



St Mark's School PTA

A quick hello from the PTA

Welcome back to all returning parents and a warm welcome to those of you new to St Mark's School. The PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) runs a variety of events throughout the year. Last year these included a film night, disco, beer tasting, "St Mark's Got Talent", Leaver's hoodies, Christmas and summer fairs and not forgetting the children's favourite, chocolate bingo. Money raised supports school in different ways, such as the life education van, laptop lease and a variety of indoor and outdoor resources which combine to improve the children's experiences at school. It goes without saying that we are always keen for people to get involved, as these events can't be run without support from you. This could be anything, from helping at events, admin, baking or just lending a hand when you can. So please get in touch with Mrs Thorne, Fiona Renkin (Mum of Alex Yr6 and Ellie Yr 3) or Sarah Collin (Kate Yr6 and Lara Yr3) for more info. We hope you find this newsletter useful.

Events coming up: Bag2School

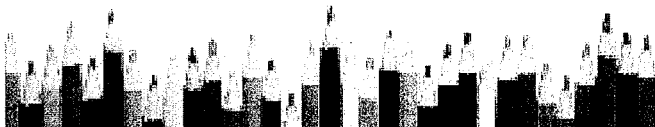
Next collection: 30th November 2018

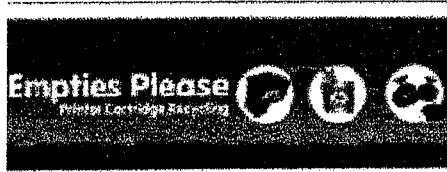
A couple of times a year we ask for donations of good quality clothes, shoes, soft toys etc that we can send off to the Bag2School company. A collection bag will be sent home in your child's bag with a list of acceptable items on it. Please fill (or part fill) and bring it back to school on the above date. The more we collect, the more money we can earn. Thank you.

Pre -Christmas Table Top Sale

Do you have lots of things lying around that you no longer need? Books, toys, clothes etc ? Don't dump it, sell it!! Book a table at our table top sale. We have a provisional date of Saturday 24th November. 10am-midday. Tables charged at £5. Entrance for browsers just 50p. Refreshments available. More info when date confirmed.

Bags for Life with children's artwork on will be on sale at the school office nearer to Christmas. A practical yet funky memento of your child's time at school. Look out for an order form in your child's bag.





Toner and ink cartridge recycling

Do you have empty ink cartridges and toners at home or work? If so, we can recycle them and earn money and "green points" for the school. For more information please go to the "Empties please" website. Check the website first to see if yours are compatible with recycling. Only original branded cartridges can be accepted and there is a list on the website of those that we can take. Please place your cartridges in the cardboard boxes in the corridor outside Year 2.

Gin Tasting. Date tbc

Following the success of our wine tasting 2 years ago and beer tasting last year, we are hoping to arrange a gin tasting evening with nibbles provided by Riverbank Catering. Come and try a variety of gins and learn a little more about the art of botanicals!! Come as a group or on your own, a warm welcome is waiting for you.

More info when date confirmed



One major project we are hoping to help fund is the development of the outdoor space at school. When asked, the children in the school council expressed a wish to have an area that would provide a refuge from the main playground. Quiet spaces are vital for all children to have access to, and are as important as the spaces where the children can play and be noisy! They can also be used to provide shelter from the Lakes weather!! They would also like the rest of the playground to be more exciting, so we plan to fund bright and stimulating playground markings as well as some Multi Use Games equipment. The project will be a phased development and a proportion of the money raised by the PTA over the last few years has been set aside to go towards this but we will need to raise more funds to make it a reality. Along with our regular events, we plan to hold extra events with funds raised going specifically towards this project. We would really appreciate it if we could get as much support for these events as we can to assist the school in fulfilling their plans to improve the children's health and wellbeing.

