

Wednesday 7th September 2016

September 2016 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope each of you and your families enjoyed the summer holidays and are suitably recharged for another busy year ahead. Please find below information for the upcoming half term alongside a refresher of one or two school routines and policies.

The school day

A reminder that for Key stage 1 and 2 **school starts at 8.55 am (Nursery 9:00am/Reception 8:50am)** At this time your child should be lining up on the playground alongside the other children in his/her class ready to come into school. In the interest of safety and once through the school gates in the morning, **all children must remain on the playground** and not play on the school field, in woodland areas or use climbing frames/climbing walls/adventure trails or any other equipment. *This ruling also applies at the end of the school day.* Bikes/scooters are not permitted to be ridden on the school premises at any times and ball games are also not allowed before/after school. *Could parents/carers not line up alongside children or follow children into school once collected by the class teacher unless you need to speak to a member of staff urgently.* Should you wish to speak to a member of staff about something can we ask you approach them at the end of the school day so as to allow the day to begin promptly.

School finishes at 3:30pm We do appreciate that from time to time there may be a reason that your child is late. If this should occur your child **must** collect a late slip from the school office reception. If you are late in picking your child up, please telephone the school office as soon as possible and then collect your child from the school office reception. On arrival, you must inform the office staff that you are late collecting your child and must sign your child out in the book by the office. Can we please ask you make any adult who is late collecting a child aware of this procedure.

If your child has forgotten an item that is needed that day, and you wish to bring it in for them, this should be dropped in at the office. Unfortunately, office staff cannot make telephone calls home regarding forgotten items, in particular any sports kits. Should a child forget their packed lunch the school will provide them with a meal to be paid for the next day.

We are happy to administer medication for your child. A medicine authorisation form must be filled out and signed for us to do so and any medication handed in to the school office. Inhalers also need to be left in the school office.

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please notify the school office in advance and please provide a copy of the appointment card/letter for our files.

If you have given permission for your child to bring a mobile phone to school, this must be switched off and left in the school office during the school day.

Please note that teaching staff or office staff cannot accept cash payment unless it is in a named envelope.

School Uniform <http://www.stmarksce.co.uk/index2.php?p=3.1>

A reminder of the ruling on earrings; Studded earrings remain the only ones permitted in school and **must be removed for any PE lesson.** The only exception will be those children with **recently pierced** ears who are unable to remove the earrings for 4-6 weeks. We will now permit them to wear plasters (**to be brought in from home**) over their ears for PE sessions.

The school requests children do not have extreme haircuts including Mohawk cuts, patterns shaved into the hair and excessive use of hair products. We also ask that long hair is tied back **for both girls and boys** in the interest of hygiene and safety.

Nail varnish or make up are not permitted in school. We fully appreciate children may have worn them for occasions over the weekend or a weekday evening but can we please ask they be removed before coming to school. In the

interest of safety no bracelets or bands are to be worn in school. We recognise many bands are a holiday keepsake or for a charitable cause but would ask the children wear them out of school.

School Improvements

You may have noticed the new pieces of equipment that have appeared in and around the woodland area next to the KS2 playground. We are delighted to have been able to install both a climbing wall and an adventure trail to be used by the KS2 children during their breaks and lunchtime. However, one major problem we have already encountered, given the location of both these pieces of new equipment, is children getting their shoes muddy and also then walking the mud into school. Could we therefore ask that you send in an **old** pair of shoes/trainers in a bag with your child/ren to be kept in school, from today onwards, for when they use the equipment. Obviously on days (like Monday) when the weather makes the areas unsuitable for children or when there has been a lot of rainfall over a given period the children will not be using the wall/trail. Please note this is for KS2 children only.

We were fortunate over the Summer to have been able to replace the windows around school from the KS2 playground to the main reception. The work was much needed and we hope you agree makes those areas of the school look in keeping with the rest of the buildings.

Please note the planned renovation work taking place on each of the two staircases leading up to the upper juniors (Year 5 and 6) over Summer was subject to delay. The work will now take place this Autumn. Rest assured there will be minimal disruption with school open as normal and work taking place on one staircase at a time. Further details will follow in the next couple of weeks.

Dates for the diary

Monday 12th September: 9:15am Key Stage 1 start of year service in school hall. Parents/Carers welcome

Monday 12th September: 4:30 – 5:00 pm Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 open evening

Wednesday 14th September: 4:30-5:00pm Year 3 open evening

Thursday 15th September: 4:30-5:00pm Year 6 open evening

All open evenings will take place within your child's classroom and are a general information sharing session for the upcoming year. Should you be unable to attend the sessions, or feel you are already familiar with routines; all relevant information will be made available following on from the evening.

Tuesday 20th September: 9:15-10:15am Key Stage 1 Reading workshop

Thursday 22nd September: 9:15-10:15am Key Stage 2 Reading workshop

Tuesday 27th September: 2:30pm Key Stage 2 Harvest Festival in church.

Tuesday 11th October: School photographs

Friday 21st October: School closes for half term

Tuesday 1st November: School reopens

Thank you as always for your continued support

Mr. D Kay