



St Mark's C.E. Junior School

Reaching in, Reaching up, Reaching out

NEWSLETTER 8 (NL8)

Thursday 12th January 2017

Important Dates for T3/4

February

Friday 10th T3 Ends – Half term - holiday begins
Monday 20th T4 Starts

March

Friday 24th Red Nose Day – details tbc

April

Wednesday 5th Report #2 Home to parents
Easter Service – please note this is a change from previous planners at the request of St Francis Church. This will only affect Y5 parents who are cordially invited to attend.
Friday 7th T4 Ends – Easter Holidays

Parenting Groups

There are a few spaces left for the Triple P parenting groups starting next week - one during the day and one in the evening. The course consists of 4 weekly 2 hour sessions plus a catch up session after half term held in the Hub and there is no charge! They will be on Tuesday evenings, **January 17th 24th 31st** and **February 7th & 21st** from 7-9pm, or on Wednesday mornings, **January 18th 25th** and **February 1st 8th & 22nd** from 9.15-11.15am.

If you would like to join us please reserve your place with me via The Shop, n.hallett@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk or 07873 427658 – Norma Hallett (PSA)

Upcoming Trips

Y5 – Rainforest Monday 6th February
Y6 – Steam Museum Friday 10th February

Carol Service

Many thanks to everyone who everyone who was able to attend our Carol Service at the end of T2 – kindly hosted by St Mark's Church. It was a wonderful celebration of the Christmas story and a touching service for all who attended.

BBC Children in Need

Who those who haven't yet seen our children singing fantastically in the choir as part of Children in Need event on the BBC – please click on the link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04gxy77>

School Dinners

As reported back in September the price of a school dinner has reluctantly increased to £2.20 from January 2017. We have fixed our price, despite steadily rising costs, for nearly seven years but we are unable to sustain this.

Early Steps

School Readiness Clinic aimed at 2-5 year olds in the Sycamore Room. This unique project is a chance for children to develop their communication, social interaction, following instructions and independence skills in a small group setting that they will attend with parents. Free trials available on request.

For more information: www.behavioursolutions/earlysteps or email: earlysteps@behavioursolutions.net

Community Appeal on behalf of Exeter House School

Growing Us Growing you – Groundwork project - School Project - Growing Us Growing You! - Ref No - BOH-538

Dear Parents

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on your project. Feel free to share this list of stores amongst your supporters and within your community.

SALISBURY	EXTRA	SP1 2NY
AMESBURY		SP4 7RT
DURRINGTON BULFRD	EXPRESS	SP4 8DL
SALISBURY	METRO	SP1 1TT

There will be a delay in voting in 20 Tesco stores nationally, since these stores are awaiting new voting units. Temporary solutions may be put in place in these instances, but please bear with us where this is the case. To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token. Thanks and very best wishes to you in your campaign. GROUNDWORK UK - TESCO Bags of Help Team

Fundraiser – an introduction

A quick note to introduce myself – I'm lucky enough to have been appointed as fundraising coordinator for St Mark's C.E. Junior School. It's a new challenge for me that I'm very excited about: I'm really looking forward to working with teachers, parents, PTA, children, and anybody else associated with the school who can help me understand what the extras are that would help the children get even more out of their time here. I'm starting to approach local businesses, and other organisations in the wider community, to spread the word about the school and the fantastic work that happens here, to see what help might be available. I'm also keen to get involved with the great fundraising that is already done here at the school, and to see if there are any new ideas we can come up with. I'd love to hear from you if you have any ideas about possible fundraising events or schemes, or any thoughts or requests for what would make a difference for you and your child, or even any offers of help – perhaps you know somebody who has skills they could share with us, or materials they could donate, or they run events we could be part of – do get in touch via email, or we could meet up for a chat. Just let me know. I'll aim to keep you updated on anything in the pipeline, progress towards any specific targets, and on any future fundraising & social events to put in your diary. In the meantime, do please get in touch with any ideas. Many thanks. Caroline Found fundraiser@exeterhouse.wilts.sch.uk

Football Opportunity

Salisbury Rovers FC provide FREE Football Coaching every Monday at Sarum Academy for 5-11 year old's between 5pm - 6pm. This week MLTNC's Jody Rivers is our Guest Head Coach and we would love to see as many children as possible come along. Sessions are totally FREE thanks to the club's Community Foundation Grant funding. To sign up please email Debbie Sayers at salisburyroversfc@outlook.com

Message from Wiltshire Council regarding childcare

We're in the process of gathering information to compile our latest Childcare Sufficiency report – to assess the overall supply and demand of childcare in Wiltshire. A big part of this is to find out the demand for childcare from Wiltshire's parents and carers and therefore we launched a Parent Childcare Survey at the end of October. To date we've only had 347 responses – which is disappointingly low. Although we had set the survey closing date as the 31st December, we've decided to extend this for another few weeks in the hope that, now Christmas is out the way, parents may have more time to share their views with us. Link to our anonymous online survey: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/child-care-survey>

Small Talk

Last week Pat Sissons from Spire FM visited the school to conduct some small talk interviews with a small group of children from across the school. Some of the snippets are played daily on the radio at 8.25 am and 3.50 pm and then archived on the Spire FM website - <http://www.spirefm.co.uk/small-talk.php>

Lost Property

Our collection of lost property grows on a daily basis – with many unnamed items. Every few weeks we sort and return the named items and donate the remaining items to the clothing bank.

UK Men's Sheds Association

We were recently approached by representatives from a rapidly growing group specifically targeting men to join and start their own 'shed' in Salisbury. I was impressed by what they stand for and what they are trying to establish for local areas. We are exploring the possibilities of whether we would host such a group meeting regularly on the school site. However, before we pursue the matter further I wanted to gauge the level of interest. Please pass the link to anyone who may be interested –

<http://menssheds.org.uk/>

The website states: "A Men's Shed is a larger version of the typical man's shed in the garden – a place where he feels at home and pursues practical interests with a high degree of autonomy. A Men's Shed offers this to a group of such men where members share the tools and resources they need to work on projects of their own choosing at their own pace and in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. They are places of skill-sharing and informal learning, of individual pursuits and community projects, of purpose, achievement and social interaction. A place of leisure where men come together to work. A Shed's activities usually involve making or mending in wood (e.g. carpentry, joinery, turning, carving, whittling, marquetry, furniture renovation) but may include metalworking (milling, sheet metal, welding, etc.) bike repair, gardening, electronics, tool renovation, boat renovation, model engineering (model railways, planes) and even building a car! Reclamation, reuse and restoration will feature strongly – and some say that is true of the men too! Although Sheds mostly attract older men, some have included men of any age, women and young people. Whichever activities are pursued the essence of a Shed is not a building, which some don't have, but the network of relationships between the members."

If you think you might be interested in joining, or helping to set up a Salisbury branch, please let me know by the end of January and we can pursue it further together. Please email me contact details to head@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk