A NOTE FROM MRS STOCCHETTI

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to you all! I do hope you have all had a wonderful summer break; from my discussions with the children they all seem to have had an enjoyable break and they have all suddenly grown so tall!

During our in-set day last week the staff said that it didn't feel the same without the children here and testament to that was when asking the children what was the best thing about being back at school, one child said,

“it now feels like all the family are back together.”

We welcome Mr Adam Chambers, our 3/4 class teacher, and Mr Toby Leivers, a SCITT teacher (School Centred Initial Teacher Trainee) who is based in Year R with Mrs Miles. Mr Leivers will be with us for the whole academic year as he trains alongside Mrs Miles. We are also delighted that Mrs Hagan and Mrs Wheatland have returned to the St Mark's family from their maternity leave.

Our final welcome is to all of our new Reception parents/carers and the Reception children; we are really looking forward to settling them into the routines of school. It won’t take long for them all to feel at home and I know that you will all offer our new parents a warm welcome.

The first few days back has focused on the new routines and expectations for the year ahead. We have re-visited our school Christian CIRCLE values and how every child is valued and equal, and how we all look after each other. Classes have been very busy and there have been some spectacular pieces of art work produced from the juniors, who were learning new art skills and recreating their own artistic impressions from the work of George Seurat and Pier Mondrian.

By now you will have noticed that we have had electronic gates installed for the safeguarding of our pupils and to improve the security of the site. 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 the 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 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.

This term is set to be a busy one! So... to help you get organised we have outlined important dates and information for you below. Of course, don’t forget to visit our website for class updates and the latest news!

Mrs Stocchetti

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 15:7
**Home School Agreement**

A Home School Agreement will be sent home with your child. Successful schools depend on good partnerships with the parents. This is why we begin each year with our promise to you and ask you to discuss this agreement with your child in an age appropriate way.

We would be grateful if you would return the single sheet of paper to the school office by Friday 20 September.

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**IMPORTANT—Collection by another Adult**

In line with safeguarding, if your child is to be collected by another adult (other than those already advised to us), the child’s parent MUST contact the school by phone or email to let us know, prior to collection.

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**Parent T-Set**

2:30pm Friday 11th October 2019

All Welcome!

Come along and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake and get to know other St Mark’s families. The PTA will also be attending and holding a short AGM during this time.

At St Mark’s, being a parent or carer means you are all automatically members of the PTA - what a privilege! This important role exists for the benefit of the whole school, and works to bring families together to create a sense of community through fund raising for your children. The PTA welcomes as many parents as possible and this is important when it comes to deciding how the funds should be spent and the success of the events that are run throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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**Back to School Family BBQ!**

Friday 20th September, 3.20-5.00pm

Everybody is welcome to this event!

Come along and enjoy fun and games, and the PTA will be offering food and drink to purchase.

A chance to meet other parents as well as the teachers, Governors and PTA.
T-SET

T-Set for the children (when they can buy a drink and a cake for 50p) will start on Friday 13th September.

Children should bring their 50p to school in a marked purse or envelope to give to the T-Set volunteers.

Volunteers are always needed so if you would like to help out on a Friday afternoon please tick the attached proforma and return to the school office.

On Friday 27th September the money raised from T-Set will be sent to Macmillan Cancer Support as part of their ‘World’s Biggest Coffee Morning’ fundraising day. If you would like to send an extra donation on this day it would be much appreciated (or any extra special cakes too!).

**Dates for your Diary**

- **Fri 13 Sept**  T-Set starts
- **Wed 18 Sept**  Judo Club for Juniors starts after school 3.30-4.30pm
- **Thurs 19 Sept**  Thursday Cheerleading Club starts 7.45am
- **Thurs 19 Sept**  Parents Reading Meeting 5.45pm KS1 & KS2
- **Fri 20 Sept**  Friday Cheerleading Club starts 7.45am
- **Fri 20 Sept**  3.20-5.00pm Back to School Family BBQ
- **Fri 20 Sept**  Deadline to return Home School Agreements
- **23-26 Sept**  Book Fair at School - come and browse the great selection of Scholastic books!
- **Wed 25 Sept**  9.00am - Meeting for Reception Parents
- **Fri 27 Sept**  T-Set in aid of Macmillan
- **Thurs 3 Oct**  Infant Trip (details to follow)
- **Thurs 10 Oct**  Harvest Festival Service at St Mark’s Church 2.30pm. *Children to be collected from the CHURCH at 3.20pm*
- **Fri 11 Oct**  Parent T-Set for all to include PTA AGM
- **Thurs 17 Oct**  2.30pm Reception Class Topic Outcome; Stay & Play for parents
- **Thurs 17 Oct**  PTA School Discos - more info to come from the PTA
- **Wed 23 Oct**  Drop off your bags of clothes for ‘Recycle with Michael’ this morning.
- **Wed 23 Oct**  Last Day of term & £1 Mufti Day
- **Thurs 24 Oct**  INSET Day
- **Fri 25 Oct**  INSET Day
- **26 Oct - 3 Nov**  - Half Term Holiday
- **Back to School Monday 4 November**

**Reminders for next Half Term:** (details later)

- **Mon 4 Nov**  Individual School Photographs
- **Tues 12 Nov**  Parents evening: 3.30-5.30pm (Class 3/4: 4.30-5.30pm)
- **Wed 13 Nov**  Parents evening 5-8pm (Class 3/4: 4-8pm)
- **11-15 Nov**  Anti-Bullying Week
- **Fri 20 Dec**  Last day of term 1.30pm finish

**Church Services for 2019-2020:**

- **Thurs 10th Oct**  Harvest Festival 2.30m St Mark’s Church
- **Wed 11 Dec**  2.00pm Infant Nativity at St Mark’s Church
- **Wed 18 Dec**  6.00pm Whole School Carol service at St Mark’s Church

All children have a part to play in these services. If your child is unable to attend due to a clash of dates please let the school know as soon as possible to avoid children being given parts and then being upset if they are unable to come.

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**School Dinners**

School Dinners for junior children have now increased to £2.40 per day. There is no charge for Infants.

Costs for this term are:

- Daily: £2.40
- Weekly: £12.00
- Half Term: £84.00

**Projects This Half Term**

- Reception: Reception Rules!
- Class 1/2: We’re Going to the Zoo
- Class 3/4: Game Zone
- Class 5/6: The Art of Being Human
**Harvest Festival Service - Thursday 10th October 2019**

**2.30pm At St Mark’s Church**

At our annual Harvest Festival Service, we are again supporting the Farnborough Food Bank. They are committed to helping those in the local community who need support by providing essential food parcels. Thirteen million people live below the poverty line in the UK, with individuals going hungry every day for a range of reasons and that is why our food donations this year are absolutely vital. Without our goodwill, food banks would really struggle to operate. Therefore we are asking for donations to enable us to provide food parcels to those who are in need of them within our community.

This year we are specifically asking for donations of **tinned meat or fish**, as this is what is most needed by Farnborough Food Bank.

*Please collect your child from the Church at 3.20pm.*

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**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER**

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 4th November (the day we return after half term). Your child will automatically be photographed individually and with siblings.

If you wish to have photographs to include a pre-school child, please complete the attached proforma and could you please arrive in school by 8.30am on that morning.

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**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT IN SCHOOL?**

If you have some free time and would like to volunteer at school, (for instance hearing readers/art/gardening) please complete the attached proforma!

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**Important Beginning of Term Reminders!**

**Water Bottles** - we encourage the children to drink water regularly and water bottles are kept in class. Bottles are available from the school office for £1.50. **PLEASE ENSURE ALL BOTTLES ARE NAMED AND TRANSPARENT** (no metal bottles).

**Packed Lunches** - as a healthy school please see our Whole School Food Policy on our website to see what can be included in your child’s packed lunch.

**Uniform** - Please ensure that all uniform, PE kit, and coats are named in a permanent way. Shoes should be well fitting to protect your children’s feet while they are still growing. Please ensure that PE Kit is in school every day.

**Break Time Snack** - all children are welcome to bring a healthy snack such as fresh/dried fruit, vegetables or cheese. Other snacks are not permitted.

**Safety!**

When in the playground please keep small children with you and do not let them play on the railings, steps or near the netball posts.

Do not park or pull in on the zig-zag lines outside the school at any time.

**Timekeeping** - children should be in school by 8.50am. Late arrivals are disruptive for the class and can be upsetting for the child. Arrivals into class after 9.00am are registered as unauthorised absence. Please collect children promptly at 3.20pm, as staff often have meetings and jobs to complete after this time.
Year 6 Walking Home

If you would like your Year 6 child to walk home on their own, please send in a letter or email giving permission, with details of exactly what days they are allowed to do this if applicable.

Online Payments

We have now become a cashless school and all payments for school dinners, trips & activities should be made via the Tucasi Schools Cash Office system (scopay.com).

All parents were sent a letter explaining how to set up their account, with an activation code. If you have not yet set up your account and have mislaid your letter with the activation code, please contact the school office.

Pupil Premium Funding

Children with parents in receipt of the following benefits trigger valuable funding from the government for our school:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Therefore we would ask all parents in receipt of any of the above to please ensure that they let us know. If your child is of Junior age this will also entitle your them to free school meals. All information will be treated with complete confidentiality. There is an easy online system for registration - please log onto: www.hants.gov.uk/hc3s

Recycling

We are still collecting MILK BOTTLE TOPS. Please note that we can ONLY take CLEAN PLASTIC MILK BOTTLE TOPS. Anything else is classed as contamination and our whole batch would be wasted! Mrs Lewis and St Mark’s Church have kindly agreed to continue the collections as we have difficulty with storing them all. They will continue to collect on behalf of Naomi House Children's Hospice.

The school council are also collecting ink cartridges to recycle. The collection box is in the school entrance.

We also have a collection box for stamps in the entrance. These are collected in aid of the SANDS charity, kindly co-ordinated by one of our parents.
Please Visit Our School Website: www.stmarkscofe.co.uk

Please do make use of our school website! It has up to date information on events happening at school which you can check on the ‘Calendar Dates’. You can look at copies of our Newsletters and letters home (copies will be under ‘parents’, ‘letters home’). A copy of the Hampshire term dates with our INSET days is also here under ‘parents’ ‘term dates’.

You can also keep up to date with what is happening in your child’s class by visiting the class pages, and if for instance the school had to close due to bad weather this would be reported in the scrolling banner across the top of the Home Page.

School Milk Scheme

Our school milk is provided by a company called Cool Milk. They will provide subsidised milk for your child to have at school break time, and free milk for those under 5 years of age.

For more information go to: www.coolmilk.com

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

It is a parents’ legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly. Absence can only be authorised due to exceptional circumstances after a discussion with the Headteacher. Hampshire County Council will issue fixed penalty notices of £60 per child per parent if a child has unauthorised absence from school. Further details can be found on our website.

If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please telephone the school office by 8.50am in the morning to let us know. Your child will be recorded as an unauthorised absence until we have confirmed the reason for their absence.

Routine medical appointment, e.g. dental check ups or non-emergency medical appointments, should be made outside of school hours.

INSET DAYS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

Thursday 24 October 2019
Friday 25 October 2019
Monday 24 February 2020
Monday 1 June 2020

IMPORTANT—KEEPING YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE

If any of your contact details change - mobile/home telephone numbers or address, please let us know as soon as possible so that we are able to contact you in case of emergency.

Thank you.
Before and After School Clubs

**Judo Club (Juniors)** starts on Wednesday 18th September 3.30pm, and will run until Wednesday 11th December. The cost is £36.00.

**Cheerleading (Years 1-6)** will start on Thursday & Friday 19/20 September 7.45am, and runs until 5/6 December, cost £20.00.

There are still plenty of places for both these clubs - please pick up a form from the blue letter holder in the school entrance and return to the office if your child would like to take part in either of these clubs.

More clubs.....

We will be sending out details of more clubs for the children soon..... Watch this space!

Long Hair Tied Back Please!

Could you please ensure that if your child has hair that reaches their shoulders, then it is tied back.

Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

Please, please, please can we ask you to name ALL items that your child brings to school, including snack pots and water bottles. We already have a collection of items after just a few days!

A company called My Nametags sells sets of black and white labels with a mix of 75 iron-on and 75 stick-on labels. These are a cost effective way of ensuring that your child's belongings are clearly marked and can be easily returned to them.

https://www.mynametags.com/our-products

When ordering from My Nametags if you use our school ID 22198 the school will receive a 20% commission on sales.

Alternatively Brenda's also supply a variety of name tags these can be viewed on this website at https://www.brendas.co.uk/collections/name-labels. Brenda's name tags may also ordered online and the iron on tags can be printed for you while you are in the shop!

Please help us to help you! Ensure ALL your child's belongings are clearly labelled.

Advance Warning for Parents Evenings:

**Tuesday 12th November:** 3.30-5.30pm
Class 3/4: 4.30-5.30pm

**Wednesday 13th November:** 5.00-8.00pm
Class 3/4: 4.00-8.00pm

Sign up sheets for selecting your 10 minute time slot will go up in the school entrance the week before.

Parent Support Advisor

Our Parent Support Advisor, Linda Parry, is always available should you have any worries or concerns.

She can be contacted at linda.parry@wavell.hants.sch.uk
Tel: 07394 563002

My name is ...
PLEASE EITHER RETURN THE SLIPS TO SCHOOL OR YOU CAN EMAIL TO: adminoffice@st-marks.hants.sch.uk

School Photographer

The Photographer will be in school on Monday 4th November 8.30 a.m. If you wish to have photographs to include a pre-school child, could you please arrive in school by 8.30 on that morning.

I would like my child to be photographed together with preschool children

Name: __________________________________________

________________________________________________

Parent Helpers

I am already a parent helper and would like to continue as a volunteer in class _____

I am interested in becoming a parent helper □

Parent’s name: ______________________________________

Your child’s name (s): ________________________________

________________________________________________

T-Set

□ I would be interested in being on the Tea Set rota to help on a Friday afternoon (approx. 2.15 – 3.00pm)

Name: _______________________________________________