



Phonics and Reading



How we teach Phonics and Reading, and how you can support at home will be explained in our **online meeting this Wednesday 11th September at 6pm**. A link to the meeting has been emailed out to you.

Once we start teaching Phonics next week the children will bring home their first RWI reading materials. We will explain what these materials involve at the meeting. Your child will read using these materials twice a week at school; once with the teacher and once with an LSA.

Please record any reading practice you do with them at home using their RWI resources in their green Reading Log (coming home soon).

An additional Sharing Book will be sent home too. You do not need to record when your child reads with their Sharing Book. More information about Sharing Books will be given at the online meeting.

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.

As we learn each phonic sound, your child can also add more pictures to the 'Sounds Book' which was in their Summer Activity Pack.

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

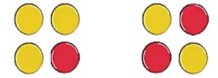
We will start our topic by talking about and exploring physical differences and painting self-portraits. Then we will learn how we like and dislike different things. Your child's chatterbox gives us a perfect opportunity to learn more about them and for the children to explore their similarities and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

We will explain more about this approach at **Wednesday's online meeting.**

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 01256 346111.

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. 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.

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 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.

PE Days:



We will be having our PE lessons each Monday and Thursday.

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 Thursday 19th 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, leggings or shorts.
- **Green** school jumper or cardigan.
- Trainers with a Velcro fastening (any colour).

Water bottles



Please 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 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.



Before and after school



The children are not permitted to go on the Year R climbing frame 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.