



## Reading

The children will be bringing home their first individual reading books over the next few weeks. These are issued during one of the daily reading sessions, where individuals read with the class teacher. This will be a set day for your child which we will inform you of in due course. In addition to reading with the class teacher, children will also read with the class teaching assistant when they will be given 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 listen to your child read a little every day throughout the week. Please ensure books are in school everyday.



## 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

## 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 on a set day which we will inform you of in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime please ensure it is in their bag every day.

## Communication

You are welcome to talk briefly to us to pass on a message at drop off time or at pick up time. Due to the staggered starts it may not always be possible if the area outside the classroom is very busy and we are mindful that we cannot allow a queue to form. So, if you would like to let us know about anything, ask a question or raise a concern you can let us know at this **NEW** email address which we check daily after school: [yearr@stmarksce.org.uk](mailto:yearr@stmarksce.org.uk) If you need to get a message to us during the school day you will need to contact the office on [adminoffice@st-markscofe.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@st-markscofe.hants.sch.uk) or call 01256346111 and they will pass the message on to us straight away.

## 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.

## 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.

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.

## Summer holiday pack

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

## PE Days:



We will be having our PE lessons on Mondays. 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 5th October.

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

They will need to wear:

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

Now 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 sent home are the perfect size for our cubby holes therefore can we please 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.**