

Thursday 29th March

March Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe Easter is upon us this very weekend and only serves to highlight how quickly the Spring term has passed us by. As we all look forward to a well-deserved break can I please ask for your attention to the following items of information below.

Staffing News

It's with mixed emotions we have to announce that Mrs. Barry will be leaving us in the Summer. She has taken up another leadership role in a school closer to home and whilst both she and the school are very much sad to say goodbye we know she is relishing the new challenge ahead. The returning Miss Peek will be in Year 3M from September 2018.

We continue the farewells with the news that Mrs. Gallagher will also be leaving us in the Summer. You may remember that Mrs. Gallagher gave birth to a baby boy in October and hasn't yet returned from maternity leave. However when she does return in the Summer term they will be her final weeks here at St Mark's. I know Mrs. Gallagher is very much looking forward to being able to spend quality time with her family.

As you may recall from January's newsletter Mrs. Deadman is due to take maternity leave from the May half term. We can now inform you that after the May half term Mrs. Lloyd will move across to Nursery. Mrs. Gallagher will be in Reception from Wednesday to Friday alongside Mrs. Mansfield for the remainder of the Summer term. From September 2018 Mrs. Naylor will be working full time in Reception.

Finally we are delighted to announce that Mrs. Whitehead gave birth to a baby girl on Sunday 18th March. I hope you join us in wishing her and her family health and happiness.

Tiny Church Plus-A NEW monthly school service at St Mark's Church

It is with great excitement that we can announce a new Tiny Church *Plus* service that will take place on the **third** Sunday of each month at 9:30am. The service will be led by the children/staff of St Mark's school alongside Rector Mark and will build on the success of the recently launched Tiny Church service. This service **will** count as part of the fortnightly attendance for those looking to fulfil criteria in line with the new 2019-20 Admissions Policy. All in attendance are more than welcome to stay on after for Children's Church (age 4+) that takes place during the 10:30am service. The first Tiny Church *Plus* service takes place on Sunday April 15th. As I'm sure you're all very much aware that date falls within the Easter

holidays and we appreciate that many people may be away. However for those who are around we look forward to seeing as many family and friends there as possible.

'High 5 time'

In addition to the parental questionnaires that we ask you fill in at Parents Evenings we also like to survey the children here at St Mark's so we can gather their opinions and feedback on daily life here in school. Following on from the most recent survey completed this half term it became clear that the children were keen to have more incentives in order to earn extra break times. Whilst we currently award the class within each key stage who score the most class points (up to 5 a day based on our Christian Values) an extra break on a Friday some children were becoming tired that their class never win despite their own individual best efforts. Therefore after half term we will be introducing a new incentive to reward children with an extra 20 minute break on a Friday-'**High 5 time**' The name comes from the idea that in order to earn the extra break an individual must aim high so as to fulfil 5 targets in line with an exemplary attitude to school life. So as to ensure that these targets are not generic each class will come up with their own set of 5 agreed targets that their teacher will judge each of them on. Those children who achieve the targets from Monday-Friday will earn *High 5 time* each Friday. Those who don't achieve the targets will miss out on 5/10/15/20 minutes depending on how many times within the week they have failed to meet the targets their class have devised. High 5 time will run throughout Key Stage 1 and 2 on a Friday. The time will be structured with staff running set activities for children to select from. Given our numbers in KS2, Year 3 and 4 (3:00pm-3:20pm) will have their time separately to Year 5 and 6 (12:10pm-12:30pm) so as to prevent overcrowding and also to allow staff to make the most of the outdoor environment space available to plan activities. Please note there will also be indoor activities for those children who may not wish to go outside.

PTA Easter Fun

If you're looking for the perfect way to start the Easter weekend the PTA Easter Egg Hunt is on **Saturday 31st March 1-4pm around Roe Green**. Hot drinks and cakes will be served by the PTA in Roe Green Church Hall throughout the hunt. Any cakes for donation can be brought to Roe Green church hall between **12:00-1:00pm**. There is also face painting and be sure to look out for the Easter Bunny! *Maps cost £4 per family and are on sale at from 3:30pm in the junior playground. Maps can also be bought on the day for £5.*

Haircuts and School Uniform

With the snow hopefully long gone and dare we say warmer weather looming 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.**

A reminder also as we approach Summer of the permitted changes in uniform

Girls

- White polo top with school logo (Nursery only); White blouse* with school tie
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Navy skirt or pinafore dress; or grey trousers (winter) or a dress** of full blue/white checked gingham (summer)
- Navy tights or white socks; black shoes with low heels; or navy sandals (summer)

Boys

- White polo top with school logo (Nursery only); White shirt* with school tie
- Navy sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey shorts or long grey trousers
- Plain grey or black socks; black shoes

** In summer, Reception, Year 1 and 2 children have the option of wearing a white polo shirt with the school logo instead of a white blouse or shirt.*

**** The summer dress must be a full dress and NOT a white top/gingham skirt combination or culottes**

Parents Consultations

Thank you to all parents who attended the consultation evenings last week. We hope you found the opportunity to look through your child's books and talk to their teacher to be both informative and positive.

Contact details

Can you please ensure that the school office have your correct contact details, including mobile phone number(s), email and home address(es) where appropriate. With parents/carers mobile phones regularly upgraded these days it's vital we have the correct numbers should we need to contact you urgently regarding an issue with your child/ren.

Medicines

Could we remind parents that all medicines **must** be handed in at the school office and a medical request form be completed. *Furthermore we are now asking that parents handing in non-prescribed*

medicines (throat/nasal sprays, calpol, creams, lozengers etc.) revisit the school office on the third day of their child taking the medicine to update the school on the ailment.

Mobile Phones in school

Please note that from after the Easter holidays any parent/carer wishing for their child to bring a mobile phone in to school **must** complete the new form attached to this email (paper copies will be available from Monday 16th April for those unable to print at home) We have always requested that a child only brings a mobile phone in to school if s/he requires it for their walk to/from school. A growing number of children seem to be bringing in their phone for no apparent reason other than to show their friends or use on the playground before/after school when their parents/carers are actually in attendance alongside them. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

And finally.....

On behalf of the school many thanks to those who sent us their best wishes last week during our OFSTED inspection. A further thank you to all the parents who also took the time to complete the online Parent View OFSTED questionnaire. A report with outcomes from the inspection will follow shortly after the Easter break.

We wish each of you a wonderful Easter holiday with your families and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 16th April.

Mr. D Kay