



17th February 2017

Note from Mrs Coulthard

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I must begin by thanking you all for your fantastic efforts in ensuring our World Book Day was the best ever yet in both schools. The variety of costumes and creativity was astounding; you really are talented parents! Thanks also for your kind donations towards Meningitis Now.

Yesterday, Miss Bush (finance officer at St Mark's) and I travelled to London to attend an academy conference where Lord Nash was the key speaker. He reiterated that the government expects to see the majority of schools in the country joined as part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) within five years and that the ideal size of each MAT would be at around 15 schools. It was also very useful for us to talk to other leaders from MATs all over the country.

You may have seen on the news this week and via our Facebook pages that the government is currently consulting on a new funding formula for schools. To illustrate the impact of the new Funding Formula, in 2016-17 Wigan's schools were the 72nd poorest funded in the country, however under the new National Funding Formula Wigan will fall to the 109th poorest funded. The link for parents who would like to respond to the consultation is here: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/>

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Coulthard

Miss Young - What's been happening this week....?

Welcome back after half term, I trust you all had a lovely time with family and friends and managed to brave storm 'Doris'.

The children have certainly got back into the swing of things quickly...

On Tuesday, two of our Y6 children attended an ATSA event and learned all about basic first aid. They were accompanied by numerous other school and learned all about CPR and the recovery position, a great life skill! This week has been World Book Week, each class has studied a book and completed exciting tasks relating to it all week. Little Dragons and Reception looked at 'Freddie and the Fairy'. This is a wonderful book, full of rhythm which teaches children about speaking, listening and communication skills using a little Fairy who has trouble hearing the requests of Freddie the main character and constantly grants the wrong wishes.

Y1 and Y2 have read 'The Disgusting Sandwich' a book full of humour following the travels of a discarded sandwich from the playground and around the park as it finds itself thrown into lots of animal habitats around the park... I won't spoil the ending for you.

Y3,4,5 and 6 have all studied a book called 'Orion and the Dark', Orion is the main character in the book who is scared of everything but most of all he is afraid of the dark. The story follows Orion as he faces his biggest fear and finds out it's friendly! A beautifully illustrated story that has warmed the heart of all our KS2 children.

As ever, we all dressed up for World Book Day on Thursday. The children all looked amazing and I'd like to thank each and every one of you for the effort that was clearly made with each and every costume. As you will have noticed, all the staff came as Wally from the books 'Where's Wally?' There were tasks set up around school for the children to embark on over lunch and playtime in search of 'mini Wally' characters that Mrs Nutter had hidden around school. Prizes were awarded during Book Day Assembly and they all had fun taking part.

This week has been an emotional week for all as we continue to keep Mrs Yates and her family in our thoughts and prayers. A prayer service was held by staff on Monday at the end of the school day to help provide strength for the family at this extremely difficult time. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness this week and through family donations via the children and staff donations we have raised a staggering £515.22 for the charity Meningitis Now. Having spoken to Mrs Yates I know that she is extremely grateful for the support from the whole school community. As the school office is not at full capacity at present, can you please refrain from sending messages via the school Facebook page and ringing unnecessarily during the school day if it is a message that can wait to be passed via the school teacher at the beginning or end of the day.

To support the cause further, during let we will be launching 'Meningitis Awareness - Penny for Lent'. We are asking the children to save their pennies or any loose change. After the 40 days of Lent, we will collect in the money that the children have saved and donate this to Meningitis Awareness. This will be our one, big combined act of kindness for the season of Lent.

Thank you for your continued support in all that we do, have a lovely weekend
Miss Young

What's coming up next week....?

Friday 10th March – Miss Marsh Class Assembly

Notices

For the safety of our pupils please do not drive onto the school car park to drop off or pick up children.

