



Reading

The children will be bringing home their first individual reading books over the next few weeks. Your child will read twice a week; once with the teacher and once with the class LSA. Each time they read they will be issued with a new 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 sound out words. Please share one of your child's books with them a little every day throughout the week. Please ensure books are in school everyday so we can be flexible and read with your child any day of the week.



Phonics (Read Write Inc)

Throughout this term we will be teaching the children the Read Write Inc. sounds and picture clues. Please refer to your child's sound card bag which was in their summer activity pack. To help at home please continue to add more pictures, with your child, to their 'Sounds Book'.

Please ensure you are saying letter sounds rather than letter names to enable your child to begin to sound out words.

RE



In RE this term we will be looking at the theme of 'Creation'. We will read the story in the bible, and explore the concept of God.



Our topic this half term
is:

It's good to be me!

We will explore the big question,

'Is it OK to be different?'



Topic learning

We will start our topic by talking about and exploring physical differences and painting self-portraits. Then we will learn how we like and dislike different things. Your child's chatterbox gives us a perfect opportunity to learn more about them and for the children to explore their similarities and differences.

We will look at their personal history; their life so far, how they have changed over time, and talk about growth and change.

We will introduce BORIS the robot and begin our learning about how to be Heartsmart. We will learn about how we are all important, unique & loved.



Maths



This term we will be using BBC 'Number blocks' to support our learning as we meet characters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

We will look at each number in depth. This is known as the 'Mastery Approach' and enables us to fully explore each number's value, how it relates to others and explore different ways in which they can be represented. Children who learn in this way develop a stronger foundation for their future Maths learning.

We will teach different ways to make each number using addition as well as learning about linked shapes e.g. when learning all about 4 we'll learn about squares and rectangles.

Other mathematical areas such as measure, time and money will be incorporated along the way e.g. when learning about 2 we'll learn how 2 is represented on a 2 pence coin.

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
- How your family is the same as, or different to other families.

Library Books



Your child will bring their first library book home in the next week. Each week they will choose a new book from our classroom library book box to share with you. They will change this book every Friday but we please ask that you only send it in on a Friday as many of our story books are very large and heavy.

Communication

You are welcome to talk to us to pass on a message at drop off time or at pick up time. If you are unable to speak to us at the door then you can email us using our **NEW** email address which we check daily after school:

yearr@stmarksce.org.uk

If you need to get a message to us during the school day, or you have any admin or financial queries you will need to contact the office on adminoffice@st-markscofe.hants.sch.uk or call 01256346111.

Star Learner and "In the Spotlight"

Each week one child will be picked to be 'Star Learner' on Friday. This child will then 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. On the Monday, we ask that they bring in a couple of photos of themselves to add to their special board. Alternatively you can email them to us.

Coats



Your child must have a coat in school every day as we have to walk around the outside of the school to get to the lunch hall, regardless of the weather.

Tapestry



You will have received a Tapestry post on their first day this week, and in the coming weeks we hope you enjoy seeing how your child is settling in, playing and learning at school with their new friends. We will also use Tapestry to give you a snapshot of what we have done each day at school so you can chat to your child about this and support us at home. This is called 'Walk and Talk'. This information will also be written on a whiteboard outside our classroom each afternoon at home time. So that you receive these posts on the right day, you will need to change the notifications on your device: Go to 'You', then 'What we notify you about' and you can change to 'Immediate' so you get the email alert right away. The default is 'Daily' which may result in you getting the notification a day late.

Wellies



Each child needs a pair of wellies which can be kept at school. Please add these to the racks outside our classrooms as soon as possible ensuring they are clearly named, ideally on the sole. Please make sure your child's shoes are named too so they can find their shoes again when changing back out of their wellies.

Summer holiday pack

We hope you had fun doing the summer activities with your child. The zippy folder is now their school reading folder. Please empty it and send it in every day. The contents of the pack are yours to keep and to carry on using at home.

PE Days:



We will be having our PE lesson each Monday and Friday.

However we will not be starting our PE sessions for a few weeks at the start of the term to allow the children to fully settle first.

We will be starting PE on Monday 26th September.

They will need to come to school wearing their kit on PE days and they will wear it all day.

They will need to wear:

- White PE t-shirt
- Jogging bottoms or leggings
- **Green** school jumper or cardigan.
- Trainers (any colour)

Since the children are wearing PE kit all day rather than just for their PE lesson, trainers are more comfortable and supportive for their feet than plimsolls. Velcro fastening if possible, unless your child can do their own laces.

Water bottles



Please could you ensure that water bottles are in school every day. The bottles we gave out at your child's home visit are the perfect size and type, so we therefore ask that you use these. You can personalise them with stickers and name labels of your own to make them more recognisable.

We will ensure that they 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. Flavoured water is not permitted.