



St Mark's C E Primary School

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Headteacher



5th January 2018

Newsletter No 15

A message from Mr Bird

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the children back after the Christmas break and introduce myself to you as the new Headteacher at St Mark's C.E Primary School.

Firstly, let me begin by saying what a privilege it is to have been chosen to lead this school forwards in the next part of its journey. Children's education – including their spiritual, moral education and physical wellbeing are at the heart of all I do. I believe strongly that all children should enjoy learning, be actively engaged in their learning and know what experiencing success looks and feels like, are motivated, make consistent progress and have high expectations of what they can achieve so they can succeed in their chosen future.

Underpinning this is the provision of a rich, exciting learning experience for all children and this cannot be done in isolation, as the school should be at the heart of its community. I look forward to working with Staff, Governors, Parents and, most importantly, the children in moving the school forwards, never losing sight of its' distinctive character and what makes it so special to those who work and learn here.

The importance of the family on children and their learning is crucial therefore I will be seeking ways to actively involve you, the families and parents more in your children's education as well as involving the community in the life of the school.

Your thoughts and views on how we can all work together in a meaningful way are always welcome. I am always willing to meet so please come into school or call to find a mutually convenient time.

Mr S Bird
Headteacher

Dates to remember

January 2018

5th (Fri) children return to school

February

1st (Thu) Young Voices concert at the O2

8th (Thu) 9.10 am Year 1 Assembly

9th (Fri) last day of term

19th (Mon) back to school

March

22nd (Thu) 9.10 am Year 2 Assembly

May

14th – 17th SATS week

July

20th (Fri) Last day of school

Reading – 5/5

This term we will again be focussing on reading and would ask that you, an older sibling, Aunty, Grandparent or friend makes just 5 minutes, 5 times a week to hear your child read. We would also like more parents to come into the school to listen to readers, if you are able to help please call in at the school office to arrange for a DBS check. Thank you.

Books, Books, Books

Any unwanted books would be gratefully received in the school, any type and any age range would be lovely. Thank you.

Attendance

Sadly, attendance has dropped below our target figure of 95% (it is now 94.6%). It will be incredibly hard to pull ourselves back up to 95%. We really do need your support to bring your (healthy!) children into school every day.

I know that some parents wonder why we push the importance of attendance, quite simply your children can only progress as you would wish if they are in school. Should they miss a day they miss several teaching sessions and then are forever playing catch up.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Bird
Headteacher