

3.9.2015

September Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2015/16 academic year and the start of a new era here at St Marks. I hope all of you have had a restful summer and look forward to working together again with you all for another successful and enjoyable year ahead.

School grounds

You will have noticed one or two changes to the school environment. The extension work carried out on the key stage two playground has all been completed giving the junior children greater space at break times. In addition the grassy area at the back of the key stage one playground has now been levelled out to create further outdoor space for the children.

The school day

A reminder that for Key stage 1 2 **school starts at 8.55 am (Nursery 9:00am/Reception 8:50am)** At this time your child should be lining up on the playground alongside the other children in his/her class ready to come into school. In the interest of safety all children once through the school gates must remain on the playground and not play on the school field, in woodland areas or use climbing frames or any other equipment. *Ball games are not permitted before school.* **Could parents/carers not line up alongside children or follow children into school once collected by the class teacher unless you need to speak to a member of staff urgently.** Should you wish to speak to a member of staff about something can we ask you approach them at the end of the school day so as to allow the day to begin promptly. **School finishes at 3:30pm.**

We do appreciate that from time to time there may be a reason that your child is late. If this should occur your child must report to the school office reception. If you are late in picking your child up and collect them from the school office reception you must inform the staff there that you are collecting your child and sign your child out in the book by the office. Can we please ask you make any adult collecting a child who is late aware of this procedure.

If your child has forgotten an item that is needed that day and you wish to bring it in for them, you can drop this off at the office. Unfortunately, office staff cannot make telephone calls home regarding forgotten items, in particular any sports kits. Should a child forget their packed lunch the school will provide them with a meal to be paid for that week.

We are happy to administer medication for your child. A medicine authorization form must be filled out and signed for us to do so and any medication handed in to the school office. Inhalers also need to be left in the school office.

If you have given permission for your child to bring a mobile phone to school, this must be switched off and left in the school office during the school day.

Please note that teaching staff or office staff cannot accept cash payment unless it is in a named envelope.

School Uniform

In light of the number of children having ears pierced over school holidays we have decided to amend the ruling on earrings. Studded earrings remain the only ones permitted in school and must be removed for any PE lesson. However as children with recently pierced ears are unable to remove the earrings for a number of weeks we will now permit them to wear plasters **(to be brought in from home)** over their ears for PE sessions.

The school requests children do not have extreme haircuts including Mohawk cuts, patterns shaved into the hair and excessive use of hair products.

Nail varnish or make up are not permitted in school. We fully appreciate children may have worn them for occasions over the weekend or a weekday evening but can we please ask they be removed before coming to school.

In the interest of safety no bracelets or bands are to be worn in school. We recognise many bands are for a charitable cause but would ask the children wear them out of school.

Extra-curricular clubs

As always the school will be offering a variety of extra-curricular clubs aimed at all ages. Several of these clubs are limited in numbers and operate on a first come first served basis in returning consent slips. In the interest of fairness

we do put all names not selected on a standby list and ensure that priority is given to those children at the next available opportunity.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 15th September: 4:30 – 5:30 pm Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 open evening

Wednesday 16th September: 4:30-5:30 Year 3 open evening

Thursday 17th September: 4:30-5:30 Year 6 open evening

Please note open evenings are an information sharing session for the upcoming year. Should you be unable to attend the sessions, or feel you are already familiar with routines, all relevant information will be sent home following on from the evening. If your child is in Y3 please make your way directly to the new building. Otherwise please enter using the main school office reception.

Tuesday 29th September: 2:30pm Harvest Festival at Church

Wednesday 30th September: School photographs

Tuesday 6th October: Scholastic Book Fair 3:40pm in school hall

Thursday 8th October: Year 1 trip to Blackpool

Wednesday 14th October: 2:30pm Mr Lennox Headteacher from Walkden High visiting St Mark's to talk to prospective parents of Year 6 and 5 children in the school hall.

Thursday 22nd October: School closes for half term

Tuesday 3rd November: School reopens

Thank you and best wishes for the upcoming year

Mr D Kay