



# Newsletter 8

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## November

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Photos - pop up photo studio – <http://www.martinjonesphotography.co.uk/about.html>  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Open Afternoon for all parents including Y2 (Talk in the hall at 1.30 pm for Y2 parents)  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> MUFTI – Children in Need £1 voluntary donation (day before WP because of photos tomorrow)  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> School Photos (Individual/Siblings)  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Boxes collected from school by Trussell Trust  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Wyndham Park Infants' School Christmas Fayre (after school)

## December

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> School Disco (5.30 – 6.45 pm for Y3/4 and 7.00 – 8.15 pm Y5/6) £2 per child  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> MUFTI – In lieu of money we ask for donations to the Christmas hampers  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Carol Service – St Francis Church 7.00 – 8.00 pm  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Y3 Nativity 10.00 am in school hall – All Y3 parents are cordially invited  
FoSM Christmas Draw in school hall from 3.30 – 4.30 pm  
Christmas Jumper Day (swapped for sweatshirt/cardigan - uniform as normal) – no charge  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> End of Term Assembly  
T2 Ends

## January

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> TD (Training Day) #6  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> T3 starts – children in school  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> FoSM Quiz for parents – more details later

## Important Message regarding Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Please note that the first day of T3 after Christmas will be a training day for staff instead. I have written to Trustees to respectfully ask for permission and I have heard today that they have agreed. I wanted to write to you at the earliest opportunity so that alternate arrangements can be made. Children will therefore start T3 on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020** instead. As you know St Mark's will have a visit from OfSTED before Easter 2020 as that will be the 30 month 'window' after our last inspection. Although the school believes itself to be a positive position, as shown by our standards/results over time (<https://st-marks.wilts.sch.uk/standards/>), we are never complacent and still have some important things to make sure we are in the strongest shape when they do arrive.

Wyndham Park will also take the same training day as there are multiple things for us to be working on and ensuring the best education possible.

I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused and hoped that by raising this now it would give parents nearly eight weeks to organise some cover/childcare.

## Trussell Trust Christmas

This year we are again supporting the Trussell Trust Christmas boxes appeal for families in Bulgaria and Serbia. Rich Parsons came in the present to the children in assembly on Monday. More details can be found via: <https://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/11573611.trussell-trust-launches-christmas-shoebbox-appeal/> or <https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/> Boxes will be collected on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019. We fully appreciate that these are not cheap items to assemble. If parents wish we are more than happy to receive individual items that can be collected to make a box between several families.

## Message from Norma

A Positive Parenting Workshop will be starting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 9.15 - 11.15am in The Training Room (on The Street opposite the Shop) and there are still spaces available. There are four weekly sessions on a Tuesday morning (19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December). 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.

## Head lice

Head lice is a perennial problem in schools and they never really seem to go away fully. Vigilance is always the key. Please read the latest advice from the NHS to reduce the likelihood of this on-going irritation (no pun intended): <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

### **Job vacancy**

St Marks Pre-school has a vacancy for an early years practitioner. Minimum level NVQ 2 qualification with some experience preferable. The position is fixed term, term-time only, school hours. The position is exempt from the Provision of Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and an enhanced DBS will be required as part of the recruitment process. If you are interested in joining a team of practitioners in a friendly, busy pre-school please email [admin@stmarks-preschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmarks-preschool.co.uk) for an application pack. Deadline for applications Monday November 18th.

Kate Griffiths Administrator for St Marks Pre-school [www.stmarks-preschool.co.uk](http://www.stmarks-preschool.co.uk) 01722 330382

### **New Mindfulness after school club starting in January 2020 – Mr Philip Anderson**

I am delighted to be offering an after school mindfulness course for children of St Mark's. I have taught mindfulness classes for years 5 and 6 within normal lessons for the last three years and for pupils at Wyvern St Edmund's over the last five years. You may well have heard about the benefits mindfulness can bring or used it yourself. It can help people deal better with downs and ups of life; allowing us to cope better with the hard times and more fully appreciate the good ones. Due to the nature of an after school club, I will be able to work closely with your child and explore issues such as anxiety, worry, friendships, exams, family changes and many more together with your child using a variety of child friendly approaches, and showing them tools they can use to lessen the stresses they may be experiencing both over the next few months and possibly into adulthood too.

The course will be six sessions on Fridays from 15:30-16:30 beginning on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (venue to be confirmed at St Mark's)

If you think this course would benefit your child please fill in the attached application form.

You can also contact me via

e: [Philip@trustingmind.co.uk](mailto:Philip@trustingmind.co.uk)

w: <https://trustingmind.co.uk/>

f: <https://www.facebook.com/trustingmind/>

You will also find details there of adult mindfulness classes should you wish to take one yourself.