



Newsletter 2

Friday 13th September 2019

September

Saturday 21st Practice test at SWGS for the girls
Thursday 26th Friends of St Mark's (PTA) AGM – 7.30 pm in Training Room (not 19-09-19 as on Planner)
Friday 27th Harvest Service (led by Y4) at St Mark's Church at 10.00 am – all Y4 parents invited
Saturday 28th 11+ Test at SWGS

October

Friday 4th MUFTI – Bring a pound to work day (Spire FM)
Wednesday 16th Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm
Thursday 17th Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm
Tuesday 22nd T1 Ends
Wednesday 23rd Training Day #3 for staff only

November

Monday 4th T2 Starts
Osmington Bay (Y6 Residential)
Thursday 14th MUFTI – Children in Need
Friday 15th School Photos (Individual/Siblings)

Osmington Bay (Residential)

Many thanks to the Y6 parents who attended our information session on Thursday evening. I will contact you separately with the ppt, suggested kit list and spare medical form. If there is anything we need to know, or if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Long (Trip Leader).

Many thanks also to the Y5 parents who attended the 2020 information session following the Y6 talk. Next week I will send out the letter (initial interest) with the rationale for the dates booked, cost and slip to book a place.

Friends of St Marks (FoSM) news

Welcome to the new school year to all our new and old parents. Here are a few updates from FoSM - your Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The FoSM Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on **Thursday 26th September** in the Training Room (opposite the Shop). All parents are cordially invited to come along for our formal annual meeting. We will be presenting the accounts from last year, electing new officers and planning events for this year. We value everyone's input and would love to see you there. There will be drinks, nibbles and cake... there is always cake at our meetings! If you wish to share anything and/ or have any ideas but cannot attend, do send an email to ptafoasm@gmail.com
Over the summer the committee was busy sourcing books for the new classroom reading sets. We acquired over 600 books which the children will be able to enjoy for years to come. Thank you to everyone who donated books and money to put towards them.

FoSM have been given a new storage area for all our items. We are now on the look-out for lidded storage boxes and strong shelving units to kit out the space. If you have any you could donate they would be very welcome. Please contact us at ptafoasm@gmail.com.

Following the AGM, there will be a FoSM newsletter coming out with all the information for this term and beyond. Please look out for it.

Parents' information sessions

Many thanks to all the parents who were able to attend the afternoon sessions (curriculum topics, visits/visitors, key days/dates) hosted by the Year Leader and their teams. We hope you found them useful and informative.

Harvest donations

Later this month we will hold our Harvest Service at St Mark's Church on **Friday 27th September**. The Y4 team will lead the service and all Y4 parents are cordially invited to join us – 10.00 am sharp start. Every year we ask for food donations to the Trussell Trust (<https://www.trusselltrust.org/>) who will be in attendance at the church to talk briefly about the growing need and the difference such contributions make to local families. Donated items (non-perishable) can be brought into school from Monday 23rd September and safely stored in individual classrooms. Items will be carried down to the church on the morning of the service by the children themselves. Thank you in advance.

Defibrillator

Thanks to a Local Authority grant the site now has a registered defibrillator (mounted on the 'Snack Shack' on the Street). Whilst we hope we never have to use it we are grateful and reassured that it is there just in case.

Aldi Appeal

<https://www.aldi.co.uk/kitforschools>

Parents or families shopping at Aldi collect a sticker per £30 spent - once we fill the sticker chart we send it back and could win £20,000.

Times Tables Rockstars

<https://trockstars.com/home>

This piece of software is a great and fun way for children to practice and improve their times tables. It was launched last year and has been well received by children. At the time of writing over 50,000 correct times tables had been completed in our whole school battle. The children have until Tuesday to make their contribution to their house. Incredible effort so far! Keep up the great work.

Twitter

Children brought home Twitter slips - please return these to your class teacher as soon as possible. Even if you returned last year or don't have a Twitter account your permission is requested. This is the best and quickest way to find out what is going on in school and lessons and to celebrate the great learning we see every day.

Applying for secondary school places

Parents with children in Y6 need to decide on a secondary school place before **Wednesday 31st October 2019**. Please visit: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-forms-guides-policies>

Claim your free school meals

Our school gets hundreds of extra pounds to help your child if you register for free school meals or fill in a simple form: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals> At present all children in Reception, Y1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal. Children in a junior school (Y3-6) are not entitled. However, if you are receiving a qualifying benefit, the school could be entitled to an extra ~£1320 Pupil Premium to support your child. Please ask in the school office or see Norma for more information. We use this extra money to subsidise/pay for their school trips, provide specialist support, purchase specific resources, develop strategies to better engage children and parents both in and out of school – and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make a bigger difference.

Parking Patrols

Many parents have emailed me in the last week to ask if I would supervise the 'turning circle' each day or organise a parking patrol team. This has been requested to address some ongoing issues e.g. parking in hatched drop off zone, double parking behind staff cars, taking staff spaces, parking in front of the gates, allowing children to alight outside the bungalow in moving traffic, pedestrians walking into traffic etc. I am very reluctant to do this as staff are busy preparing for your children and I lead a staff briefing at SM at 8.35 am and one at WP at 8.45 am to all available staff – this is when we all meet to discuss the day ahead for everyone's benefit. I then endeavor to do 'gate duty' outside the shop from 8.50 – 9.00 am so I can see parents and be available if necessary. This is a good use of my time for 30 minutes every morning to keep in touch with two busy schools. However, if parents don't restore best practice and good behaviour in the turning I may have to take time out to supervise this. Thirty minutes of me daily in a yellow jacket frowning at parents not following our fair rules or modelling good behaviour for their children seems less useful and unnecessary. Your patience, planning and cooperation are essential. Thank you in advance.

Reminders / notes/updates and everything else...

- Parking in school in front of the school gates is not allowed as it blocks an access for emergency vehicles
- There is a strict no nuts policy in school as we have several children who have severe nut allergies
- If it is raining please don't second guess if we won't be going outside and therefore not send in a PE kit
- Before and after school clubs started this week (w/c 09-09-19 Dodgeball 7.45 am and Taekwondo until 4.30 pm)

Flu vaccinations – message from Virgin Care immunisation team

Nasal flu vaccination – Electronic consent

As last year, the Immunisation Team will be offering the Flu vaccination to **all Primary aged children**. This will take place between October - December 2019 across Wiltshire/BaNES/Swindon and as last year, the consent will need to be completed electronically. In order to provide electronic consent for your child's Flu vaccination, please access the consent portal via the following link: <https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2019/wilts>

We would like to request that consent is provided as soon as possible as the link closes 7 – 14 days prior to the session in school. This link is secure, please **carefully** select your child's school from the drop down menu and this will ensure that the consent is in the right place. Full details and information to assist you in completing the consent is detailed on the portal including full FAQ's, patient information and contact details should you wish to speak to a nurse regarding the nasal vaccination. **If your child is medically vulnerable, early clinics will be available please contact the team to book in on 0300 247 0082.** If you have any difficulties or queries with this process please do not hesitate to contact the team on 0300 247 0082. Many thanks for your cooperation.