



St Mark's C E Primary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Newsletter 1

On behalf of all the staff and governors I welcome you all back to a new school year. I hope you had a lovely time with your children! And I would like to wish an especially warm welcome to all new children and parents.

We would also like to welcome our new teachers Miss Porter (Year 1 – Arundel) and Miss Bennett (Year 3 – Deal) and also Mrs Nelson to our team of midday meals supervisors.

The staff have worked really hard to prepare for the new school year and have planned exciting curriculum work and opportunities, I thank them for their dedication and I am really looking forward to another positive, happy and excellent year for everyone.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please find attached some information about Clubs. Please complete the attached slip and return it to us as soon as possible. All school clubs start during the week commencing Monday 12th September.

Year 6 PESE (Procedure for Entry to Secondary School) Information

Parents of children in Year 6 who have applied to take the Kent Selection Tests are reminded of the following important date of Thursday 8th September when the children will be taking all their tests. The tests will start promptly at 9.10 and will be invigilated by the Headteacher of Broadwater Down and Mr Laurence; I will be invigilating at Broadwater Down. Please ensure that your child has had breakfast, brings with them a drinks bottle and arrives at school on time! The tests will end at approximately 12.30, there will be two short breaks between the papers.

Whether or not you came to my briefing meeting last term, all parents have been sent full details of the application process for applying for a place at a secondary school for your child. Once again parents are reminded that the application must be made online at www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions or call 03000 416678

Applications must be made by the deadline of **31st October 2016**.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.



Start of term Prayer Meeting

This is being held at 9.00 am on Tuesday 13th September in Mr Dungate's office, please come and join us for God's blessing on the life, work and people of our school during the term ahead.

Other dates for your calendar so far

Wednesday 5th October - School Harvest Service - We will be celebrating Harvest at 1.40 pm in the Church for **Years 1 to 6** and we warmly invite parents to join us at this celebration. As usual, the children will be walking to church after afternoon registration so please ensure that they have a coat to wear. Children will need to be **collected from the church at 2.40 pm**.

In case of bad weather we will hold the service in the school hall, please be aware this will be a last minute arrangement and parents will be informed by parentmail if there is any change. **Early Years** will be having their own special service in their class.

Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October - Parent Consultations for Year 1 to 6 will be held from 3.30 to 6.00 pm, details on how to book will follow. Early Years will be having their consultations after half-term.

Monday 7th November to Friday 11th November – Open morning tours for children starting school in September 2017 at 9.30 am and 11.00 am. (Friday 11.15) Please book a tour at the office.

Tuesday 6th December: - **10 am** KS1 Christmas performance
2.00 pm EYFS Christmas Performance (younger children welcome)

Wednesday 7th December: - **10 am** EYFS Christmas Performance
2.00 pm KS1 Christmas Performance (younger children welcome)

Monday 19th December: - Christmas School Service in St Mark's Church at 6.00 pm

Wednesday 21st December - last day of term children return Wednesday 4th January 2017

Baby News

Congratulations to Libby Wilmshurst on the safe arrival of Bertie and to Sarah Smith on the arrival of Frankie!

We would also like to announce that Mrs Hart and Mrs Kington are both expecting and will be going on maternity leave in December and January respectively. We have already started the process of recruiting new teachers to cover their leave.

Parentmail

As this is the first newsletter of the term we are sending all parents a paper copy. Parentmail will be up and running next week. If you have changed your email address or have not yet provided the school office with your email address please would you drop into the office and complete a form. Parentmail is our preferred, and the most secure way of sending letters and information out to parents as it goes directly to your email account.

Class Newsletters

Staff will be sending out class newsletters during this week.

Are you in receipt of Government Benefit payments?

If so please would you register at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals to ensure that the school and your child can benefit from receipt of Pupil Premium Funding.

The school receives **£1300 per registered pupil**, for the 2016 – 17 financial year we will receive £63 360 which will be used to: -

- Provide small group work with an experienced teacher.
- 1-1 support.
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities, either in house or with an external provider.
- Financial support for swimming and curriculum visits.

Receipt of these funds plays a vital part in the education that we can provide for children throughout the school. Many thanks to everyone who is able to apply and does!

Term Dates

Please find attached term dates for 2016/2017.

Clubs

Please complete and return the attached clubs letter if you wish your child(ren) to join any of the clubs. Please note clubs will run even if the weather is unpleasant!

Year 6 Residential Trip 28th – 30th September

Students have been sent a letter regarding this trip. Please would all parents who have not done so return the sign off slip asap. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Mr R Dugate
Headteacher