



*Growing and Learning Together*

# St Mark's CE Aided Primary School

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www.stmarksprimary.net

## Start of Term Newsletter

Wednesday 6th September, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the staff and governors, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to St Mark's. I trust that you have had an enjoyable summer, and are ready for this new season. September is always a time of new beginnings; new pupils, new parents, new staff, new classrooms, new uniforms, and even a new head teacher! We would especially like to welcome our new pupils and their parents to our school community. Starting school can be a nervous time but I do hope you feel part of our school very quickly.

I'm excited to have five new members of staff at St Mark's, and I am confident that their expertise and energy will continue to help our school go from strength to strength:

- In KS1, Miss Pett joins our Year R team, and Miss Jamieson joins our Year 1.
- In KS2, Mrs Chapman joins our Year 3 team along with Miss Barnett.
- Mrs Alsey joins our leadership team as our second Assistant Head Teacher. She will oversee our Resourced Provision, and brings much experience in helping pupils of all abilities to achieve their very best.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Spiers, who is teaching in Year 2, is expecting a baby in November, and will be taking maternity leave at the end of October. We have a plan in place to cover her two days of teaching and will share this with you as soon as it is confirmed.

As your new head teacher, I would like to say a personal 'Hello' and 'Thank you' for making me feel welcome at St Mark's so far. It seems a while back when the interviews took place, and I am thrilled to take on this exciting yet serious role. In particular, you must know that your children were amazing on the day of the interviews; they were kind, full of respect, very welcoming, and asked some fantastic - yet challenging - questions! As I lead our school in its next season, I am committed to serve it to the very best of my ability.

Mrs Jenkins has served you very well for many years, and I know that she will be greatly missed. I would like to pay tribute to her for the immense work she has done, and the foundations she has laid. We wish her the very best in the years to come, and I do hope that she will visit us soon. With this in mind, I am aware that change can be difficult. I want to reassure you that I will not create change for change's sake. Together with yourselves, the staff, the pupils and the Governing Body, we can work to make St Mark's an even better school, delivering the best education for your child.

As always in education, there is much work to be done, and we are committed to ensuring that the St Mark's curriculum excites, challenges and inspires every child. We can't do this without you, and I would ask you to help in any way possible. If you have 20 minutes spare a day or a week to read to children, or have a particular skill or interest you can share with us, please do not hesitate to talk to myself or your child's teacher. We would be very grateful, and it makes a huge difference to all of our pupils, as well as to your own child. As a safeguarding procedure, we will need to carry out a DBS check; this is free, but needs to be done well in advance of helping on trips or supporting in school. The sooner you apply, the better.

Parents as Partners



I look forward to meeting you, and getting to know you better. Please do come and say hello- my door is always open, and I will aim to be available for you as often as possible.

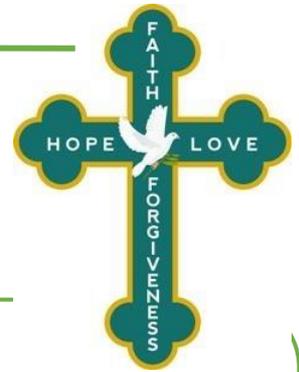
Yours sincerely,

Charles Applegate

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



# And finally....



We have a new school website –  
[www.stmarksprimary.net](http://www.stmarksprimary.net)

St Mark's Christian values are Faith, Love, Hope and Forgiveness.

We fully embrace and promote our status as a Church of England school.

#### **Term Dates - Autumn Term**

Mon 4th Sept – Thu 21st Dec 2017  
Half Term - Mon 23rd Oct – Fri 27th Oct

#### **Spring Term**

Thu 4th Jan – Thu 29th Mar 2018  
Half Term - Mon 12th Feb – Fri 16th Feb

#### **Summer Term**

Mon 16th Apr – Mon 23rd Jul 2018  
Half Term - Mon 28th May – Fri 1st Jun

#### **Are you prepared for your child using technology?**

Technology can be brilliant, but it can also be scary. A top tip for parents is to keep technology 'out in the open' in your home and in your conversations. Know what your child is up to, have rules, and be ready to say 'no'.

We will be starting after school clubs shortly. Please bear with us as we co-ordinate these amongst the various staffing changes we have had recently.

#### **Do you have ideas about what we could improve in our school?**

Please do let us know by speak to Mr Applegate directly, emailing him via the office, or arranging an appointment.

*Something to think about...*

The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice.

Did you know? Mr Applegate isn't from the US despite having some sort of accent. He was born in Dorset but moved to California at the age of 2. After 10 years there, he moved back to the UK and has lived in either Reading or Basingstoke ever since.