



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

Friday 15th February 2019

Message Mr. Nicholls

We cannot believe how quickly this half term has gone and that the half term holiday is upon us already. It has been an extremely busy half term and there has been lots going on both in and out of school since our last newsletter.

Over the last two weeks, year 3 visited the 6th Form College in Stoke as part of their Learning Challenge Curriculum topic. They had a wonderful time designing and creating an erupting volcano. They were also wonderfully behaved! We would also like to say how impressed we have been with some of the year 3 homework - your model volcanoes look amazing! Well done year 3.

On Thursday 7th February, year 4 visited the village of Bagnall. This was as part of their topic and the children were looking to understand why people settle in certain areas. They were able to see the differences between Bagnall and Shelton and they used their mapping skills to identify local features. Even though it was a cold, windy and rainy day, the children had a great time.

Some children from years 3 and 4 attended a hockey competition on Friday 8th February at Northwood Stadium with other schools from the Seven Stars Network. The children played fantastically and were a credit to our school.

Last week, we held Interfaith Week in school, where children were asked the question: Where is God? This was a wonderful week and the children had some very mature and well thought out responses. They used their Art, Design and Technology and English skills in creating some beautiful work during this topic. We were visited by one of our governors (Mrs Wolvers) who was blown away by the standard of teaching and learning in R.E. Well done everyone!

We would like to thank the parents who attended the Reception songs and rhymes workshop last week. Mrs Ottaway who ran the workshop was thrilled with how many parents attended. Thank you parents for making this possible. We would also like to thank all of the parents who attended Mrs Wallace's e-safety training on Monday 11th February about online gaming. This was an extremely engaging session and was found to be most useful for those that attended. We will be holding another one of these events at the end of the next half term.

This Tuesday, pupils from year 5, who were taking part in the Police Junior Cadets Programme, took part in a passing out parade. We celebrated the completion of the programme by presenting them with their cap, t-shirt and

certificate. The police officers who ran the programme were pleased with the commitment shown by all children who took part.

On Thursday 14th February, year 6 held a meeting for parents to provide information about the upcoming KS2 SATs, which will take place throughout the week beginning 13th May. This was an excellent opportunity for both parents and children to find out more information about the SATs and what they will entail. Thank you to all of the parents who attended.

This week, children from St Mark's and Etruscan Primary have taken part in a project with Wedgwood to find out about the history of our local area. We are excited to have been a part of this project and have had lots of fun finding out about the connections between Josiah Wedgwood and the area we live. We have produced some fantastic work on Wedgwood, which will be displayed at the Wedgwood Museum.

We are really asking for your support with parking. We have had another complaint this week from the church. Parents are removing the barrier and parking on the grass. This is not only ruining the grass but it is not appropriate to use the church grounds as a car park. This is the second complaint we have received from people locally, please be considerate when parking or perhaps walk to school.

We say farewell to Mrs D Wiltshaw this half term, who is leaving St Mark's to take up a leadership role at another school in the city. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work over the last six years and wish her well in her new role.

There will be some changes to staffing over the next half term. Mrs V Bradbury (year 5) and Mrs S Khan (year 2) will start their maternity leave on the 1st of March. Miss R Curran will become the class teacher for class 5VB until the end of the spring term. Mrs K Smith will be working alongside Mrs Colclough in class 2C. Miss N Akhtar will become the class teacher for class 2G and Mrs Goodwin will be supporting Mr Nicholls in the day to day running of school in the absence of Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Bradbury. We are pleased to tell you that Mrs Johnstone is doing well following her surgery and is well on the road to recovery. After half term, we will be starting our new Magic Breakfast Club. This will be free of charge to all children and will be held every morning from 8:15am up to 8:45am. We will be offering healthy cereal and bagels as well as a drink. We will also be offering bagels out to parents and children on the school gate in the morning as well.

We hope that you all have a wonderful half term break and that all of the children stay safe. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 25th February

World Book Day

We will be celebrating world book day on Tuesday 5th March 2019

The children will all get to meet a visiting author and we are them to dress up as their favourite book character.

Perhaps over half term you and your child could talk about who their favourite character is and decide what they would like to wear on the 5th March.



Academy Photography will be in school on Tuesday 26th February to take the class group photographs.

Reception

The school nurse will be coming in on Thursday 28th February to check the height and weight of the children in Reception.

Year 1 Balance Bikes

Year 1 will be learning to ride a balance bike during the week commencing 18-22nd March

If you have not returned the permission slip, please return it by Monday 25th February.

SCHOOL SHOES

**Please can you make sure that all children wear black sensible school shoes to school.
Training shoes and pumps are not acceptable.**

Merit Awards

Well done to all the children who were presented with a merit award and a golden jumper on 8th February - the children are working so hard and deserved this award!

RH-Inaiyah, RN-Ashar, 1E-Zainab, 1H-Qudsia, 2C-Hashim, 2G-Amirah, 3B-Sofia, 3E-Fatima, 4J-Inzamam 4W-Junaid, 5LB- Umar, 5VB- Kiana, 6C-Alisha and 6J-Aria.

Congratulations, we are very proud of you

Mother's Day Stall

All the children will have the opportunity to buy a gift for their Mum, Nan or special person on Tuesday 26th March 2019.

All gifts will be wrapped ready for the children to bring home.

Gifts will be between £1.00 and £4.00

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Absences

**Please report a child's absence to the school office by 9.00am
Any unexplained absences will result in your child having an unauthorised mark.
Please contact the office on
01782 234411**