

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand new school year! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school looking smart in their uniforms, full of energy and enthusiasm.

The first week has been fantastic as the children have been getting to know their new teachers, exploring their new classrooms and catching up with their friends. We are thrilled to report that they have made a brilliant start to the year. Well done to all of our wonderful children!

Class Welcome Meetings for Parents

We will be holding Welcome Meetings for parents and carers for all classes from Nursery to Year 6. During these meetings, we will be offering a crèche for children.

Children will be taken straight to the crèche at 3.30pm. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please inform staff beforehand so that they know you will be collecting your child at 3.30pm.

The meetings will give you the opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher and find out more about the year ahead. The meetings will take place as follows:

Monday 14th September, 3.30pm

Year 1 and Year 2 in your child's classroom

Tuesday 15th September, 3.30pm

Year 4 and Year 5 in your child's classroom

Wednesday 16th September, 3.30pm

Year 3 and Year 6 in your child's classroom

Thursday 17th September, 3.30pm

Nursery and Reception in your child's classroom

If you are unable to attend your child's Welcome Meeting, the PowerPoint presentation will be available on the school website via your child's class page.

Dates for the Year

Please find attached an overview of key dates for the year. We understand that, as busy working parents and carers, it is useful to have dates in advance so that you can plan to attend various events. We also know how important your attendance is to the children.

We do try our best to follow the plan; however, as a busy primary school, circumstances can change. Please be aware that this overview is therefore subject to change. Please continue to read each

weekly newsletter, which will contain the most accurate dates for the coming week in the **‘Dates for Next Week’** section.

PE Days for this Half-Term

Monday – Year 5

Tuesday – Year 2 and Year 4

Wednesday – Year 6

Thursday – Year 1

Friday – Reception and Year 3

All children should attend school on their PE day wearing their full school PE kit. Please do not send children to school in their own sports clothing.

PE Kit

- Plain navy blue shorts (during warmer weather)
- Plain navy blue joggers or tracksuit bottoms
- Plain white T-shirt
- Plain navy blue zip-up jacket or fleece (alternatively, children may wear their school jumper or cardigan)
- Trainers or black pumps if indoors (you will be notified if your child requires pumps)

Dinner Money

School dinners should be paid for weekly (although you may choose to pay in advance) via the SCOPAY app.

Nursery – £2.45 per day / £12.25 per week

Year 3 and Year 4 – £2.55 per day / £12.75 per week

Year 5 and Year 6 – £2.60 per day / £13.00 per week

If you wish your child to change from school dinners to packed lunches, or vice versa, one week's written notice is required via email to:

support@st-marks-clifton.salford.sch.uk

Packed Lunches

Packed lunches are not permitted in Early Years or Key Stage 1. From Year 3 onwards, children may choose to bring a packed lunch if they wish.

We encourage all children to bring a healthy packed lunch to school. Please see our Packed Lunch Policy for guidance, advice and useful links.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

It is parents' responsibility to inform the school of any allergies. This information should include details of previous serious allergic reactions, any history of anaphylaxis and details of all prescribed medication.

Parents should supply a copy of their child's Allergy Action Plan to school. If they do not currently have one, this should be developed as soon as possible in collaboration with a healthcare professional, such as a GP, School Nurse or allergy specialist.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that any required medication is supplied, in date and replaced as necessary.

Parents are also requested to keep the school informed of any changes in allergy management so that the Allergy Action Plan can be updated accordingly.

Nut-Free School

To minimise the risk to children in school with nut allergies, please do not send any nuts or products containing nuts into school. This includes items sent for break times in Key Stage 2 and foods contained within packed lunches.

Milk

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can choose to receive milk.

Children receive milk free of charge until the term of their fifth birthday. Once a child turns five, parents must begin to pay if they wish their child to continue receiving milk.

The cost of milk for this term (September to December) is **£15.46**, payable via the SCOPAY app.

Toast

If you would like your child to receive toast this term (September to Christmas), the cost is **£15**, payable via the SCOPAY app.

We have ensured that all children have received toast this week. However, from next week, children must have paid via the app in order to continue receiving it.

Children should not bring their own toast into school.

Walking To and From School Independently (Years 5 and 6)

Once children are in Year 5 or Year 6, parents may choose to allow them to walk to or from school independently. However, these children are not permitted to bring younger siblings to or from school.

If you would like your child to walk to or from school independently, please send written permission via email to:

support.stmarksrcprimary@salford.gov.uk

This will ensure that staff are aware of which children have permission to walk independently.

Once permission has been received, your child should inform their class teacher each morning if they will be walking home unaccompanied.

Please ensure that your child clearly understands the arrangements to avoid any confusion at home time.

Inhalers

If your child requires an inhaler, please ensure that it is in school, clearly labelled and in date.

Absence

If your child is absent from school, please either:

- Telephone the school office on **0161 794 3876**
- Report the absence via the Studybugs app
- Email the school support email address

This should be done by **9.00am on the first day of absence**.

If we have not heard from you by **9.30am**, the school office will contact you.

Holidays and Absence during Term Time

You must continue to inform us if you are taking your child out of school for a family holiday by requesting a holiday form from the school office. We need to know where your child is for safeguarding purposes.

Under the new national attendance framework, all schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed **10 or more sessions** for unauthorised reasons within a period of **10 school weeks**. This equates to **five school days**. The absences do not need to be consecutive.

The fine amount has also increased to **£160 per parent, per child**, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days.

Uniform

A polite reminder regarding our school uniform, particularly jewellery and hairstyles, as the children return following the summer holidays.

All children from Reception to Year 6 must wear school shoes. Trainers are only permitted on PE days.

Jewellery

Earrings are not permitted in school and should be removed before attending.

The only exception is for children with newly pierced ears who are unable to remove their earrings for the first four to six weeks. In these cases, plasters should be applied at home before school and worn over the earrings throughout the day.

Once the healing period is complete, earrings should not be worn to school.

In the interest of safety, bracelets and wristbands should not be worn in school. Whilst many wristbands may support worthwhile charitable causes, we kindly ask that children wear them outside of school.

Hair and Make-Up

The school requests that children do not have extreme hairstyles, including shaved lines or patterns, or excessive use of hair products.

Beaded hair extensions are not permitted as they can present a safety hazard.

In the interests of hygiene and safety, long hair should be tied back using a suitable hair bobble. We ask that all long hair is tied up and not worn loose.

Hair dye is not permitted in school.

Nail varnish and make-up should not be worn in school. We appreciate that children may wear these for special occasions, but we kindly ask that they are removed before attending school.

Communication

If you have any questions or concerns as your child settles back into school, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

You can also contact the school via:

Email: support.stmarksrcprimary@salford.gov.uk

Telephone: 0161 794 3876

This year promises to be filled with exciting learning opportunities, events and personal growth. We are committed to ensuring that every child feels supported, inspired and valued.

As we begin another exciting year at St Mark's, we look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure every child flourishes academically, socially and spiritually. Thank you for your continued

support, encouragement and commitment to our school. Together, we will make this a wonderful year of learning, growth and achievement for all our children.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's make this year one to remember!

Best wishes,

Mrs E. Woodruff
Headteacher