



# Year R Autumn Newsletter 2017

St. Mark's CE Aided Primary, Basingstoke



Our first newsletter of the new school year gives us the opportunity to welcome you all to St. Mark's Primary School and to our Reception Unit.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding what will be happening this term then please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.



Our themes for this term are:  
**Marvellous Me**  
**The Jolly Christmas Postman**



## Autumn 1 - Marvellous Me

### *Want to help?*

- Discuss their personal history by looking at photos of when they were younger and talking about the different stages of development.
- Discuss :
  - What makes them unique and special
  - Their features
  - Their family - not only who lives in their house (including the pets!) but also grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins
  - Their likes and dislikes

## Autumn 2—The Jolly Christmas Postman

### *Want to help?*

- Talk to your children about familiar traditional tales and fairy tales.
- Write a letter to a friend or relative and post it in the local letter box!
- If you are a postman or know of anyone who is, we would love to have you into school to talk! about your job!





### Reading:

The children will be bringing home their first individual reading books this week. These are issued during one of the daily reading sessions, where individuals read with the class teacher. This will be a set day for your child. In addition to reading with the class teacher, children will also read with the class teaching assistant where they will consolidate the previous book.

When listening to your child read, please encourage them to use the picture clues to retell a story or where applicable use their phonic knowledge to decode words. In time, words will be allocated which the children will learn by sounding out each sound in the word e.g. c-a-t cat and then recognising by sight.

Please listen to your child read regularly throughout the week, making a comment / signing their blue Home Learning Log . PLEASE ENSURE BOOKS ARE IN SCHOOL EVERYDAY.



### Library Books:

Your child has already had their first library book to bring home. Each week they will choose a new library book from our Reception unit library to share with you.

Please see the label in your Home Learning Log which informs you which day your child's library book needs to be in school.



### Phonics (Read Write Inc):



Throughout this term we will be teaching the children the Read Write Inc sounds and picture clues. Please find guidance on the RWI sounds in your child's Home Learning Log. To help at home please continue to add more pictures with your child to their 'Sounds Book'.

### Home Learning Logs:

As part of the morning routine we are asking children to take their Home Learning Log out of their book bags and place them in the box provided. This is so the children can access them throughout the school day. Home Learning Logs will then be sent home every afternoon.

### Wow! Labels

We are keen to recognise your child's achievements at home. You will have found Wow label's for use at home in the book bag. For more information, please read the explanation that accompanies your wow

labels If your child has a WOW moment put it on your teachers chair in the morning!

### Weekly Challenges:

Over the coming weeks we will be introducing challenges linked to the weekly theme.

These challenges encourage children to become independent learners during their 'discovery time' at school.

Challenges will be displayed on the window for your information.



### RE



In RE this term we will be looking at the theme of 'Identity', linking this to our Marvellous Me topic. Leading up to Christmas we will complete a topic on 'Special People' in the Christian faith. This will focus on the birth of Jesus.



### PE Days:

This term we will be having PE on a Tuesday (Indoor PE), Thursday (Golden Mile) and Friday (Movement and Dance). Please can children come to school wearing their PE kit ready for the morning session on Tuesday's. They will bring their kit home on a Friday to be washed.

Please ensure your child has the following items for the Autumn Term: *Shorts, white t-shirt, jogging bottoms, PE jumper, plimsols and socks.* We ask that you check that all items are clearly named – including plimsols and PE bags. We understand it can be frustrating for parents when items go missing though it is an impossible task for us to return items when they are not named.



### Travelling Toy:

Every Friday the class travelling toy will pick one of the children at random to go home with for the weekend.

Each travelling toy has a diary which we would like you and your child to complete when it is their turn. Please return the travelling toy on Monday along with their diary so that your child can share what they have been doing with the class.



### In the Spotlight:

If your child has had the travelling toy at the weekend, as part of their special turn they will also be 'In the Spotlight' the following week at school. As part of this they will have a special display in the classroom all about them.

When they return the travelling toy diary on the Monday, we ask that they also bring in a couple of photos of themselves to add to their special board.

### Accidents:

If your child has a toileting accident in school then we are happy to provide them with underwear and clothing. However, we do ask that these are washed and returned as soon as possible.

### Water bottles:

Please could you ensure that water bottles are in school every day.

We will ensure that bottles are sent home each day so that they can be washed and refilled for use the next day. Please only refill your child's bottle with water.



### Birthdays:

As we are a healthy school, it is our school policy that children do not bring in birthday sweets to hand out.

Their birthday will still be celebrated in school as the children will sing 'Happy Birthday' to them and they will be able to blow out the candles on our pretend cake!

1 keyring on bags

### School Trips:

Over the course of the year we will be looking to enrich the curriculum we offer by arranging a variety of school trips.

We endeavour to keep these costs to a minimum and over the year will be asking for no more than £20 to assist with the funding of these.





### Buddies:

This week your children will be meeting their year 6 buddies for the first time! They will continue to meet for various events throughout the school year and will become a familiar face at playtimes.

### General reminders:

- Please do not put peanut butter or chocolate spread in your child's sandwiches for lunch as we have children with severe nut allergies in the year group and in the wider school.
- Please inform your child's teacher or ring the school office if your child is being collected by anyone different. In addition to telling the class teacher, please always write this information on the 'home board' located by the door.
- We are encouraging children not to place their water bottle inside their book bag as it may leak and damage their books.
- Water bottle holders that attach to book bags can be purchased from the school office. It is also possible to purchase replacement bottles and lids.
- Please note that your child's water bottle is for the classroom (water only). They will need a separate drink if they are having a packed lunch.
- If your child requires medicine during the school day, you will be required to fill out a form at the school office before this can be administered. Medicines will then need to be dropped off and collected by parents before and after school.
- At snack time children receive a free fruit snack and have access to their water bottles. We have had lots of parents signing up for the free milk but some children are not liking it. It can be upsetting for the child if they really don't like milk but are on the list to receive it.
- If you have not already, please return your child's green permission sheets to school as soon as possible to update school records.
- We are happy for children to have a key ring on their book bag to help them identify which is theirs. We do however ask that this is limited to just one key ring. It's amazing how much 'Discovery Time' can be spent checking out the key rings by the cubby holes!
- Copies of newsletters and important dates can be found on the school website at: [www.st-marksschool.co.uk](http://www.st-marksschool.co.uk).
- If for whatever reason your child is unable to attend school for an extended period please remember that simple activities such as reading, playing number based games, writing shopping lists etc are good at developing your child's enthusiasm for learning.

### Dates for the Autumn Term:

19th September -Individual School Photos  
22nd September—Harvest Worship  
Friday 7th October—DISCO



Half Term—Week beginning Monday 23rd October

: note: Future school newsletters will inform you of any additional dates this

