



Growing and Learning Together in God's Love

St Mark's CofE Primary School

Danebury Road, Hatch Warren

Basingstoke, RG22 4US

(01256) 346 111

adminoffice@st-markscofe.hants.sch.uk

www.stmarksprimary.net

News Update – Monday 4th February 2019

A message from Mr Applegate

Firstly, a huge thank you to the parents, friends of the school, staff and their families who helped clear the school site on Sunday. A brilliant job; see the website for photos. It was like an episode of DIY SOS for schools! What a great community. Our optional delayed start this morning worked well, and the congestion was certainly eased. Thank you for your flexibility.

Our **Careers Fair** has a good number of stands, but we could do with more. See the note in this newsletter for more information. Thank you.

Going back to helping our children to being resilient... The second suggestion is to ensure children get really good sleep. A lack of sleep has a negative effect on memory, concentration, cognitive function, and decision-making. One of the fastest ways to improve sleep – for all of us – is to limit screen time before bed. Try to stop tech use an hour before bed. Screens before bed keeps us emotionally wired and stimulated, making it harder for us to switch off. It's Children's Mental Week, too- have a read of the pages below.

Finally... the table tennis tables have arrived! They aren't in situ yet as the snow changed our plans, but the children will be using them quite soon. They were funded through FOSM, and thank you for your generosity. The children will love using them!

Have a great week ☺ Mr Applegate

World Book Day

This is on **Thursday 7th March**. To give you advanced notice, the children are able to **dress up** as a character of their choice. We particularly would like them to think about and choose a character who shows either our Christian Values, Learning Behaviours or HeartSmart High 5.

We'll also be running a **book exchange** – bring in a suitable, good condition book that you've finished with, and exchange it for another. If you want to donate any spare books, please do. More info to follow.

Children cannot be dropped off early!

We've noticed an increasing number of parents dropping their child off at the front of the school well before 8:30am, leaving the child to wait around until school officially opens. This is not allowed, and is a safeguarding issue. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Year 3 & 4 Easter Production

Year 3&4 will be developing their performance skills as part of their learning after half term. You are invited to watch their production of 'He's Alive' which brings the Easter story to life.

The performances are: **Friday 29th March 2pm**, **Monday 1st April 6:30pm** and **Tuesday 2nd April 2pm**. (apologies for previous error).

To book your tickets please visit www.stmarksprimary.net/easterperformance you have until 9.00am on Friday 15th February to request your tickets!

Breakfast Club – Important!

Due to safeguarding reasons, children must now be signed in by an adult.

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





Dates for your diary....

Spring Term

6th & 7th Feb – Yr R Weight & Measure, Hearing & Vision Programmes – Spring born children
7th Feb – Year 1 “Toy Museum”
13th & 14th Feb – KS2 Careers Fair
15th Feb – Yr R Weight & Measure programme – Summer born children
27th Feb, 4th & 6th March – Parents’ Evenings
1st March – Year 1 trip to Milestones Museum
7th March – World Book Day
29th March - Yr 3 & 4 Easter performance 2pm
1st April – Yr 3 & 4 Easter performance 6.30 pm
2nd April – Yr 3 & 4 Easter performance 2pm

INSET DAYS 2018 2019

Friday 5th Apr 2019
Monday 3rd Jun 2019
(not 1st July)

Summer Term

26th April – Spring Reports out
13th May – Y6 SATs Week
7th June – Sports Day
14th June – Reserve Sports Day
5th July – Transition Day
12th July – Summer Reports out

**DO SOMETHING
TODAY THAT
YOUR FUTURE
SELF WILL
THANK YOU FOR.**

Something to think
about

FOSM



15th Feb – FOSM School Disco
8th March – Cake Sale
30th March Easter Egg Hunt (11am – 12pm)
3rd May FOSM Summer Disco
21st June – Non Uniform Day
29th June- Summer Fun Day

**HELP
WANTED**

FOSM SCHOOL DISCO

**HELP
WANTED**

We are looking for volunteers to help run the disco. If you can help with KS1 from 4.45 or KS2 from 5.45, or both, please email

secretary@friendsofstmarks.org

Your help enables these events to happen, lets the children have fun and raises funds for our school!

Your help enables these events to happen, let the children have fun and raise funds for our children at St Mark’s.

Thank you

Children’s Mental Health Week

This week is Children’s Mental Health Week (4th – 11th February) There is a flyer attached to the newsletter which gives some helpful tips you can do at home with your children. This year’s theme is Healthy: Inside and Out. Please also find a link to Hampshire CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/> There is lots of useful information and advice on here about a variety of mental health issues.

Water Bottles

HC3S are working to reduce their plastic waste and will no longer be providing disposable plastic cups for water at lunchtimes. Therefore, as of **Wednesday 6th February**, children will take their own water bottles into the school hall with them at lunchtimes. Please ensure your child brings their water bottle into school each day and that it is clearly named. Water bottles are available to buy from the school office for £1.30 each.



If parents would like to attend the careers fair with your child, then these are the session times:

	Wednesday 13 th Feb	Thursday 14 th Feb
9am – 9:40am	6C, 6G, 6D	5F, 5GP
9:40am – 10:20am	6P, 4EH	5T, 3CB
10:20am – 11:15am	4SH, 4T	3B, 3WG

We still need organisations and businesses to help run stands.
Can you help us?

To find out more, visit stmarksprimary.net/cf
To register to help, visit stmarksprimary.net/help-at-cf



Thank you snow team!



Parents' Evening Booking Instructions

The on-line booking system for parents evening will open on Monday 28th January at 8am. It closes on Friday 22nd February at 3pm.

Please see the instructions for booking. There is a booking wizard which you may find useful if you have more than one child at the school. Instructions are below. The dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday 27 th February	4.00pm-6.30pm
Monday 4 th March	4.00pm-6.30pm
Wednesday 6 th March	5.00pm-7.00pm



Parents' Evening Booking System – Parents' Guide

1. Navigate to www.parents-booking.co.uk/stmarks from 8.00am on Monday 28th January.
2. Complete the form, entering the details as you would expect them to be stored in the School's records, e.g. Daniel rather than Dan. The system will check the details against the school's database and if there is a difference an error will be displayed at the top of the page.
3. On the next page you should see a box with the parents' evening dates listed. Click on either [Booking Wizard](#) (which you might find easier if you have more than one child at the school) or [Manual booking table](#)

Instructions if you choose [Manual booking table](#)

4. The next page will display the appointments available. To see all three dates you will need to scroll down the webpage. Choose your appointment and click on it. Select **Make Booking** to confirm your appointment. You should see your child's name in the appointment slot chosen. If you have made a mistake then you can cancel the appointment by clicking on your appointment and selecting Cancel Booking.
5. If you have another child at St Mark's you can make their appointment by clicking on 'Change Child' in the blue bar near the top of the screen. Note, you will not be able to make appointments in adjacent time slots, this is to allow you time to move between appointments.

Instructions if you choose [Booking wizard](#)

6. You will see you child or children's names on tabs in the middle of the screen. You will need to click on each child and click the box next to their teacher's name where it says add. Scroll down and on the blue section change the times and days for when you wish your bookings to be made.
7. Then click on Make my bookings for me. Then please follow on screen instructions to complete your booking.

We ask that only one parent accesses the site to make bookings. Your appointment(s) can be printed or emailed to you (if you entered your email address when you logged in) by selecting the appropriate buttons at the top of the page. If you have any problems logging in, click on the help button at the top of the screen. If you continue to have problems phone or email the school office. Thank you!

Reading Feedback

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for the feedback and ideas you provided about our reading curriculum when completing your parent surveys in December.

Libraries, Books and Book Bands

Particularly moving up into Key Stage 2, we understand there is potential for us to improve the resources that children have access to for reading. Following your feedback, we are planning to investigate introducing more book bands, particularly around the brown and orange stages, to allow for more progression of reading. Some feedback suggested that children are spending a long time on specific book bands so hopefully this will allow children to maintain motivation and move up through new bands and new books.

In conjunction with this, we would also like to buy a larger range of books for children to choose from. New books are always exciting and it's definitely time to inject some more excitement into our libraries.

Similarly, we are planning to decorate the KS2 library, just as the KS1 library looks wonderfully inviting for the children. A group of children have suggested a 'London Theme' with landmarks painted all around with book characters (From stories set in London) hidden around the library. Hopefully it will soon be a more inviting and more 'well-stocked' environment for encouraging our young readers!

Learning Logs and Reading Incentives

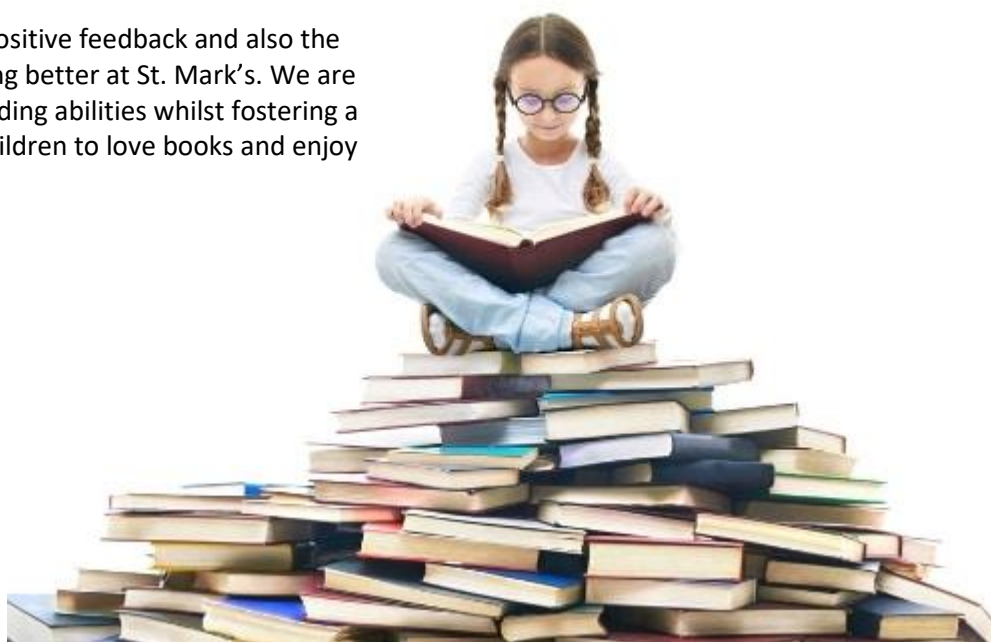
From our feedback, we understand there is some work we need to do surrounding reading logs.

Did you know that Book Club happens every day at school?

Book club involves some guided reading sessions and many group or individual book related activities and this is happening every day. We know we need to work on recording this for you. We are planning to purchase some 'I read with a Teacher today' stamps for each classroom so that you can be clearer as to when your child has read with their class teacher.

There were also lots of comments about how we could introduce some reading incentives to improve motivation for reading at home. We are really pleased that the children are highly motivated by Rockstars for practising times tables and we would like to find a different incentive programme that encourages the love of reading books. Thank you for the great suggestions around rewarding with certificates, book marks, reading star badges and reading vouchers. We are working on an inspiring, yet manageable, reward programme. Watch this space!

Thank you again for the wonderful positive feedback and also the ideas you provided for making reading better at St. Mark's. We are really keen to improve children's reading abilities whilst fostering a reading culture which encourages children to love books and enjoy reading.





Children's Mental Health Week 2019

4-10 Feb #ChildrensMentalHealthWeek
ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week (4-10 February 2019) is Children's Mental Health Week.

The Week was set up by the children's mental health charity Place2Be to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

This year's theme is Healthy: Inside and Out – we're encouraging everyone to think about how they look after their bodies and minds.

What's it all about?

When we think about healthy living, we tend to focus on looking after our bodies – our physical wellbeing – through food, being active and getting enough sleep.

However, in order to be healthy overall, it's important that we look after our minds – our mental wellbeing – too. We know from our work in schools that children in every class have diagnosable mental health conditions and many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement.

Our bodies and minds are actually very closely linked, so things that we do to improve our physical wellbeing can help our mental wellbeing as well. When we take steps to be **Healthy: Inside and Out**, it helps us to feel better in ourselves, focus on what we want to do and deal with difficult times.

As parents and carers, you play a very important role in your child's health. Here are a few simple ways you can encourage them to look after their body and mind:

- **Chat with your child about what you do to look after your body and mind**, from walking the dog to turning your phone off before bed. Sharing the steps you've taken to stay healthy can set a good example for them – but don't be afraid to admit it if you've struggled! It's important for children to keep trying, even when things are difficult.
- **Praise your child and other family members for what they do to look after their body and mind** – even if it's small. If your child sees healthy living in a positive light, they're more likely to carry on doing these things throughout life.
- **Remind them that there's no such thing as a perfect body or mind – and no one is perfectly healthy!** Your child might be tempted to compare themselves to other children, especially on social media, but it's important to remember that everyone's bodies and minds are different – and that's something to celebrate.
- **Do something regularly with your child to be Healthy: Inside and Out.** Family life can be very busy and stressful at times. Cooking a meal, sitting down for a family dinner, or going for a walk together can be a great way to stay connected and have fun.

Don't forget, if you're worried about your child, you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice for parents on our website

www.place2be.org.uk/usefulcontacts

Visit www.ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk to find out how you can get involved and support Place2Be's vital work.