



St Mark's News

17th January 2025
Issue 8

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers

Happy New Year!

We're excited to make this year unforgettable, full of new experiences, challenges, and achievements. Let's continue to work together to create a supportive and inspiring space where every child can thrive.

Spring term is here and the children have begun 2025 with energy and enthusiasm. Class assemblies begin, with Y6 next Tuesday, as always parents and carers are welcome and encouraged to attend. Also, look out for an invitation to lunch with your child this term. Reminders will be sent via SchoolPing.

Parent Governor vacancy

We are inviting expressions of interest for our Parent Governor vacancy. This is an important role and requires a parent who is able to dedicate time to attend Governor Committee meetings and Full Governing Body meetings one per term. It is a wonderful opportunity to represent parents and carers at St Mark's. Please collect an application pack from the school office. The closing date for submitting applications is 28th February 2025.

Lunch with your child

We are inviting parents and carers to have lunch with their child, starting with Y6 on Tuesday 28th January. We will send reminders via the School Ping App a week before the event is due to take place and we also ask that you check the 'Dates for your Diary' section of the Newsletter regularly. Those parents and carers who wish to have lunch with their child will need to sign up at the school office and the charge is £3 per adult.

School Ping

Please ensure you are signed into the School Ping App on your mobile phones as this is the main way we communicate with parents and send out updates regarding your child's class. All new parents should visit the school office to get their login details as soon as possible. If you are experiencing any problems with School Ping please visit the school office for help.

Attendance

I am pleased to see that attendance is better across most year groups since the beginning of this year. There is however, still room for improvement. It is vitally important that your child's

absence is reported to the school office before 9.30am. If we do not have a reason for the absence, your child's mark is recorded as unauthorised absence which will be monitored by the attendance officer. Absence must be reported for every day that your child is not here.

Punctuality

Arriving on time to school every day is essential to children's learning. The first lesson of the day is often Phonics and when children arrive 10 or 15 minutes late the lesson is disturbed, meaning children have to wait for the latecomer to be settled before the lesson continues.

School ends at 3.25pm and we expect the children to be collected from the playground, unless they are attending after school club. There are occasions when children are collected late which means that staff have to supervise them until an adult arrives. This means that the staff member is not able to carry out their duties or attend training. Please ensure that you are on time to collect your child or that you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick them up and informed the school office of who that will be.

Let's continue working together to support our students in achieving their best by making every school day count!

...Weekly Attendance Report...

	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance	94.3	99.3	99.2	84.5	94.4	96.6
Lates	6	2	9	4	9	5

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 21st January	Y6 Class Assembly at 10am
Tuesday 28 th January	Y5 Class Assembly at 10am
Tuesday 28 th January	Y6 Parents to Lunch at 12.30pm
Tuesday 4 th February	Y4 Class Assembly at 10am
Wednesday 5 th February	Y5 Parents to Lunch at 12.30pm
Tuesday 11 th February	Y2 Class Assembly at 10am
17 th to 21 st February	Spring Half Term Break
Monday 24 th February	Spring Term 2 begins

Psalm 119 Vs 105: Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.