



St Mark's C E Primary School

25th January 2019

Newsletter No 18

No Henry this week

Please remember that all Clubs run by Henry are cancelled this week. Football Monday and Friday, Invasion games Thursday. He is taking his U18 football team to a tournament in Spain.

EYFS staffing

As you will all know Mrs Vale-Taylor is going on maternity leave on Friday 1st February, and we wish her well.

From Monday 4th February, Mrs Miles will be teaching full time in **Camber** with Mrs Parry remaining as the class Teaching Assistant.

Mrs Evans will be teaching 3 days a week in **Windsor**, with Mrs Taylor (2 days). The teaching assistants (Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Lloyd and Miss Thomas) will remain in Windsor.

School ties

As part of the new school uniform year 6 will be wearing white shirts and school ties next academic year. At the end of term 6 we will be presenting the ties to the children so that they can practice tying them over the summer.

We have found a provider Keltic Ties

<https://www.kelticties.co.uk/school-ties/eco-ties/>

who make ties from plastic bottles, who we will be placing our order with. They also allow schools to design their own tie. There is a facility to do this on the website, alternatively attached with this newsletter is a template which the children can use. We would like all the children to have a go. On a practical level it would be best to think school colours and stripes, but we are happy to consider any suggestions.

If we could have the designs back by 25th February, please.

KS1 Disco 3.05 – 4.30 Thursday 31st Jan

Just a reminder of the date and timing of this fun event. We need numbers by Monday please, there are forms available at the office (in the green hanging file).

Dates to remember

(updated weekly, so do just check that nothing has changed!)

January 2019

**31st (Thu) KS1 winter disco
3.05 – 4.30**

February

**4th (Mon) Young Voices at O2
(leave 12 noon return 11pm)**

**5th (Tues) EYFS to Maidstone
Museum**

6th (Wed) Yr 4 America Day

7th (Thu) 9.10 Yr2 Assembly

**8th (fri) Rock Steady Assembly
9.30am**

**9th (Sat) PTA quiz night
7.30pm**

**12th (Tue) Yr2 turn up & sing
at the Assembly Halls**

**13th (Wed) 2nd hand uniform
sale 3pm in the library**

**14th (Thurs) Y2 topic
afternoon 2.45**

15th (Fri) Dino day for EYFS

15th (Fri) Last day of term

25th (Mon) Back to school

March 2019

**4th (Mon) Yr5H Temper
Temper chocolate workshop**

**5th (Tues) Yr5L Temper
Temper chocolate workshop**

**5th (Tues) Parents evening 3.30
– 8pm**

**6th (Weds) Parents evening
3.30 – 6pm *NB correction to
time - sorry***

Reading

Congratulations to all those children who moved up a planet this week ☺

Neptune, Uranus, Saturn,
Jupiter, Mars, Earth, Venus,
Mercury

Aspire, Believe, Succeed

The Early Years outdoor area



The Early Years outdoor area has recently undergone a bit of a makeover with the finishing touches being added by the children this week. The children have access to the outside area throughout the day and the whole curriculum is covered by the activities on offer. Therefore, it is essential that it is inviting, exciting and challenging whatever the season or weather (!). There is now excitement a plenty with a cascading water tray, a stage, a bike ramp, multi height small world trays, massive wooden blocks and a sand pit that you can (and they do) climb into! This week the children helped to fill a space on the grass with bark chippings providing the perfect flooring for the mud kitchen. Take a peep over the fence when you're next passing, they're very lucky children.

If you have any kitchen bits you no longer need then we would be happy to accept donations of pots, pans, cake trays, mixing bowls and large Tupperware pots.



Piano assembly – Monday Jan 28th 10am

For those parents whose children have piano lessons we would like to invite you to listen to your child's playing. The children will be playing as the children come into assembly at 10am.

Hatching Eggs

On Monday year 2 are expecting hatching eggs to arrive, this is very exciting. The chicks should hatch within 2 – 3 days and are here as part of their 'animals including humans' topic that the children are studying. We will only keep them for two weeks at which point they are responsibly rehomed.

Attendance

Parents probably wonder why as a school we believe that attendance is so important.

The table below, hopefully helps to explain

The Effect of Absence on School Progress					
A whole year has 365 days. A school year has only 190 days. This leaves: 175 days to spend on family days, visits, holidays, Shopping, household jobs and other appointments.					
No absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80%
VERY GOOD – best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		WORRYING – less chance of success. Makes it harder for your child to make progress.		SERIOUS CONCERN – your child will find it very difficult to make progress. May result in court action.	

We are required by law to regularly check on overall and individual attendance.

As you can see from the above there is a clear link between regular attendance and academic achievement and social and emotional wellbeing.

We monitor all of our children's attendance and it is part of our school's policy and our commitment to the education of our children to raise our concerns with parents should a child's attendance fall below 95%.

Please understand that we do this in order to raise attendance and strive for the best outcomes for our children. Absence from school should happen only in unavoidable situations.

This week I am please to be able to report that two classes were awarded Attendance Ted, tying with 99.2% . Congratulations.

Punctuality was awarded to Year 2 Pevensey ☺

Class	% Attendance 14 th – 18 th January	Good Book Certificate Friday 25 th January	
EY Camber	94.3	Tommy	For good listening and joining in all week.
EY Windsor	93.2	Paris	For always trying her best.
Yr 1 Arundel	91.4	Tommy	For super sounding out in writing
Yr 1 Bodiam	99.2	Khadeejah	For excellent care with her work.
Y2 Leeds	98.6	Edward	For his fantastic effort all week.
Y2 Pevensey	96.3	Arthur	For his fantastic effort this week with his writing.
Y3 Lewes	96.5	Eban	For his fantastic contributions to guided reading.
Y3 Deal	90.4	Alec	For his investigation skills in science.
Y4 Dover	96.5	Amelia	For working hard to perform in gymnastics
Y4 Farnham	95.1	Jazmin	For working so hard to improve her times tables.
Y5 Hever	93.6	Harry	For challenging himself in maths.
Y5 Lullingstone	99.2	Freya	For working hard on the accuracy of her mental and written methods.
Y6 Rochester	94.3	Keelan	For some outstanding work with Percentages.
Whole School	95.3	Total for year 95.9.% to date (target 96%) ☹ ☹ ☹ NOW BELOW TARGET	



The House Cup was won by Mercury

'Home for Good'

The Diocese of Rochester is very supportive of 'Home for Good' and its excellent work in supporting the need for high quality fostering and adoption.

Attached with this newsletter is a flyer with details of their scheme.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Bird
Headteacher