

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



17th December 2019

Newsletter: Autumn 4

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Dear Parents

PTA Christmas Fair

Thank you to the PTA and everyone who supported the Christmas Fair last week. Together we raised an amazing £970 which is an increase on previous years.

Christmas Celebration

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Celebration in church this week. We have never seen the church as full as it was in the evening. It was really good to have every child involved in some way, with the addition of Christmas poems to the event.

The collection in the evening raised over £100 for the Rosemere Foundation, a breast cancer charity. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Music: St. Mark's Church Wednesday 18th December @ 4.00 p.m.

Please join our musicians in Church from 3.30 p.m. when refreshments will be available. The music will begin at 4.00 p.m. and finish by approximately 5.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome - children, parents, family and friends to come along to Church, support the children and enjoy the music.

Christmas Parties

Just a reminder that each class will be having a Christmas party on Friday morning, followed by a 'party food' lunch. We are asking parents to help by donating food and sign-up sheets are on the classroom doors. Please check the lists if you have not already done so.

The Tree Project

An ex-pupil of St Mark's has written asking if we will support him and a group of fellow Kendal College Business Studies students in an exciting environmental project called the Tree Project. They are offering to supply saplings to children for them to plant at home and develop a better understanding of the importance of trees to the planet and life on earth. The attached letter provides more detail and an order / consent slip. The tree saplings are priced at £2 each. You will have to hurry as orders need to be returned to school by Friday 20th December !

Pre-School Office 'Pod'

You may have noticed the newly installed wooden structure to the front of the school. This is a pod that will serve mainly as an office and meeting room for the Pre-School staff. We are very pleased with the quality of workmanship, how good it looks and how well it fits in with the school grounds environment.

Playground Development

Children are now regularly using the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which was installed a couple of weeks ago. Already the playground is much calmer and a safer place for those children not using the pitch. The next stage of the development project is the installation of a canopy over the corner of the playground between the hall and the back of the Year 3 classroom. This work is planned for Wednesday and Thursday this week. It will include seating, some play tables and a wooden planter. We are also planning to fix a water butt to the downpipe from the canopy roof to save rain water for use elsewhere in the grounds. The new playground markings should be painted early in the new year.

Future Road Closure

We have been informed of masonry work planned to start on the railway bridge on Helm Lane in the new year. Work will close the road starting on 9th January and lasting for about 6 weeks. Please be aware that this will have an impact on the amount of traffic passing the school, as a diversion will be put in place.

Parking Outside School

Thank you to those parents who responded to the notice about parking outside school in a previous newsletter. I would like to add a request for parents **not to park on the grass verge to the left of the entrance to the school car park.** The grass is in danger of being churned up and spoiled.

School Choir at the 'Live Nativity'

Thank you to those members of the school choir who sang carols at the King's Church 'Live Nativity' event on Saturday at the Lakeland Maze Farm in Sedgwick. It was good to be able to support and be part of this unique and hugely enjoyable local event.

End of term

The Autumn term ends on Friday 20th December at 1.30 p.m. following Carols Round the Tree in the hall at 12.45, to which all parents are invited.

Spring term

The Spring term begins at 9.00 on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher

