



Growing and Learning Together

St Mark's CofE Primary School

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www.stmarksprimary.net

Friday 20th October 2017

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy half-term it has been- and it has flown by! Thank you for all of your support in the last 7 weeks. It has been a pleasure to see our pupils working hard, and we are very proud of them. It won't be long before Christmas is here, and we look forward to celebrating the season together.

Good Bye and Good Luck...

We say a sad goodbye to Miss Dillon, who has been one of our fantastic LSAs in Year R. She will be missed by us, and we wish her all the best in the future. Mrs Spiers is also leaving us for a brief time as she goes on maternity leave. We will all miss her in the coming days, and we look forward to hearing her exciting news in the weeks to come.

...and welcome!

We welcome Miss Cameron to 2S; she will be working in Year 2 alongside Mrs Boyle. Miss Cameron is an experienced teacher, and has already been working with Mrs Boyle and Mrs Spiers to ensure a smooth transition. We also welcome Mrs Stone, who will be covering classes across the school. Mrs Stone is also an experienced teacher, and we know she will become part of our team quickly. Miss Murphy and Miss Bentliff are joining our team in The Bridge, and we know their experience and passion will complement the skills of our staff. Mrs Elliot joins our Year R team as an LSA and Mrs Humphries, Mrs Davies, Mrs Osman, Mrs Govier and Mrs Baker will be supporting pupils across the school. We are also in the final stages of hiring lunch time assistants and cleaners.

Parents have asked for...

- ... more clubs, especially sports We are pleased to announce that Planet Education will be running a sports club each day after school from 6th November. Look out for letters in the first week back about this. These will be free, and will be for a variety of year groups. We are also working on more sports tournaments against other schools.
- ... more lunch time activities Planet Education will also be running sporting activities during lunch times for all year groups, on a rota basis. We have also setup a Pupil Welfare team, who will be reviewing activities available at lunch, and ways that it can be further improved.
- ... orchestra to carry on We are pleased to say that orchestra is going to happen each Friday morning at 8am. Miss Stonehouse will be our conductor. Orchestra is for pupils who have been learning an instrument for at least a year.
- ... more homework We'll be clarifying our expectations on homework after half term.
- ... more regular information on children's progress We'll be sending home a report cards at the end of each term. Together with parents' evenings in October and February, this will hopefully give you a regular view on how your child is doing. Remember, you are always welcome to speak to your child's teacher.



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



Learning Behaviours – helping our pupils to be good learners

We have been busy choosing our learning behaviours as a school. Each class has chosen 6 words they think are important characteristics of a good learner. We've narrowed them down, and are pleased to introduce the following as the St Mark's Learning Behaviours:

Resilience Team Work Respect Responsibility
Creativity Curiosity Risk Taking Pride

We'll be talking about these more in the coming weeks, and look forward to them becoming part of our school language to further improve children's behaviours towards their own learning.

Parents' Evening Survey

Thank you to everyone for taking part in our survey. We've had over 250 responses. We would welcome any more in the days to come- just go to www.stmarksprimary.net/survey

Have a wonderful half-term!

From all the staff at St Mark's ☺

A few reminders

Book bags, not back packs – we simply don't have space for back packs!

Please don't shave designs into your child's hair- this isn't part of our policy.

The deadline for the shoebox appeal is Friday 3rd November. See the letters section on the website for more info. Completed boxes can be returned from Wednesday 1st November.

FOSM Update

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 2nd December 2017 11am – 2pm

Our plans for the Christmas Fayre are well underway. There will be stalls selling various Christmas themed goodies, games to play, crafts to make and visits to Santa (pre-booked tickets only for the Grotto – a separate letter will be coming home shortly).

In preparation of this we are asking Parents/Carers for their generous support - if you are having a clear out over half term or before Christmas and are happy to donate items, please could we have good condition unwanted children books, toys or adults books. We will be collecting your donation on the 1st December 2017.

Thank you in advance for your generous support

Please make sure ST MARK'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE – 2nd December 2017 is marked clearly in your diaries so that you and your family and friends can all come and support St Mark's on the day.

