



# Newsletter 15

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## January 2020

Friday 31<sup>st</sup>

FoSM Quiz for parents (see below) 7.30 pm in the school hall

## February

Monday 10<sup>th</sup>

[500 Words](#) Competition (all week)

[Safer Internet](#) Week

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

T2 Ends

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

TD#4 – no children in school

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>

T4 Starts – children back to school

## Message from Norma

"A Triple P Positive Parenting Workshop will be starting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 9.15 - 11.15am in The Training Room at St Mark's C of E Junior School. There are four weekly sessions on a Thursday morning (16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February). It's fun, free and includes coffee and biscuits so why not join us? Please make sure you are able to attend all four sessions before reserving your place! If you are interested contact Norma, your Parent Support Adviser, as soon as possible via The Shop, [n.hallett@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:n.hallett@st-marks.wilts.sch.uk) or 07873 427658."

I'm also pleased to confirm the upcoming **Time Out for Parents**: Children with Special Needs Groups for January to March 2020. These groups are for parents and carers of children aged 3 – 11 years with additional/special needs. A medical diagnosis is not required for a parent or carer to attend and the groups are free of charge. These groups are being offered in partnership with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council.

Greentrees Primary School (Infants)	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January – Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	9.30am – 11.30am
City Hall	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January – Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	10.00am – 12.00pm
Evergreen Court, Amesbury	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March – Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	10.00am – 12.00pm

Parents and carers can refer themselves by ringing Claire Turner on 07767 230 082 or by completing a referral form available from Norma. Places on all groups are allocated by date order of the date a referral is received. Please be aware that waiting lists exist for some areas and places are offered from those lists first. Should all spaces be filled the parent or carer referred will go on the waiting list for the next group and contacted when the next group is confirmed. Contact Norma for more details.

## PE Sponsorships

On **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January**, an athlete is visiting our school. High jumper, Robert Mitchell, will be spending the morning putting the children through their paces in a circuit-based workout. Your child has been given a sponsorship form to get some sponsors for the completing the workout with the athlete. Prizes will be given to children who raise certain amounts of money (details are on the sponsorship form) and a signed certificate from Team GB will be given to the class who raises the most. All funds will go towards helping young athletes in their careers as well as sports equipment for the school. Sponsorship forms and money are to be returned to school by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. We are all very excited about the event and appreciate your support in this.

## Year 3 Recorders

In Music this term, Year 3 will be learning to play the recorder. We have enough for each session but if your child has their own recorder, then please send them in with it on Mondays. Many thanks, Mrs Shakespeare

## Specialist newsletters

At the end of each seasonal term (T2, T4 and T6) our subject leads write a newsletter to capture to variety of activities and opportunities on offer to children at St Mark's. I am most grateful to Mr Williams (Computing), Mrs Shakespeare (Music) and Miss Halski (PE) for producing these. I enclose a copy for your interest and information – showing what a great deal our children get.

## Computing parent-child session

Come and see what your child has been working on in Computing lessons, sit with them and even have a go together! Mr Williams will be there to help and answer questions. This time, we will focus on LOGO programming. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 3.30-4.00 pm in the Computer Suite.

## Technology

Every year many of our pupils receive wonderful presents at Christmas such as mobiles, laptops, games consoles, smart watches etc. For many children they may be their first internet capable device that they own or control. Each year parents often ask us about how to keep their children safe. Some thoughts...

- If your child has a smart watch (many parents like them for the GPS function, especially if children walk to/from school) please ensure they cannot make/receive telephone calls, are not internet capable and do not have a camera function. Otherwise they are essentially a mobile phone strapped to a wrist and we still operate a no mobile phone policy
- Vodafone Digital Parenting advice <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting>
- Safer internet centre - advice - parents <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
- Perhaps the most important thing is parents talking to their children about the issues and agreeing a plan together. All want parents want to trust their child and begin to give them a little more independence as they get older without putting them at risk
- Check out our eSafety links on our website: <https://st-marks.wilts.sch.uk/esafety-2/>
- There are apps that will monitor and/or filter internet access on devices so parents can track what their children are doing online. Though we think the best method is having an open discussion and check – e.g. once a week parent looks at a device with the child, checks history etc
- Mr Williams, and class teachers will explore eSafety issues/advice, controls, 'what to do if...' etc throughout the year e.g. Safer Internet Day (February)

## Friends of St Mark's (FOSM) News

**Quiz Night** - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30 pm

Come and test your grey matter at this year's FoSM quiz with our very own Norma as quizmaster.

Teams of up to 8 are welcome and the quiz is open to all adults (sorry no children). Don't worry if you don't have a full team, just let us know (via your class rep or Norma) and we'll match you up! Entries are £2 per person and at least one raffle donation per team. Bring your own drink and snacks. There will also be an opportunity to order pizza when you arrive to be delivered in the break.

**Crazy day** - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Children are invited to wear something crazy to school in exchange for £1; this can be mismatched crazy clothes, nail polish, crazy hair or a combination of them.

## Flu Clinics for 'School Aged' Children

Please see below information received from the Immunisation Team. We are continuing to offer clinics for those who have NOT already received the flu vaccine this Flu Season i.e. since September 2019. Therefore if your child is in Year R – Year 6 (inclusive) and has NOT already received their free Flu vaccine then please contact us on 0300 247 0082 to book into one of the clinics below – it is essential that you contact us to book an appointment to ensure we have enough vaccine, and to complete a consent form. Salisbury – 13<sup>th</sup> January 15.00 – 16.30