



Year R Spring Newsletter 2018

St. Mark's CE Aided Primary, Basingstoke



Firstly we would like to wish you a very happy new year and thank you for all your cards and generous gifts that you gave us at Christmas.

At school we are looking forward to another busy and fun filled Spring Term with the children.
do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.



Our theme for this term is:
**People who help us
and New Life!**



Spring 1: People That Help Us (both in our school and in our community)

Want to help?

-Let us know in the next week if anyone in the family has a job helping people in the local community e.g. - fire fighters, police officers, doctors, vets, paramedics, postal workers etc - We'd love to invite you into school to support our learning!

-Read books to and with your child with people that help us as the main characters.

Spring 2: New Life

Want to help?

-Each week we will continue to send home our weekly challenge grids. This will make you aware of what we are focusing on enabling you to support this theme at home.

You could also encourage your child to identify known sounds and keywords within the books.

-Look at non fiction books about animals and spring with your child.





Reading:



Thank you for continued support in helping to develop your child's skills by reading with them on a regular basis. Your children should receive two books during the week which they bring home to consolidate with you. We would expect children to read these books several times to you throughout the week. This will help them to practise their phonetic skills by decoding words and also enable them to begin recognising words by sight. It is also important to talk about the story and the characters of that story.

Key words: Children are given new key words when they are able to confidently blend or read by sight the existing ones. Please practise these at home so your child can move on with their words. Please indicate when they have read their individual reading book to you by making a short comment or simply signing their blue 'Home Learning Log'.

Library Books:

Each week, your child will continue to choose a new library book to bring home to share this 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. Children will not be issued a new book until their previous book is returned.



Phonics (Read Write Inc):

Children are continuing with their phonic sessions, moving on from recent assessments. They are working in smaller groups, ensuring maximum progress is made throughout the year. The children will bring home a new set of sounds when their group is working on these for you to support at home.



Coming into school: As children have now been in school for a full term, we are asking that you support us in promoting your child's independence. They are very good at organising themselves throughout the day and are able to do this in the morning too! Please encourage them to say goodbye as they come into class. We start early morning work from 8.30am. We will be on hand at the door for you to pass on messages.

Wow! Labels

Thank you to those who completed 'wow labels' within the Autumn Term, these have now been added to your child's learning journey.

Please continue to celebrate and share your child's successes with us, it really is valuable in helping us to build a profile of your child's development.

Wow!

Weekly Challenges:

'Challenges' linked to the weekly theme encourage children to become independent learners during their 'discovery time' within school.

You can find information regarding challenges and the weekly theme on the weekly slips sent home as well as a notice on the class window.

RE

In RE this half term we will be studying 'Stories that Jesus told'.



Leading up to Easter we will be completing a topic focusing on 'Symbols of New Life'.



PE Days:

This term we will have PE on a Tuesday (Indoor PE), and Friday (Write Dance). We are also starting the St Marks' Mile which is a school project where the children strive for their personal best in running. We spend 5 minutes 2-3 times a week running outside and count the laps the children do. There are certificates at 10 miles, 25 and 50 miles. We find the children really do enjoy these sessions. As our indoor PE session on Tuesday is first thing in the morning, we continue to ask that children come dressed for PE. As it is still cold in the mornings, children are encouraged to come dressed with their jogging bottoms on over the top of their shorts, removing these and placing them in their PE bags when they get to school. We will return the PE kit home on Friday.

Please ensure your child has the following items for the Spring Term: **Shorts, white t-shirt, jogging bottoms, PE jumper, plimsolls and socks all clearly named.**

When PE bags come home this weekend, we ask that you check that all items are clearly named, including plimsolls 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 continue to 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. If your child is having a packed lunch, they will need a separate drink.



Birthdays:

We celebrate birthdays by singing to the children and by lighting the candles on our pretend birthday cake!



Inter Class Challenges

Each half term the children take part in an inter-class competition. The winning class receive the year group trophy during our whole school worship at the end of the half term. It is displayed in the trophy cabinet.

- Getting changed for PE—Penguins
- Santa Obstacle Race -Puffins





School Trips: Linking with our RE topic leading up to Easter, we will be going on a school trip along with our Year 6 buddies to Sainsbury's. In order for this trip to go ahead, we will require several parent helpers to accompany us. If you may be able to help with future school trips then please speak to the office about processing a DBS check for you. These can be done in advance of trips.

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.
- At snack time children receive a free fruit snack and have access to their water bottles. If you would like your children to receive milk you will be required to fill in the online form at www.coolmilk.com. Please note you are required to fill out this form even if they are under 5 and qualify for free milk. If your child has had their 5th birthday recently please check they are still registered if you wish your child to continue to have milk. There is a small daily charge.
- 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 1 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.stmarksprimary.net
- 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 keeping your child's skills sharp and keeping them enthusiastic about learning.

Dates for the Spring Term:



Wednesday 31st January- Parents Evening 4-6.30pm
Monday 5th February- Parents Evening 4-6.30pm
Thursday 8th February—Parents Evening 5-8pm

February Half Term— Week beginning Monday 12th February
Inset Days - Friday 19th January 2018
Thursday 29th March 2018

