



Phonics and Reading



We are starting our Phonics teaching on Monday, and the children will bring home their first sound cards and words to practise next Friday.

Ideally they need to practise these with you at least 4 times a week at home. We ask you to record any practice you do in their green Reading Log which is also coming home next Friday.

An additional Sharing Book will be sent home too. You do not need to record when your child reads with their Sharing Book, or library book.

Please ensure any school reading materials are sent into school everyday so we can be flexible and read with your child any day of the week.

Library books

We will begin sending a library book home with your child every Wednesday, which the children choose from a class selection. Unlike the phonics reading books, we would like you to keep this at home Thursday to Tuesday and **only send it in on Wednesdays**. This protects the books from being stored in the drawstring bags all week and becoming dog eared and damaged.

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 sorting objects and images using different criteria, copying and continuing patterns and comparing sets of objects to decide which has more, less or the same.

At St. Mark's we use the '**Mastery Approach**' to teach Maths. This enables us to explore mathematical concepts and numbers in depth to develop stronger foundations for the children's future Maths learning.

Throughout the year we will learn each number's value, how it relates to others and explore different ways in which they can be represented. The children will learn to use a range of practical resources to demonstrate their understanding of numbers and concepts.

The mastery approach focusses heavily on the children's ability to explain their thinking.

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.

If you missed Wednesday's curriculum meeting, please ensure you have either watched the recording or caught up with the slides which were sent to you after the meeting. This will best inform you about how to support your child with their reading, writing and maths at St. Mark's.

Walk and Talk Board



Each day we will write a few bullet points on a whiteboard outside the classroom which will give you some information about what we have done that day. This is called the 'Walk and Talk' book. The idea is that you can read it when you collect your children and then as you **walk** home you can **talk** with them about their day.

Sometimes we add reminders for the following day so please do check it every day.

For those of you who have children attending an after school club, we also send home a picture of the board so that you can receive the same information as those parents collecting.

This year we will be adding these photos to the new Google Photo Album. Please do check it each evening.

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 about a learning or classroom issue then you can email us using our **NEW** email address which we check daily after school:

yearr@stmarksce.org.uk.

Please note that this email account is not monitored during the school day, but is checked each day between 3.30 and 5pm.

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 01256 346111.

This is where you will need to report any illnesses too.

PE Days:



We will be having our PE lessons each Monday and Tuesday this half term.

We will be starting PE next Tuesday 15th 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:

- T-shirt
- Jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts
- Jumper/hoody
- Trainers with a Velcro fastening (any colour).

Water bottles



Please ensure that water bottles are in school every day. The bottles we have sent home 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 send them 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.

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.

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.

Coats



Your child must have a coat in school every day. While the weather remains warm, a lightweight rain jacket is perfect. Once the colder weather comes a more substantial warm and waterproof coat will be required please.

Summer holiday pack

We hope you had fun doing the summer activities with your child. The zippy pack 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.

Before and after school



The children are not permitted to go on the Year R climbing frame or trim trail before or after school.

We also ask that you do not allow your child to go on the grass or access any of the Year R outside learning areas before or after school e.g. gravel area, sand pit, mud kitchen, woods.