A message from Mr Applegate

We trust your children have had a great few days in school so far. Thank you for your messages of support following Lollypop Noel’s passing. Noel was employed by the council, but served our community so well; we are looking to see how we can best remember him and will be in contact soon with more information. We look forward to seeing as many Y5 parents at our first parent workshop this week. Details are here → Our theme this term is responsibility, and will be launched this week. We also look forward to welcoming our first Year R children arriving this week! Have a great week, Mr Applegate 😊

Curriculum Workshops - a new format!

Instead of running ‘curriculum evening’ sessions in September, we are holding exciting new curriculum workshops! Format is as follows:

Drop-off – 9am – Join us for tea/coffee – Main Hall
9am – 9:30am – Teacher-led session for parents: find out details about the year group and curriculum, with a focus on how maths is taught.
9:30am – 10am – Join in a learning activity with your child, in their classrooms.

What are the dates for the workshops?

Thursday 12th Sept – Year 5
Thursday 19th Sept – Year 2
Friday 20th Sept – Year 1
Tuesday 24th Sept – Year 3
Thursday 26th Sept – Year 6
Friday 27th Sept – Year 4

If you are unable to make these sessions, we are holding two generic evening sessions with a focus on our new maths curriculum. Dates are:
Years 1 and 2 – 18th Sept, 6:30pm
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – 18th Sept, 7:20pm

Technology is confusing, but we can help!

We all want to help our children stay safe when using technology. But it’s not always easy to know how. Mobiles, tablets, game consoles, laptops, watches and more make it confusing!

In order for us to know how we can help you best, we’re asking parents to suggest areas or questions that they would like support with.

Please visit www.stmarksprimary.net/confusing to complete our short survey. We’ll gather the responses, and put together a way to help out. Please submit your ideas/questions by October half-term. Thank you.

Reminders

Please can we remind parents that the side gates should be used at the beginning and end of the school day. The main entrance should only be used by parents who have permission to use the school car park.

Anyone wishing to speak to the office staff can access the office via the door leading from the playground.

The cost of a school meal has now increased to £2.40; please ensure there are sufficient funds on your child’s account to cover any meals they have.
**Dates for your diary....**

### Autumn Term

**SEPTEMBER**
- 10th - Y5 trip to Winchester Sci
- 23rd Parents’ Eve Bookings Open
- 23rd - Harvest Worship

**OCTOBER**
- 1st FOSM AGM All welcome 7pm
- 4th - Y3 trip to Stonehenge
- 7th - School Photographs
- 14th Parents’ Eve Bookings Close
- 16th & 17th - Flu Immun. Yrs R-6
- 17th - Parent’s Evening 4-6pm
- 18th - FOSM Disco
- 21st - Parent’s Evening 4-6:30pm
- 23rd - Parent’s Evening 5-7pm
- 25th - INSET day
- 28th - 1st Nov Half Term

**NOVEMBER**
- 4th - 8th Y6 PGL Residential
- 15th - FOSM Non-Uniform Day
- 30th - Sat – FOSM Christmas Fair

**DECEMBER**
- 19th - Christmas Lunch
- 20th - School finishes, 3:20pm

### 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
  - Reserve(I) – Friday 5th June

#### Y6 Photos
- 17th June

#### Y6 Production- 14th July 7pm
- 15th July 2pm and 7pm
- 17th July – Y6 Leavers Disco
- 22nd July Y6 Leavers Service

### Key Dates for Secondary Schools

**Brighton Hill School:**
- 30th Sept, 1st Oct, 2nd Oct: Open Mornings 9-11am
- 7th Oct: Open Evening 6-8pm
- 9th, 10th & 11th Oct: Open Mornings 9-11am.
- Please call to book a place 01256 350606

**Aldworth School:**
- 17th & 18th Sept: Open Evenings 5.30-8pm
- 25th Sept: Open Morning 8.45-11am

**Bishop Challoner School:**
- 19th Sept: Open Evening 6-8pm

**The Henry Beaufort School:**
- 12th & 13th Sept: Open Mornings
- 12th Sept: Open Evening

**Cranbourne School:**
- 11th Sept: Open Evening 6-8.30pm

**Perins School**
- 19th & 20th Sept: Open Mornings

### Christmas!

#### BOOKING TICKETS
- Oct 7th - Ticket Bookings Open
- Nov 5th Ticket Bookings Close for Year R
- Nov 8th - Ticket Bookings Close for Years 1&2
- Nov 12th - Ticket Bookings Close for Years 3-6
- Nov 14th – Yr R, 1, 2 Tickets returned
- Nov 20th – Yrs 3-6 Tickets returned

#### PERFORMANCES - DECEMBER
- Year R Nativity
  - Tues 3rd – 10am
  - Weds 4th – 10am
- Year 1&2 Performance
  - Mon 9th – 10am
  - Tues 10th - 10am
  - Weds 11th – 2pm
- Years 3&4 Carol Service & Choir
  - Thurs 12th – 2pm
  - 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**
- October Half Term – W/B 28th Oct
- 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 - Thu 2nd Apr 3:20pm
  - (INSET Fri 3rd April)

**Summer 2020**
- Term Starts – Tues 2nd June
  - (INSET Mon 1st June)
- May Half Term – W/B 25th May
- Last day of term – 22nd July, 3:20pm
Applying for a school place in Reception

If your child was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 and you are looking for a Reception school place for September 2020, you are welcome to come along to one of our school tours. The tour will last approximately one hour. Please telephone the school on 01256 346111 to book your place.

1. Thurs 3rd Oct 10:30am
2. Tues 8th Oct 2pm
3. Weds 16th Oct 10:30am
4. Mon 11th Nov 7pm
5. Tues 12th Nov 2pm
6. Fri 22nd Nov 10:30am

Free money to support your child and our school?!

The government gives schools a 'Pupil Premium' of around £1300 for each child who is in a particular situation - for example, a child who has a parent who has been out of work for a day or more in the past few years, or claims certain benefits.

The school uses this additional money to provide support for your child and for the school. It really makes a difference, and is so easy to check for eligibility. Just phone the school and we can do it for you. 01256 346 111.

Is this linked to Free School Meals?
Kind of! For children in Years R, 1 and 2, they get free school meals anyway by default, but need to still claim for the Pupil Premium money. For children in Year 3-6, the check will do both Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium, as neither are available by default. Do call if you have any questions. Thank you.

FOSM DISCO
The next Friends of St Mark’s (FOSM) Disco will be held on Friday 18 October 2019. For Early Years/Key Stage 1 this will be held from 5.00-5.45pm and for Key Stage 2 from 6.00-6.45pm.
A letter is going out soon!

J Rock
Just a quick reminder, J Rock rehearsals will not begin until we have applied and been accepted to take part in J Rock 2020. We are due to apply next week and when we hear if we have been successful with our application, we will let you know when rehearsals start.

A MESSAGE FROM FOSM
FOSM have planned another exciting year ahead, supporting the children and the wider school community. Our first event of the year is our ‘FOSM Disco’ on 18th October. As always, we are on the lookout for volunteers so please do get in contact if you can help. Coming up later in the year we have our Christmas Fayre for all to enjoy festive fun.
FOSM could not function without volunteers and donations. With this in mind, if your company offers any form of charity donation package, we would be very grateful if you would contact us. These donations can be big or small, all donations help to make good events GREAT! Please keep an eye out in the newsletter for updates from us and details for our up and coming events!
We are always on the look out for new members to join us on the FOSM committee, so please contact us to sign up and become an active part of the school community. Our next AGM is 1st October and it would be lovely to have new members there to join us: secretary@friendsofstmarks.org

Responsibility
Don't be afraid of giving kids responsibility, be there to guide & support them, not just to do things for them.

After School Care Club – Until 6pm
Available now!
www.stmarksprimary.net/scl

Don’t forget our new After School Care Club with SCL is now up and running. Please visit our website or www.wearescl.co.uk to book your child’s place.

Hire Our Facilities!
Great Spaces, Excellent Rates
www.stmarksprimary.net/hire