A message from Mr Applegate

Haven’t the children been amazing recently?! With choir singing at Church Cottage residential home, and the beautiful singing and performing by all year groups in school, it really has been a wonderful start to Christmas, and a great end to the school year. I am incredibly proud of our community.

Our FOSM fundraising total is in. Through all of our activities, you’ve raised an amazing £5,155.48!!!! Absolutely brilliant – thank you for being so generous with your time, and particularly to our FOSM team who made this possible. We are raising money for much needed school books, and have placed our first order for the books to be ready for the New Year. Thank you. Again a plea - these events don’t happen by themselves and we are in need of FOSM helpers and members, so if you can help in anyway, simply contact the school or search for the FOSM page on Facebook.

This week holds the remaining performances, as well as Christmas lunch on Thursday. A reminder that we finish at 3:20pm on Friday, and we return to school on Tuesday 7th January. On behalf of our staff and governors, may I wish you and your family a very peaceful Christmas. Let’s take time out of busy life to enjoy the special things – and people – in our lives, and to look out for others in need. Mr Applegate.

Class Attendance

Well done to class 1J with 99.33% attendance last week and class 4EH with 98.62% 😊

Spring Term After School Clubs

You are now able to apply online for your child’s place in our after school clubs starting in January 2020.

Please note the links are (case sensitive):

- [www.stmarksprimary.net/ks1springtermclubs](http://www.stmarksprimary.net/ks1springtermclubs)
- [www.stmarksprimary.net/ks2springtermclubs](http://www.stmarksprimary.net/ks2springtermclubs)

Every effort will be made to allocate your child with their first choice club, but as many are oversubscribed, they may be offered their second or third choice instead.

The Autumn clubs finished last week, so there will not be any clubs running this week.

Christmas Jumpers/Party Clothes

Please note your child can wear Christmas Jumpers or party clothes to the Christmas lunch and class parties on Thursday 19th December.

A message from our Lollypop Team

Could you please mention to those who cycle to school that this time of year it is not only advisable to wear a helmet at all times but also to have a light on their bikes. Recently mornings and evenings were particularly dark and children do need to be visible, especially on Woodbury Road where traffic speeds are often unacceptable? Ideally children would be wearing something fluorescent over their dark winter coats even if it was only an armband. I do congratulate the parents who dress their children in bright colours during the winter! Thank you!

Star learners!

Well Done to:

- Year R - Evie, Amber, Emily
- Year 1 - Olivia, Poppy, Amnnet
- Year 2 - George P, Jakob, Amelia
- Year 3 - Finley, Rosie, Iremide
- Year 4 - Dylan, Igor, Adam Y
- Year 5 - Keeleigh, Charlotte F, Oscar P-E
- Year 6 - Josh W, Toby R, Brandon

Head Teacher: Charles Applegate
Deputy Head Teachers:
Nicola Ford & Rebekah Alsey
**DECEMBER**

- **17th** – Year 2 Project Outcome
  8.30-9am
- **18th** - Y5 Project Outcome
  9-10am
- **19th** - Christmas Lunch
- **20th** - School finishes, 3:20pm

**CHRISTMAS!**

**PERFORMANCES – DECEMBER**

- **Years 3&4 Carol Service & Choir**
  Mon 16th – 6:30pm
  Tues 17th – 2pm

- **Years 5&6 Carol Service & Choir**
  Fri 13th – 2pm
  Mon 16th – 2pm
  Tues 17th – 6:30pm

**Term Dates - Autumn 2019**

- Last day of term – Dec 20th, 3:20pm

**Spring 2020**

- Term Starts – Tues 7th Jan
  (INSET Mon 6th Jan)
- Feb Half Term – W/B 17th Feb
- Last day term - Thur 2nd Apr 3:20pm
  (INSET Fri 3rd April)

**Summer 2020**

- Term Starts – Mon 20th April
- May Half Term – W/B 25th May
  (INSET Mon 1st June)
- Last day of term – 22nd July, 3:20pm

**The gift of reading**

If you give presents at Christmas, why not consider the gift of reading? We’d love to see our children even more ‘wrapped up’ in reading.

Finding books can be tricky. To help, just use the book finder [www.stmarksprimary.net/books](http://www.stmarksprimary.net/books)

**Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum**

As a staff, we’ve reflected on our termly ‘certificate’ system, and have decided that there are better ways to encourage our children. Ultimately, it was the perceived idea of judging a child’s character. We all have strengths and challenges, but we don’t want children saying to themselves “I’m not as good as that child, and I’ll never be.” All children are making progress in different areas, and categorising this is difficult! They also have different characters and circumstances in life. Equally, we know the importance of not missing out children who regularly do the right thing, with great attitudes. We do celebrate children every day, in a variety of ways.

We’ll be adapting our termly report to reflect this, and thereby encouraging all children. Reports are out after Christmas.

**Upcoming FoSM Events**

**Spring Term:**

- 20th Jan – World Book Day costumes drop off (details to follow)
- 31st Jan - World Book Day Costume Swap (details to follow)
- 7th Feb – School Disco
- 13th Mar – Cake Sale
- 28th Mar – Easter Egg Hunt

**Summer Term:**

- 5th June – School Disco **
- 19th Jun – Non-Uniform Day (Donations for Summer Fun Day)
- 27th Jun – FoSM Summer Fun Day

**Spring and Summer Term**

**INSET DAYS**

- Monday 6th Jan 2020
- Friday 3rd Apr 2020
- Monday 1st Jun 2020

**February Parents’ Evenings**

- Feb 11th – 4-6pm
- Feb 13th – 4-6:30pm
- Feb 26th – 5-7pm

**Year 6 Bikeability**

- Week of 2nd March

**Year 3/4 Easter Performance**

- Mar 26th – 2pm
- Mar 30th – 2pm
- Mar 31st - 6:30pm

**Year 6 SATS Week**

- W/B 11th May – No absences!

**Sports Day**

- Fri 22nd May

**Year 6 Photos**

- 17th June

**Year 6 Production**

- 14th July 7pm
- 15th July 2pm and 7pm

- 22nd July Y6 Leavers Service
We’re excited to be running our St Mark’s Careers Fair again!
Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th February, 9-11:30am
To find out more and to register:
www.stmarksprimary.net/cf