



# Newsletter 13

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## December

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

Christmas lunch for the children  
End of Term Assembly  
T2 Ends

## January

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup>

TD (Training Day) #6 – no children in school  
T3 starts – children back to school  
FoSM Quiz for parents – more details in due course

- Access to the parents' planner for the academic year (SM Planner 2019-20) - please click [here](#)
- Check out the most up-to-date information by clicking [here](#)
- Our vision and values information can be found [here](#)

## Y3 Nativity

On Friday the Y3 children performed "I'm gonna shine" for the final time this week to a packed crowd of parents. The children were magnificent – fearless on stage, sang their hearts out and told the Christmas story beautifully. I was so proud of everyone including the Y3 team and the long cast of helpers. The work that goes into such performances is understated and significant. A feel-good way to wrap up another busy and successful term.

## Christmas Draw

This year's Christmas Draw from the Friends of St Mark's was another barn-stormer. Many congratulations to all the winners and many thanks for all the wonderful donations from families to create the fantastic hampers. Many thanks to all the helpers who made the event run so smoothly. Some of the left-over cakes will be on sale after school during the week to swell the coffers. We will report on how much was raised for FOSM in due course.

## Carol Service

This year's Carol Service was another example of the wonderful things on offer from the school. We were so grateful to the Reverend Andy and his team at St Mark's for welcoming us warmly, for leading the blessing and accommodating the last minute switch of venue. The beautiful and poignant service was particularly well attended and supported by all. It nearly felt like there was no room at the inn. The choir performed their pieces with aplomb. There weren't many dry eyes in the house as the church was filled with praise, love and pride. Special mentions in despatches for Mr. Williams for rehearsing and playing the piano so well and to Mrs. Shakespeare for leading the choir and putting the service together.

## Christmas lunch

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – no need to pre-order, order on the day. £2.30

## School Dinners

Please may we remind you that any dinner ordered in error, and not cancelled by 10.30 am that morning, **MUST** be paid for whether eaten or not. This also applies should your child become ill during the morning and have to go home.

## Reminders

- Children need a coat in school everyday as they will be outside for break/lunch barring torrential rains
- PE/Games lessons with Mrs Herring (currently hockey) will always be outside barring flooding. Please make sure your child has the appropriate outdoor clothing to keep warm, dry and free to run
- PE/Games for T3 and T4 will be indoors (gymnastics/dance) so an indoor PE kit will be necessary (T-shirt/shorts)
- Please note there will be no Crossing Patrol on Bishopdown Road for the remainder of T2
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school under any circumstances
- In order for the cones to be removed for T3 it would be particularly good to see all parents not trying to park in the staff spaces when dropping off for school, ignoring reasonable requests from staff to move vehicles in staff spaces and pedestrians not walking in through the main gates to the site endangering their own children

## Lost Property

Once again we have a huge amount of unclaimed and UNNAMED clothing. This is not just school uniform but hoodies, coats, hats, gloves, shoes, trainers, socks and water bottles. Any item with a legible name is returned to its owner so please ensure all uniform is named and if a pre-owned item that the new owner's name replaces the original name. Any items unclaimed at the end of the term will be placed in the charity bin. Any unnamed items will be passed on to

recycling facilities at the end of term. Please come in and check asap. Don't wait and be disappointed.

### **Author and book buying opportunity**

'A Wonder-Full Christmas' is a retelling of the Christmas story where you are invited to walk alongside the familiar nativity characters in their worry and wonder. Written in rhyme for children aged four - eight, the story has been brought to life with beautiful watercolour illustrations. Together, the words and images excite children and remind adults of the wonder of the nativity story we tell each year. Author, Gemma Hellowell, will be visiting the school on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**December** to share the story with Wyndham Park and St Mark's children. If you would like a copy of the book, you can purchase it via Etsy: [www.booksbygemma.etsy.com](http://www.booksbygemma.etsy.com) and can get 15% off with the code SALIS15 or via Amazon: [www.tinyurl.com/yy6qfs63](http://www.tinyurl.com/yy6qfs63)

### **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 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."

### **School Standards 2019**

The government has now published school standards for 2018-19. Children at St Mark's, from a large cohort, did very well because the excellent efforts of children and staff. As you will be aware, school league tables are being published for parents' interest and information. For some parents these are essential and objective. Indeed parents can filter and compare with local schools using the government's website facility e.g. progress, OfSTED grades etc.

One crucial comparator, we believe, is the proportion of children who achieved the expected standard or better in reading, writing and maths (RWM) because it gives pupils the best chance of success when starting secondary school. Our OfSTED grade is clearly towards the bottom of the list against local schools (until we are reinspected/regraded). Indeed many parents aren't always aware that some schools haven't been inspected for over ten years or that the OfSTED expectations have risen significantly in recent years.

Our RWM score (87% compared with 65% of schools nationally and 64% for other academies nationally) is the second highest within the local area (comparing 15 local settings in Salisbury within a 3 mile radius).

- If you want to know how St Mark's (141645 or SP1 3BL) standards compare to other schools click [here](#)
- If you want to see our standards over time (2016-19) click [here](#)
- If you want to see our published standards on the government website click [here](#).