



St Mark's C E Primary School

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18th September 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians

Newsletter 2

The term is now in full swing and I would like to mention how well the children have all adapted to their new classes, visiting each class and observing the children in their new environment, I have experienced some great teaching and learning and very happy children!

Bad Language

It has been brought to my attention that one or two children are using bad language outside school on their way home. We do not tolerate bad language at any time especially when children are wearing the St. Mark's School uniform. We have spoken to the children and their parents.

We are very proud of the fact that the use of bad language in our school is a very rare occurrence; Ofsted judged the behaviour and attitude of our pupils to be good and the Diocese judges it to be outstanding. However, if and when bad language is heard or reported it is taken very seriously and dealt with rigorously, effectively and appropriately which may include a period of exclusion from school.

Equipment

Please remember that for their safety children are not allowed on the play equipment before or after school as the equipment is not supervised.

Year 6 Procedure for Entry into Secondary Education (PESE)

Please ensure that you have made a note of the information I gave you in Newsletter 1 and previous letters last term about how to apply for a place at Secondary School.

I can confirm that KCC Admissions is publishing a booklet entitled 'Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2016' and this will go out to parents within the next two weeks. It is also available on the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

Carrot Wood Residential Trip

All year 6 students have been given a letter about this trip. Please would all parents return their permission slips and deposit for the trip to the school office.



Attendance

Good attendance makes an outstanding school ☺, Ofsted consider 95 – 96% outstanding and we are aiming to achieve that. This is a very tough target, and we have already begun to slip (attendance for the first week of school (7th – 11th September) has slipped to 97.5%). Mainly due to appointments being made in school time.

We would, therefore ask all parents to try and keep absences to a minimum. Obviously we understand that children get ill and are unable to come to school, however, as parents you could really help us to achieve this figure by ensuring that where possible all non-emergency doctor/dental/optician appointments are made after school or in the school holidays.

Thank you.

Parentmail

If you are not registered for Parentmail, and would like to be, please would you collect a form from the school office, complete it and return it.

Parentmail is the schools preferred method of communicating news to parents as it is eco-friendly, reducing the amount of paper that the school uses and shouldn't get lost on route!!

Battery Collection

Please help us collect used domestic batteries for recycling to receive rewards for our school! We have registered for Kent County Council's 2015 'Power Up To Recycling' challenge. Schools in Kent have been challenged to collect as many used domestic batteries as possible **and our school will receive a voucher to spend on school equipment, based on the weight of batteries we collect!**

The more we collect the greater value voucher we receive! So please help us raise valuable funds for school and help the environment, by bringing all your old domestic batteries to our battery collection box in school. The challenge runs from September 2015 to 8 January 2016, so please start saving your batteries for us!

We can recycle the following batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, 9v, mobile phone and button cell batteries
Please note: batteries must be from a domestic source and not used in business.

Parking

Please do not park across our neighbours drives, it causes unnecessary problems for the residents.

NSPB

Thank you to all the parents who donated cakes to raise money for the above charity, please collect your tins from the office

Nurse Clinic

NHS School Nurse Catherine Mars will be offering a School Health Clinic on Friday 16th October at St Mark's from 8:30 – 10am. Catherine can offer advice on most health related issues including day and night time wetting, constipation and soiling, treating headlice, sleeping, healthy eating and lifestyle, managing behaviour or hearing tests. Please phone/text 0777 700 842 to book a confidential appointment.

Behaviour Policy

1	Good behaviour	All Children start here at the beginning of the day and will receive a house point if here at the end of the day.
2	Warning	Children move here if they break a school or class rule.
3	Time out	Children who continue to break rules will miss 5 mins from their playtime.
4	Missing playtime(s)	Children here will miss all their playtime - this includes children who have behaved so badly that they have missed out other steps. Parents will be spoken to at the end of the day and the poor behaviour logged.
5	Go to Mr Dungate or Mr Bird	Children who behave in an extreme way will be seen and letters sent home. Children who receive more than 4 letters in a term will be seen by Mr Bird.

We have recently reviewed our behaviour traffic light and made a few changes. Here is a copy of the traffic light we all have in our classes and what it means for the children. If you have any questions about our behaviour policy it can be found on our website. Teachers can answer questions that you may have.

St Gregory's Open Morning

St Gregory's have asked us to send out the following information.

St Gregory's Catholic School Open Mornings and Evenings for Year 6

St Gregory's Catholic School

OPEN MORNINGS & OPEN EVENING

For Entry in September 2016

Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th September

Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd October

Please arrive between 9.00 am and 10.30 am

(Last tour at 10.30 am)

Tours finish with coffee in the library and an informal chat with the Headteacher

Thursday 24th September at 6.30 pm

Tours between 6.45 and 8.00 pm

Headteacher talks at 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm

"St Gregory's is outstanding" (Ofsted)

No need to book, please just turn up

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Yours sincerely

Mr R Dugate
Headteacher