

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to you all and a warm welcome to our new Reception parents/carers and the Reception children. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break; albeit in somewhat autumnal weather.

I am absolutely delighted to have joined St Mark's this term and I am looking forward to getting to know the whole school community over the coming weeks. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Bhela to Year 5/6 and Mrs Bishop who will be teaching Yr3/4 on Thursdays and Fridays.

We are really looking forward to settling the children back into the routines of school. Today, we have focused on the expectations for the year ahead, our school Christian CIRCLE values and how every child is valued and equal and we all look after each other. We will also be re-launching our LEARNING Values this term – Thinking, Spirituality, Independence, Interdependence and Creativity. These LEARNING Values drive our curriculum. They are developed progressively over the seven years of primary education and ensure our children are successful learners.

A few general reminders:

- The gates on both the Queens Road and High Street side of the school will be opened at 8.35am to allow children and parents to wait on the playground for a member of staff to open to children's entrance door and welcome the children into school. The gates will be closed at 8.50am; if you arrive late at school please press the call button and the office staff will be able to release to gate for you. All parents and carers should accompany any late children to the school office and sign them into the late arrivals book. If you need access during the school day for appointments etc., please press the call button and the gate will be released by the office staff to allow access.
- At the end of the school day the gates will be opened at 3.15pm to allow parents access to the playground to wait for their child/children to be dismissed.
- Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform, at all times. This should be clearly named.
- Hair that is shoulder length, or longer, should be tied back.
- Morning snacks must only be fruit, vegetables or cheese.
- We are strictly a NO NUT school.
- Any children scooting or biking to school MUST wear a helmet. Please supervise your child putting their bike or scooter in the bike rack.

Dates for your diary:

There are so many exciting things happening this term and so please look below for the diary dates so that you don't miss out, and be sure to put all the dates in your diary now!

Next we will be holding a 'Welcome Information Meeting' in school, for Years 1-6, which will provide you with the opportunity to meet me and your child's teacher,

discuss your child's new routines in their classrooms, as well as answer any questions you may have.

All meetings will take place at 9am, in the school hall:

Year 1/2 with Mrs Smith - Tuesday 12th September @ 09:00

Year 3/4 with Mrs Hagan - Wednesday 13th September @ 09:00

Year 5/6 with Mrs Bhela - Thursday 14th September @ 09:00

Copies of all the slides will be uploaded to the school website and sent to all parents via Scopay after the meeting.

Other dates for the Autumn Term:

13 September @ 15:20	PTA Welcome BBQ
28 September	Flu Immunisations for children (in school)
11 October @ 14:30	Harvest Festival in St Mark's Church
16 – 20 October	Book Fair in School
21 – 29 October	HALF TERM – NO SCHOOL FOR PUPILS
30 October	INSET Day – NO SCHOOL FOR PUPILS
7 November @ 15:00 – 17:30	Parent Consultations
8 November @ 15:00 – 19:30	Parent Consultations
17 November	Individual and sibling photographs (in school)
2 December @ 11:00 – 13:30	PTA Christmas Fayre
13 December @ 14:00	Nativity in St Mark's Church
14 December @ 17:00	Carols Singing
15 December @ 13:30	End of term – 13:30 pick up
2 January 2024	INSET Day – NO SCHOOL FOR PUPILS

Additional dates will follow in the half termly newsletters.

I look forward to seeing you at our Welcome and Community events.

For now, enjoy the much awaited late summer!

Vicky Ellis

Headteacher