

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



25th September 2017

Autumn Newsletter 2

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Dear Parents

Torchlight: St Mark's Best in Show !

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped prepare the float and took part in the Torchlight Carnival this year. It was a great evening and many people commented on the wonderful party atmosphere and energy coming from the St Mark's float. Particular thanks to Mrs Whittaker who worked so hard both before and after the summer holidays to make the event such a success. And what a success it was, with St Mark's being judged Best in Show !

Home / School Agreement

Tomorrow you will receive two copies of an updated Home School Agreement document. This lays out both our commitment to you and your children but also some of our expectations of you as parents. Schools are most effective when everyone is working together so please read the agreement, discuss it with your children and return a signed copy to school *before Monday 2nd October*.

Defibrillators in Schools and Villages: Request for Cakes for Fundraising

Many schools and villages now have publicly available AEDs (defibrillators) as a first response for people suffering emergencies from heart conditions.

The Endmoor First Responders group has kindly paid for a portable defibrillator to be available on the St Mark's school site. Once we have had training the unit will be sited in the entrance area so that it is accessible during school hours but without anyone needing to get through our school security system.

There is a plan to site one on the wall of Natland village hall but this will require funding. The Natland Defibrillator Group has asked if school could support a fundraising day on Thursday 5th October. The Natland Post Office will be running a coffee day and we have been asked to provide cakes to sell. Please could you bring any donations of cakes to school that morning

School Facebook page The Governing Body is considering starting up a Facebook page for school. This would allow us to communicate some news and information more directly with a lot of parents and also give the school a social media profile. We have a small working party looking into the best way to move ahead. More news to follow.

Lighting Up the Natland Night (Lantern procession around the village) We are looking forward this great annual event. More details to follow but please put these dates in your diary:

- Lantern Making Workshop: Saturday 14th October in the school hall from 10.00 – 12.00
- Lighting up the Natland Night event: Friday 10th November starting in the school playground @ 6.00 p.m.

Parking Please can we ask that parents do not use the staff car park at the beginning or end of the school day as access is needed at all times.

Harvest Celebration: Monday 2nd October

Once again at the centre of our Harvest display this year will be a selection of vegetables from the school garden in the Hidden Haven at the top of the school field. We have had a bumper crop of vegetables and fruit. Before we turn the vegetables into soup in the afternoon we will celebrate the whole process of planting and harvesting in church on Monday 2nd October at 10.00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us in church. Please can children bring any produce in to class on Monday in a container or basket which is easy for them to carry to Church. We will take all the produce to church with us at 10.00 a.m. to make the display as part of the celebration.

Please note that the children in Reception class will not be going to Church on Monday but are having their own Harvest Celebration in school with Rev. Canon Angela Whittaker.

PTA: THE ART OF BREWING EVENING: Friday 6th October @ 8.00 p.m. run by 'The Factory Tap Bar'. Tickets £12.50 available from the school office

MUSIC TUITION: Brass – Monday; Violin – Tuesday; Brass, Keyboard and Woodwind

As previously advised we will continue to subsidise music tuition and keep our charges to £5.00 per lesson. Termly invoices will be issued, the amount owing will be also be uploaded to School Money.

YEAR 5 SWIMMING LESSONS: We expect these to start this Thursday 28th September. We will check in advance with the Leisure Centre and keep you informed by text.

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS: We are currently reviewing and updating our school prospectus. Included are photographs of a range of school activities. Please let us know if you have any objection to a photograph of your child appearing in the prospectus.

ENTRY TO RECEPTION CLASS – SEPTEMBER 2018

We will be holding an Open Day and Evening information meeting on Wednesday 15th November. Further details have been sent to everyone on our Admissions Register. If you know of anyone locally who you think would like to receive this information please let the school office know.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographer will be in school on the morning of Friday 13th October to take individual and family group photographs. Orders for these would be with you in time for Christmas and make ideal presents !

CHRISTMAS THEATRE TRIP: 'ALADDIN' @ The Dukes Lancaster

Tickets have been reserved for all the children for the morning performance of this show on Thursday 14th December. Look out for further details later in the term.

Thank you for your continued fellowship and support for our school and wider community.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher

Year 1 – Year 6 Mathletics and Literacy Planet If any families would like to continue to subscribe to these valuable educational websites please complete the orange slip sent home today and *return it by Friday 29th September*. We are due to renew our subscription soon and hope to be able to negotiate a reduced group rate.

Please note: *school will not be able to pay for each child this year*
