

September 2016 - Newsletter 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are already in our third week back of the new term. We are delighted with the way all children have settled into their new classes and hope you feel suitably well informed about their upcoming year ahead. Please find below important information concerning the next few weeks here in school, together with one or two of our obligatory reminders and some diary dates.

Year 5 and 6 staircase renovation work

Renovation work begins on the first staircase leading up to Year 6 and the sensory room on **Monday 26th September**. If your child is in Year 5, Year 5/6 or Year 6 this will impact on the way in which they enter/leave the building at the start/end of the day. From Monday 26th September **ALL** Year 5 and 6 children will be collected from the playground at 8:55am by their class teacher as normal, but will then enter through the fire doors in the hall. At 3:30pm the class teacher will once again escort the children back to the playground via the fire doors in the hall. Can we ask you do not drop off or collect the children from directly outside the fire doors as 86 children and their parents/carers will result in a great deal of congestion. To ensure everybody's safety and well being, we also ask that parents/carers of Year 5 and 6 children do not loiter on the car park. Finally, could we request that **ALL** parents/carers ensure that the gate to the Key Stage 2 playground is not obstructed at 8:55am and 3:30pm so as to allow the Year 5 and 6 children easy exit/entry. The work is expected to take 4-6 weeks and we thank you in advance for both your patience and vigilance.

Playground reminders

Can we remind all parents/carers that the children are **NOT** to play ball games or use any pieces of school apparatus before or after school. A reminder also that, regardless of the circumstances, no dogs are allowed on the school grounds. Finally, in the interest of everybody's safety, could we please ask that nobody rides a bike or scooter on the school grounds. Could parents/carers please ensure they pass this message on to older siblings from high school who may drop off/collect as it seems they are unclear of this ruling.

Parking

We will all no doubt be running late at some point in our daily lives but remember blocking even the smallest part of a resident's driveway, mounting pavements, forcing pedestrians to use the road and blocking the school gates whilst you 'run into school' isn't acceptable or fair. Can we also ask parents/carers that you do not 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. Spaces are of a premium and as a school we continue to experience issues with staff unable to enter/exit due to parents/carers occupying car parking spaces.

It seems to have been a very positive start to the year in terms of parking with due consideration for both our residents and school community. Long may this continue.

Breaks/Lunchtimes

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.

At St Mark's we pride ourselves on being a Healthy School so could we just remind you of our guidelines on what children should and shouldn't be bringing if they are on packed lunches. No fizzy drinks are allowed. We ask that children bring in water

(flavoured if they so wish) or non concentrated fruit juice to drink. In addition can we ask that you are mindful of sending in too many sweet things such as fruit winders, chocolate bars and biscuits within a packed lunch. In moderation, as a treat, is fine but many packed lunches are becoming laden with sugary snacks and children rush or half eat their sandwiches in order to eat.

Farewell to our Rector

As many of you may already know, we will be saying goodbye to Reverend Geoff Turner at the start of October. We would therefore like to invite you into a celebration assembly on **Monday 26th September at 9:15am** to say farewell from the school community. We hope as many of you as possible can find the time to join us in thanking the Rector for all the time and commitment he has given to the school over the years.

Harvest Festival

Could we ask, as we do each year at this time, for any donations towards our Harvest Festival. As previously all tins, packets and jars are gratefully received and will be passed on to 'Farnworth and Kearsley Foodbank' this year. Please send your donations to school before Monday.

Our Harvest Festival will be in Church on Tuesday 27th September at 2:30pm and will be attended by Key Stage 2 children. Parents/carers are welcome to join us.

EYFS and Key Stage One pupils will celebrate Harvest in school, but due to limited space, we are unable to invite parents/carers to join us in school.

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 diary

Tuesday 27th September: 2:30pm Key Stage 2 Harvest Festival in church.

Thursday 29th September: 6:30pm PTA AGM here in school - all are welcome

Friday 30th September: PTA Quiz Night 7:15pm (Doors open at 6:45pm)

Monday 3rd October: Year 3 walk around Worsley

Wednesday October 5th: Year 4 trip to Manchester Science and Industry Museum

Friday 7th October: 9:05am Parent Council here in school - all are welcome

Monday 10th October: Year 3 trip to the Lowry

Tuesday 11th October: School photographs

Wednesday 12th October: McMillan Coffee Morning

Thursday 13th October: Year 1 trip to Blackpool Zoo

Friday 21st October: School closes for half term

Tuesday 1st November: School reopens

Thank you as always for your continued support

Mr. D Kay