



Growing and Learning Together

# St Mark's CofE Primary School

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News Update - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017

## A Message From Mr Applegate

I was so proud of our Year 6 pupils last week. They were superbly behaved on the Windmill Hill residential trip. The PGL staff were extremely complimentary about them, and I witnessed it first hand when I joined them on the last 2 days. A huge thank you goes to the adults who made the week possible, and in particular Miss Goddard, who took the lead. A huge success! Well done everyone.

Please come our Friends Of St Marks (FOSM) meeting on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7-8:30pm**, to hear about how you can support our school. You don't have to commit to anything at the evening!

Finally, I appreciate those who were able to feedback their thoughts to me at our parents open forums either in person or via email. See the last page for a summary of the discussions. I'll be sending out an electronic survey soon which gives further opportunities to share your thoughts. Thank you.

## Respond To School At Home

We are thinking about school council elections this week.

Why not talk to your child about voting, democracy, and the importance of having a say?



## Parents' Evening Online Bookings

Thurs 12th Oct 4:00-6:30pm  
bookings close on Fri 6th Oct at 3pm

Mon 16th Oct 4:00-6:30pm  
bookings close on Fri 13th at 3pm

Oct at 3pm Weds 18th Oct 5:00-8:00pm  
bookings close on Fri 13th Oct at 3pm

## What are we working on this year?

- 1) To ensure all pupils achieve their best in the core subjects, particularly those who struggle with learning, those whose circumstances make them vulnerable, and also those who excel. Challenge for all, with no capping of learning!
- 2) To further strengthen reasoning in maths, learning of grammar, and breadth in reading.
- 3) To improve our sports provision including during lunchtimes and after school.
- 4) To develop a set of learning behaviours, which alongside our core Christian values, support pupils in becoming excellent learners for life.
- 5) To strengthen the outdoor provision and computing provision within Year R.
- 6) To further develop learning opportunities within The Bridge, to ensure all pupils achieve their potential.
- 7) To improve activities available during break and lunch.

*Our collective worship theme this term is 'Love'.*

**'Love is more important than anything else. It's what ties everything completely together.'**

Colossians 3:14



Head Teacher: Mr Charles Applegate  
Deputy Head: Mrs Claire Cooper  
Assistant Head: Mrs Nicola Ford  
Assistant Head: Mrs Rebekah Alsey





# Dates for your diary....

## Autumn Term

### FOSM AGM

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 7-8:30pm

### KS1 Disco

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 5-5:45pm

### KS2 Disco

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm

### Parents' Evening 1

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 4-6:30pm

### Parents' Evening 2

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 4-6:30pm

### Parents' Evening 3

Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm

### Half-term

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

### Tombola - Non-Uniform

Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas Fayre

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Flu Vaccinations YR – Y4

Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas break

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Spring Term

### First day

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018

### Half-term

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>

### Easter break

Mar 30<sup>th</sup> – Apr 13<sup>th</sup>

## Summer Term

### First day

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

### May Day Bank Holiday

May 7<sup>th</sup>

### Half-term

May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>

### Last day of term

July 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Applying for a school place in Reception

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014, the deadline for applying for a school place is Monday 15th January 2018.

If you are looking for a Reception school place for September 2018, you are welcome to come along to one of our school tours at St Mark's CofE Primary School. The tour will last approximately one hour. Please telephone the school on 01256 346111 to book your place.

Thursday 12th October	10:00am
Wednesday 18th October	10:00am
Wednesday 1st November	7:00pm
Wednesday 8th November	10:00am
Monday 13th November	7:00pm
Tuesday 14th November	2:00pm
Thursday 16th November	10:00am

### Quick Links



## Reminder - Year Group Updates

You can find fortnightly updates about what each year group has been doing via our website.

**Book Fair** coming soon! 15th, 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> November.  
3:30 – 4:30pm

## Something

### to think about...

"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things."

- Mother Teresa

## Parent Feedback

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been seeking your feedback on life at St Mark's. I believe it is important to know your thoughts if we are to ensure our pupils are successful. Below is a summary of some of the topics that came up. As you can appreciate, views can differ from parent to parent, and we do our best to understand and accommodate all views where possible.

<b>Communication</b>	Overall, communication was seen as a strength. This includes conversations between teachers and parents, as well as information sent home. The website and newsletters were appreciated too.
<b>Inclusive</b>	Parents were very positive about the way that St Mark's aims to be inclusive of all pupils, whatever their needs, abilities or beliefs.
<b>Sports Day</b>	Parents fed back that this was an enjoyable day. Competition was celebrated but not to the detriment of those who didn't win. Team work was very evident. Some ideas were given on how to improve this further.
<b>Performances &amp; Shows</b>	Parents appreciate the opportunities given to the pupils. Thoughts were given on the fact that they are well attended, and that sometimes there isn't enough space for everyone. Some families bring a lot of relatives which reduces space for others. Ticketing was discussed as an option to bring in a greater sense of fairness. We are a large school and so this is an inevitable difficulty which we will look to improve.
<b>Support for pupils with emotional or academic needs</b>	Parents said how well the school looked after their children if they had Special Educational Needs or disabilities. There was also a range of pastoral interventions available, and the school was usually very quick to respond to requests or needs.
<b>Reading Bands</b>	Books are banded into colours which indicate progression. Some work is needed here to clarify expectations and understanding of what the colours mean, and how pupils progress through them without getting stuck on a certain colour band. We'll also be looking to improve our stock of books so that there is a much greater range within particular bands.
<b>Homework</b>	Always a contentious issue! We will clarify expectations and routines, and ensure that homework given is appropriate, regular, and gives a balance of challenge and practice.
<b>End of Year reports and class groupings</b>	Parents appreciated the amount of work that teachers put into the end of year reports and particularly valued the comments about behaviour and character. They understood the challenge in assigning pupils to classes for the following years, and suggested ways that this could be even better next year.
<b>Timings of parent open forums</b>	It was noted that many working parents would have struggled to make the meetings. Some parents emailed to give their views, and we will do a large-scale survey over the parents evening 'season' in order to gather views.
<b>Christian Ethos</b>	Parents valued the Christian ethos and the way it is used to develop respect between each other, foster an understanding of the world and of spirituality, and to create a sense of identity and morality. Fr Michael's informal and friendly way with the pupils and parents was really appreciated, and our core Christian values were known and respected.
<b>Learning Behaviours</b>	It was felt that the creation of a set of words to use to support learning behaviours would be a really good idea, and could be shared with parents so that the words could be used at home as well as school.
<b>INSET days</b>	We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible for upcoming INSET days- we appreciate child-care arrangements need to be put in place.
<b>Clubs</b>	It was suggested that the school could have a broader range of clubs available, especially sports clubs. We are already working on improving this!
<b>Possible flooding</b>	Some parents raised the issue that when there is quite a bit of rain, the areas outside of the classrooms can become wet and are liable to flooding. We will investigate this and see what can be done.