



St Mark's C.E. Primary School

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Week 4 Headteacher's update

Dear Parents,

Well I can't believe we're half-way through this half-term already! It has raced by and the children have settled so well into the new school year. It has been a busy start with so many exciting learning activities taking place every day in school. Myself, Mrs Jones and Mrs Williams already feel very much part of the St Mark's family so thank you to everyone for making us feel so welcome.

There are just a few updates to share with you at this point in the half-term:

Parent helpers in school: I have been so pleased to see how active parents are at St Mark's in helping plan PTA events, helping with garden or T-set, volunteering to help on trips etc. Having the support of parents makes such a difference to our offer to the children. I would love to see parents coming in to help out in school and one way that you might be interested in being more involved is as a parent reader. I truly believe that reading is the key to success and unlocks so many learning opportunities for every child. So, if you can spare some time to come in and help celebrate reading by reading 1:1 with children in school, we'd love to hear from you. As part of our ongoing focus on safeguarding, we do require all parent helpers to have a DBS check so they are compliant and able to help in school. If you are interested in becoming a regular parent helper at St Mark's then please do contact Mrs Watson in the school office who can arrange for a DBS check to be carried out.

Parent's Evenings: As per the dates on my Autumn 1 newsletter, we would like to invite you to come and meet with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress so far and how they have settled into school this year. These meetings will take place in person in school.

This year, I would like to trial inviting the children in Key Stage 2 (Sapphire and Diamond classes) to join their teacher and parents at this meeting to help them make the best of the opportunities available to them and to enable a three-way conversation about what is working well and any target areas etc. Please make alternative childcare arrangements for any children in Ruby or Emerald Class during any appointments that you make.

Parent Evening dates for this term are: Monday 21st October 3.30-5.30 and Wednesday 21st October 4.00-7.00. These meetings will be available to book from Monday 7th October.

The appointments are for 10 minutes each and our teachers will stick to this time to ensure no parents are kept waiting unnecessarily – a bell will be rung every 10 minutes to signal the time.

Free access to Emotional Health resources: Our school has access to a range of resources to help parents and children support their emotional health. These resources can be accessed via the following NHS website: [Online courses for emotional health and wellbeing \(inourplace.co.uk\)](http://inourplace.co.uk)

This website provides access to a range of online support to better understand children's emotional health, brain development and wellbeing for free and covers topics such as: sleep, relationships, emotions etc.

I look forward to continuing working with you all over the next few weeks and seeing you at the upcoming Parents Evening sessions.

Yours sincerely,

C Wright

Mrs Clare Wright
Executive Headteacher