



St. Mark's C. E. (A) Primary

Friday 21st October 2016

Message from Mrs Johnstone

Dear Parents/Carers

A huge thank you goes out to you all for the over-whelming response to our 'Harvest Big Breakfast'. It was lovely to see so many of you joining us for breakfast and we managed to raise £200 for the orphans in Kenya. This is absolutely fantastic! Maisie and Meg also send their thanks. We look forward to seeing photos on their return from Kenya!

Many classes have been out and about over the half term to further enhance their learning. Last week, Year 3 visited Liverpool to visit The Museum of Liverpool and to see how the city has developed over time whilst Year 2 have been filmed performing their own poems based on 'The Sound Collector' by Roger McGough by students from the Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College. Among the students was an ex-pupil from St Mark's. He was very complimentary about his time at our school and how we have inspired him to go on to continue his studies.

On Thursday 13th October some of our school counsellors represented our school at the Stoke-on Trent City Council Local Democracy event. They were able to develop a better understanding of what democracy is and why it is important to our society.

Last Friday we welcomed 20 PGCE students and their lecturer to our school. The students are training to become teachers at Staffordshire University. They had come to St Mark's to find out how we support children who have English as an additional language. They were extremely impressed with our children's engagement and behaviour both in lessons, on the playground and around school; the high expectations that adults had for every child in each class and the quality of the children's presentation in their work books. Finally, they commented that St Mark's felt calm and happy. A great endorsement for our school!

Yesterday ten Year 6 pupils visited the Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form with staff and their parents to find out about our local college and the opportunities available for both further study and careers. Children and parents from Etruscan Primary School also attended. They completed an animation activity in the Media department and a scientific experiment in the physics laboratory. Following the visit pupils have thought carefully about a variety of different careers they may pursue including becoming a film editor, doctor, forensic scientist and a games designer. This careers walk was to help ensure that our children have high aspirations for their future. Once again, the tutors commented on the exemplary behaviour of our children. Well done to everyone who visited!

I am pleased to announce that the governors have appointed Mr Nicholls as our new Head of School following a rigorous selection process. I am sure you will join me in congratulating him on his new post. Mr Nicholls will remain in Year 6 until a suitable replacement can be found. We are now advertising for a replacement Assistant Headteacher.

We have received a Thank You card from St Mark's church for our continued support for their Food Bank. Thank you for all your donations and well done to Year 6 for leading the way throughout this half term. After the break it is Year 5's turn to collect food for the Food Bank - Good Luck Year 5!

School closes today for 1 week. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school at 8.30 am on Monday 31st October. I wish you all a good half term break.

Thank you for your continued support.

Merit Awards



Well done to all the children who have received golden jumpers and merit awards.

Friday 7th October - Belal Aziz, Humairaa Shoaib, Ismail Ellahi, Ismael Saddiq, Abu-Hurayrah Sajed, Aqib Khalid, Faizaan Gulfranz, Jerome Odejayi, Rehan Sattar, Vanesa Holubova, Kiara Ferkova, Bisma Mohammed, Viktoria Zubakova, Sana Kausar

Friday 14th October - Humaira Gulfam, Omar Abdalla, Fatima Mahmood, Aqsa Makhmood, Erika Barasova, Umar Hussain, Crystal Enstone, Samad Bashir, Arafat Khadar, Halimah Ahmed, Maya Mahmood, Haya Khadar, Madeeha Bashir

Friday 21st October - Saleem Ahmed, Ayesha Hussain, Rameeza Khatoon, Nela Husarova, Faheem Razwan, Aayan Jameel, Saara Mitchel, Ehsan Mohammadi, Gurkirat Kour, Arbaz Ahmed, Maisha Falak, Hussnain Haider, Eduard Cernat, Saad Sarker



Photographs

Academy Photography will be in school on **Tuesday 15th November 2016** to take individual photographs of the children. They will also take sibling groups, which we will sort out during the day. If you have a child who attends nursery or a younger sibling, you are welcome to come into school at **8.15am until 8.30am** to have a photograph of them taken with their brothers and sisters. Please make sure that all the children are in their school uniform.

Attendance Certificates



This term's attendance certificates have been given out today. Please note that those children who celebrated Eid for 2 days will have Orange certificates due to the fact that the certificates are computer generated by percentage attendance and religious observance brings the percentage down below 96%. However, the school does recognise that these children have excellent attendance. We are concerned at the amount of children coming late to school.

Any children who arrive at school after **9.10am** will be given a 'late after registration has closed mark' which will affect their percentage attendance and may lead to a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer to discuss the issue.

School is closed next week for the half term break.
The gates will re-open at 8.30am on Monday 31st October



Have a safe and enjoyable half term break!

