



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

Friday 14th September 2018

Message from Mrs. Johnstone and Mr. Nicholls

Welcome back to a new school year at St Mark's! The summer holiday has flown by and the children have come back to school ready to learn. The term has started really well and the children seem very settled in their new classes. Thank you for supporting our Eid parties on Friday. The children all looked lovely in their Eid and party clothes.

Last week, year 5 went to study the River Dane, with support from instructors at Stanley Head, as part of their topic about rivers. They had a wonderful time exploring the river and have gained a much better understanding of the features of a river. Year 4 were visited in school by 'The Unconventional Menagerie' who brought in lots of different animals that live in a rainforest. The children were able to hold some of these animals. This has helped them understand more about which animals live in the rainforest and how they have adapted to live in their surroundings.

This Tuesday, children from year 6 went to Middleport Pottery to look at the 'Weeping Window' of poppies. This allowed children to have a greater understanding of World War 1 and why the poppy is seen as a symbol of the great-war. It also allowed children to see how art can be used to create emotion and mood.

Reminder of school times

Reception - 8:30am - 2:40pm

Years 1 - 6: 8:30am - 2:45pm

Please can parents make sure that they collect their children from school promptly at 2:45pm. We have had lots of children this week not being picked up on time, which is distressing for the children and means that staff are left supervising the children. Can we also remind parents that cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside school.

Uniform

It is really important that children wear the correct uniform for school. Children need to wear black school shoes and not trainers. Headscarves should be either navy blue, royal blue or black. Some of the girls have been wearing 'JoJo' bows to school, can we ask that these are either navy blue, royal blue or black in colour. Can we also remind parents that all children need a P.E. kit in school and can you make sure that all items of the school uniform and P.E. kit are named. **Children should not wear ear-rings to school.** Years 3 and 6 are going to the YMCA this term for P.E.

Safeguarding

For your information; every school must have a designated lead and deputy designated lead officer for safeguarding issues. Miss Thomas is our designated safeguarding leader and Mr Nicholls and Mrs Johnstone are the deputy designated safeguarding leaders. If you believe that a child is at risk of significant harm or is in need, then please do come to talk to us. If you feel that you can't do this, then please phone Stoke on Trent Children and Young People's Services on 01782 235100. If a child is in danger at that point in time, please call the police. At St Mark's, we want everyone, including our parents / carers to be safe. We try to do everything possible to ensure this happens.

We would like to welcome some new members of staff to St Mark's. Mr Cooke and Miss Hort are our new teaching assistants in year 1. We also welcome back Mrs Burton to school following her maternity leave. She will be teaching in class 3B.

During the school holidays, we were informed by the Local Authority that from the 1st September Thomas Boughey Nursery School would become a nursery class for St Mark's. The nursery will now be called St Mark's nursery class. We are extremely excited about this and although Thomas Boughey has always been a part of our federation, we welcome all of the staff and children as part of our school. In reality, this will mean very little change for the children, families and staff at the nursery.

As always, thank you for your continued support.



Swimming

Swimming will start the week beginning Monday 17th September for year 5 and class 4J. Our swimming lessons will take place at Fenton Manor swimming pool and lessons will be every Wednesday morning. Children will need the following: swimming costume or swimming shorts (no baggy shorts), swimming cap and a towel. Please ensure your child has the correct items and items are labelled clearly. (The girls may wear leggings under their costume)

Price Increase Key Stage 2 Break

The break prices for KS2 children increased from Monday 10th September.

The prices are now

Toast - 25p

Crumpet/Teacake 30p

Fruit 30p

Milk 18p

Fruit Juice - 30p

Please send in the correct money with your child

*After school clubs will start week commencing 24th September.
Letters will be sent home next week.*

Data Checking – all children have had a data checking sheet for you to sign and update any contact numbers/medical details etc. If you have not already done so, please return the data sheet to school by Monday 17th September. – Thank you

Merit Awards

Well done to all the children who were presented with a merit award and a golden jumper today - an excellent start to the new academic year!

Class RH Danyal, Class RN Ibrheem, Class 1E Alesia, Class 1H Aayan, Class 2C Esa, Class 2G Humaira, Class 3B Iona, Class 3E Musa, Class 4J Aisha Class 4W Isabela, Class 5LB Muallim, Class 5VB Shakew, Class 6C Bawan Class 6J Jibraeel

Congratulations

