

Dear Parents and Carers,

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the first half term of this academic year. The donations towards our Harvest appeal, your attendance at parent workshops and ongoing support for all PTA events prove what a wonderful school community exists here at St Mark's. Please find below important information concerning the next few weeks here in school after the half term.

Staffing

There will be one or two noticeable changes to staffing after half term. Mrs. Lloyd will now be working part time in Reception from Wednesday to Friday due to family commitments. We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs. Rachael Naylor to work in Reception on a Monday and Tuesday alongside Mrs. Mansfield. Mrs. Naylor brings over ten years of experience working with Early Years and we have every confidence that she will prove to be a real asset to the school.

We are also sad to announce that we say goodbye to Mrs. Alison Hadfield one of our lunchtime supervisors. Mrs. Hadfield has worked at the school for many years and has helped care for so many children during break times and at lunch. She will be missed by all and we wish her every happiness beyond St Mark's.

Year 5 and 6 staircase renovation work

We are delighted to announce that the work on the first stairwell leading up to the Year 6 classroom and sensory room is due for completion over the half term holiday. I'm sure you will all agree the work was much needed and already makes that particular area of school look far better than before for all who use it. With this in mind, unless you are informed otherwise, we will revert to the usual arrangements for children in Year 5, 5/6 and 6 entering/exiting through the quad door at the start/end of each day. Year 3 and 4 children will also now be able to use the quad door to enter/exit the main school building.

Playground reminders

Can I thank all parents/carers for their help in ensuring children are not using the climbing wall, gym apparatus and adventure trail equipment before and after school. It is not our intention to act as killjoys merely a sign of the times with regards to health and safety and risk assessment on our behalf.

Parking

Despite constant reminders there are still parents/carers parking in the school car park. **Parents/carers are not permitted to use 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. Dropping off at pre-school /WASP or running late at morning drop off/afternoon pick up are not legitimate reasons for parking on the school car park.

Breaks/Lunchtimes

Given the cold and damp weather ahead don't forget, if you so wish, to send in an old pair of shoes/trainers for your child if s/he is in KS2 so they are not getting their school shoes dirty when it is their turn to use the climbing wall or adventure trail. The shoes/trainers can be left in school as Mr. Traynor has very kindly organised storage and shelter for them close by to the woodland area.

PTA and other volunteers

I'm sure you would all like to join me in thanking the PTA for their incredible efforts this half term. Not only did they organise a highly enjoyable (and fiercely competitive) quiz night they also catered for the children too with two key stage discos that were both a resounding success. Thanks also to DJ Colin who worked nonstop and travelled at the speed of light to save the day.

In addition to their roles in school Lisa Van Damms, Stacey Monaghan and an elite crack team of 'gardeners/labourers' (apologies if I haven't named and famed you) have worked wonders clearing the 'quiet area' close to the path leading up to the quad. The area has been earmarked for exciting plans so watch this (that) space.

Can we also thank Nicola Wellens for her work in organising the Macmillan coffee morning raising close to £300 for the charity.

Our School Website

<http://www.stmarksce.co.uk/>

Please do visit our school website to gain information and find out what is going on in school. Our 'ticker tape' rolling headlines on the homepage lists all the key dates and events that are coming up and serves as a handy reminder when letters have long since been misplaced or forgotten about. Each year group page also has information about their curriculum for the half term as well as upcoming trip letters and useful resources for the year ahead. In addition to our website don't forget our school Twitter account. Should you wish to follow us you will find us at [@stmarkmywords](https://twitter.com/stmarkmywords) or you can click on the link via the school website.

Dates for the dairy

This week Mrs. Keirl sent out an email outlining all upcoming events for the next half term. If for any reason you did not receive that newsletter please contact the school. However just one date to serve as a reminder-**Tuesday 1st November: School reopens**

Thank you as always for your continued support, I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Mr. D Kay