

2018



2018

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Where every child matters and every day counts.

St Mark's School JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! A warm welcome back from us all. The children have settled back well in to school routines and learning.

Already, the children have embarked on new learning journeys and we look forward to opening the doors for class museums, so the children can share their learning with you.

We have received the very exciting news that we have secured funding to develop the playground and outdoor learning spaces. The East Brighton Trust have awarded us £10,000 per year for the next 3 years! We can't wait to create a space to be proud of that the children and community can enjoy.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and successful term ahead.

SOME CHRISTMAS CRACKERS!!

Thank you for your support for our traditional Christmas celebrations. These events really helped make the end of term go with a bang!!

Dress as an Elf Thank you to your enthusiasm and generosity in supporting this fantastic charity! St Mark's raised an impressive £127.47 towards helping sick children.

Thank you also for your support at the PTA **School Disco**, which raised a superb **£692.87**

As always, the performances were a triumph! Well done to the Infant Team, and thank you for coming along to celebrate your children's star talents! These are the moments that make a school a special place, and build special memories to cherish.

Universal Credit

If you are a family who was not previously eligible for Free School Meals, due to working tax credit, **but are now in receipt of Universal Credit**, please let the school office know, as soon as you have received your first payment.

The criteria has changed and you may be eligible for Free School Meals.

Even if your child is in the Infants, please let us know, as the school receives funding to help the children based on free school meals.



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CLASS NEWS



Starfish Class

Reception have made a great start on our new topic 'All Creatures Great And Small.' We have started our learning by using the book 'Where The Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak to think about what wild means and have been using our imaginations to create our own crazy creature.



Dolphin Class

Dolphin class have made a great start to the spring term. The children were delighted when two boxes of precious animals arrived in class! The children have used the animals to inspire their writing. Dolphin class are now also using the story Mr Gumpys Outing to help them write some exciting journey stories.

Dolphin class are also really lucky to have Miss Cowling working with them this term in PE. All the children are developing their gymnastic skills. I have already seen great rolling, climbing, balancing & travelling. Great learning Dolphin Class- well done!

Penguin Class



The class have been enjoying learning about Space and the first man on the moon. They are writing their own amazing journey stories, which I'm sure you will enjoy reading.

Poor Mrs Bailey has been off with a bad back, and we can't wait to see her back very soon. We are very proud of how the children have continued to do their best. Thank you to Mrs Davis and the Year 2 team.

Seahorse Class



Seahorses have settled back into school well after the break and made me feel very welcome. We are enjoying learning about mountains and volcanoes as part of our Explorer topic. Additionally, we have been developing our learning skills by discovering all about how to have a Growth mind set and how it can help further our learning. We have also been partitioning (splitting) numbers into hundreds, tens and units and successfully multiplying by 10 and 100. Fantastic learning Seahorses, keep it up!



Jelly Fish Class

Jellyfish class have settled straight back to their learning in 2018 and are enjoying being Explorers! currently learning all about mountains -how they are formed and where they can be found. They know about the structure of the Earth and how when tectonic plates separate, magma can rise to the surface as volcanoes! We are even making our own models in Design Technology. Super!



Sea Turtle Class

Sea Turtles have been delighted to welcome Carly from 'Albion in the Community' to our class on Tuesdays. As part of the Premier Stars programme, Carly has been working with groups of children to encourage them with their reading and attitudes to learning. She will also be lending her expertise our P.E. lessons. Sea Turtles have just begun their new topic 'The Romans' and have recently been discussing whether or not we would have invaded 'Britannia' if we had been Emperor. We are also continuing to enjoy the opportunity to have Dance and French lessons at Brighton and Hove High School.



Blue Whale Class

Year 6 had a very successful week with Into University. They learned about different aspects of journalism, visited Sussex County Cricket Ground, where they met the person responsible for Public Relations and graduated on Friday in front of parents and carers after a tour of Sussex University. Thank you to parents and carers for a fantastic turnout to support your children.



Premier League Primary Stars

Albion in the Community are a proud delivery partner of the Premier League Primary Stars programme, designed to use the appeal of the Premier League and professional football clubs to inspire children to learn, be active and develop important life skills.

Carly Farrell from Albion in the Community will be working in your school for one day a week this term delivering The Premier League Primary Stars Programme. Carly will deliver high quality interventions targeted at whole classes, small groups or individuals which aims to:

- Improve children's physical literacy
- Improve teachers' confidence in delivering PE
- Increase children's confidence in English activities
- Improve children's communication skills and resilience.

This will be done via The Premier League Reading Stars literacy programme, PSHE, girls' lunch football and PE lessons.

For more information go to: <https://plprimarystars.com/>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Let's Dance - 22nd March 2018 - Year 3

Pro Kick - Sports Challenge - all day event 21st March 2018

Cuckmere Haven Year 3/4 Trip 21st February 2018

East Sussex Fire & Rescue in to see Years 4 & 6 - 26th February

EASTER SERVICE: 27th March at 10 am (venue to be confirmed)

Don't forget half term - w/c 12th February 2018

A FEW REMINDERS

UNIFORM The St Mark's uniform supports our school's aspirational ethos and is an important part in raising standards for all pupils. We believe that a school in which the uniform is smart and consistent provides the opportunity for all pupils to stand out through their talents and abilities. We have noticed that standards are slipping with some children wearing shoes that are not suitable for school, and are not the standard, plain black shoes. **Please support us by ensuring your child wears the correct uniform and shoes to school.**

HEALTHY SNACKS We are a Healthy School and children can have a fruit snack at break-time, to keep their energy levels up! Please be reminded that only fruit can be brought in as a snack—we need brain food!

PICK UPS For safeguarding reasons, we need to ensure we have up to date lists of who can collect your child. **We also need to know by midday if there is a change to the usual pick up.** Of course, we understand that on occasion, there may be emergency changes, but we need to alert classes in good time to avoid disruption.

STAFF AND GOVERNOR NEWS

I am very, very sad to inform you that Mrs Henrick—our super talented Nursery Nurse for Reception class is leaving us on Friday 26th January. Mrs Henrick is one of the most gifted practitioners I have had the pleasure to work with. Her passion for early years education has helped to transform our early years setting and her warm, personal and nurturing approach to caring for and teaching our children will be greatly missed. Mrs Henrick will be taking a leadership role in a Brighton and Hove Nursery. We wish her all the very best for the future.

We are delighted to welcome Poppy Clarke to the post and will begin on Mon 29th January. Ms Clarke is a very experienced Nursery Nurse and some of you may remember her when she worked here in the Summer Term in Reception. We look forward to welcoming her.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Becky Grinyer** for the wonderful energy she has brought to the governing body team. Becky is stepping down as parent governor, and we will all miss her lively and enthusiastic contributions. If you would like to take on this exciting role, and help to shape your child's education, please see the attached parent governor nomination form.

We are proud to support teacher training, and welcome student teachers, as we support them on their important journey. **Miss McNabola** in Blue Whale Class and **Mr Detlaff** In Seahorse Class.



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