Can you please ensure that the school office have your correct contact details, including mobile phone number, email and home address(es) where appropriate. With new mobile phones a very popular present at Christmas it's vital we have the correct number should we need to contact you **urgently** regarding an issue with your child/ren.

Cross Country Presentation Date

A huge congratulations to all the children who have taken part in the Salford Schools Cross Country Championship this season. They can take great pride from their effort, commitment and....SUCCESS! We would therefore like to invite parents/carers in to school on **Wednesday 7th March at 9:15am** for our annual end of season presentation. We hope to see as many of you as possible then. Could we also ask that all vests are returned asap.

Congratulations

We end this bumper newsletter with the wonderful news that Mrs. Deadman is expecting her first child in June. Further details regarding staffing arrangements in her absence will follow in the next few weeks. We hope you join us in wishing her good health and happiness for the upcoming months.

Dates for the dairy

Many of you may be wondering what has happened to our weekly newsletter this week. Unfortunately Mrs. Keirl has been struck down by a bug that has meant she has been absent from school since Tuesday. Normal service will be resumed next week. In the meantime any upcoming dates can be found on the school website ticker tape headlines.

Kind regards

Mr. D Kay