



# Newsletter 4

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## October

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	MUFTI – Bring a pound to work day (Spire FM)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening 4.00 – 7.00 pm
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	T1 Ends
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Training Day #3 for staff only

## November

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	T2 Starts Osmington Bay (Y6 Residential)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Photos
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	MUFTI – Children in Need
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos (Individual/Siblings)

## Reminders / notes/updates and everything else...

- The traffic cones have now been removed from the drop-off zone in the turning circle. If all parents respect the fair rule not to park in the hatched drop-off zone from 0830 – 0900 (as per the signage) the traffic flows much smoother and safer for everyone. I am not keen to have to return to monitor the area and my unwarranted optimism continues, for now. Many thanks to those parents who have heeded my pleas – I am grateful and the children are a little safer
- Cyclists should wear cycle helmets, lock their bicycles and walk their bicycles whilst they are on site
- Children bringing in named footballs/basketballs must use a bag on the way in/out of school
- Footballs etc used before or after school may be confiscated
- The adventure playground is strictly out of bounds before and after school for safety reasons
- Recently a pupil was seen thumbing for a lift on the way down St Mark's Avenue. Although it may not have been entirely serious if your child walks home alone please talk to them about keeping themselves safe and sensible

## Harvest Service

On Friday St Mark's Church hosted our Harvest Service wonderfully led by Y4. The children shared their singing, poetry and prayers with the rest of the school and the attending parents. It was a wonderful service about being grateful, sharing what you can and serving others. The children worked so hard in a short space of time and the Y4 moved mountains to put on a great and poignant service. Many congratulations to everyone involved.

## Secondary School applications

Y6 parents - Please make sure you apply for a secondary school place by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 without fail.

## Y5 Open Days, taster days

Many parents of Y5 children will be beginning to think about secondary school places for 2021. The secondary schools seek to secure for pupils in a competitive market and consequently there many opportunities for open evenings, taster sessions, open days as they seek to secure placements. Most of the ten schools we feed to send fliers or marketing materials. Examples are kept outside the office (east corridor) for children or parents to collect if they wish. Alternatively please visit individual school websites for more information. Please be mindful that some Y5 children can miss up to five days schooling whilst visiting secondaries for such events. Whilst we appreciate that parents will want to research and try-before-you-buy the more children are out of school the more disruptive it can be to all. Please choose carefully before you pick your visits. Please also put a note in communication books if children are planning to be out of school for such events or complete a leave of absence form.

## Teacher Training

In the coming weeks we will release the dates and information for teacher training opportunities in 2021 via ArrowITT – the school direct PGCE scheme we offer in alliance with ten other local schools. If you are interested in becoming a primary school teacher, are a graduate (about to graduate this year) and want to find out more please contact me via [head@st-mark.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-mark.wilts.sch.uk)

## Teaching Assistant Training

In recent years we have trained twenty six parents to become Teaching Assistants/Teachers. The internship opportunity (approximately four months of voluntarily, daily morning work) is available from November this year. If you are interested and would like more information please contact me. If there is enough interest we will hold an information session.

### **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. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 3.30-4.00 pm in the Computer Room (North Corridor – next to Fir Class)

### **PTA Plea**

We recently held the two AGMs for both schools. Many thanks to everyone who were able to attend. Although FOSM (Friends of St Mark's) has all its committee member roles filled and is eligible to operate regrettably WPSA (Wyndham Parents and Staff Association) has every role filled except one – the Chair. Without this the group cannot legally function. FOSM faced the same scenario and very nearly folded a few years ago before someone stepped up and saved the day. WPSA faces the same dilemma.

As such there will be an extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM) on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in the Training Room to elect a new chair. Without one, the future looks bleak.

WPSA have been fantastic supporters of the school and raised huge amounts of money to provide so much for all the children. Don't forget approximately 95% of our school population came via Wyndham Park. We will publicise details of the diverse funding streams both associations have provided for the schools over the years. We need someone connected to Wyndham Park to step up and help us keep trading. We can offer cake, support, encouragement, reassurance and more cake.