A NOTE FROM MRS STOCCHETTI

Dear Parents & Carers

A very warm welcome back to all our families, we hope that you have all had an enjoyable and restful break with your families.

After a busy half term, filled with activities, I now urge you to take some time to consider the charity that is very close to our heart.....the children in the St George’s Foundation orphanage in Sierra Leone. Christmas is a very difficult time for the children, some with little prospect of being reunited with a family member and face a future of uncertainty. I am delighted to tell you that following our fundraising ‘big dance off’ last year, the funds we sent enabled the children to have a wonderful Christmas party, so a HUGE thank you for your generous donations (see photos below!). This year we would like to send each child a Christmas box and ‘ready to go’ box (for when they leave the orphanage) again and we hope that you will continue to support this valuable and wonderful act of kindness. Details regarding the boxes and what to include in them will be sent out soon.

We now have a new Junior Road Safety Team, Robert and Brooke. They are now busy planning new exciting events for the school and they hope to write their first newsletter to you very soon – look out for it this term.

Parent evenings will take place next week on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th November. Sign-up sheets are now in the front entrance, please ensure that you come in and book your slot. This is an opportunity for you to see how your child has settled in to their new class during the 10 minute appointment. A reminder that no children should be brought to these appointments, as there is no supervision and children may not be left unattended for safeguarding reasons as the school will be an open site.
Next week our worships will be focusing on Remembrance with a very special worship at St Mark’s Church on Monday 11th November. Poppies are now available here at school, the children can bring in a donation to receive a poppy. Anti-bullying week takes place 11-15th November; we will once again be taking part in a variety of PSHE activities including our visit to the cinema. The preparations for Christmas will be starting in the next few weeks, including our Nativity and Carol service at St Mark’s church, the PTA Christmas Fair and Carol Singing at local venues.

As the weather seems to be turning rather chilly, could all the children please remember to come to school in a warm coat, plus hats and gloves (all named please!).

I am delighted to announce that we have a new parent governor who will be joining our governing body and we offer a warm welcome to Mrs Lisa Dale.

As you will be aware, the welfare of our children and their safety is paramount at all times. As with all schools, we have a legal duty to ensure our children are kept safe from harm and report any concerns to the local authority. In addition, it is a requirement for all schools to complete an annual safeguarding children audit. The local safeguarding children board (LSCB) uses the annual audit return to ensure that all educational establishments in Hampshire are meeting their requirements under statutory guidance. Mrs Carrie Addison is the governor responsible for safeguarding children at St Mark’s. Mrs Addison joined me in September to carry out this year’s audit and she was pleased to report that the audit went well, and no concerns were found. To ensure we continue to maintain our high standard, Mrs Addison will regularly review the effectiveness of our safeguarding children policy.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all those who returned sponsorship forms for our NSPCC Big Well-being workout – you raised over £419 for the NSPCC, ensuring that they can continue with their very important work.

Our welcoming committee have been very busy showing prospective parents around the school and so far have shown more than 35 parents around our school and we still have two more sessions to go. If your child is due to start school in September 2020, and you would like to come and see the school in action, please contact the office and book a place. The feedback from the parents about the welcoming committee has been outstanding.

You may have noticed the new playground markings that were done over the half term holiday, as well as some artificial turf being placed around the wooden mushrooms in the Queens Road playground. A big thank you to the PTA for funding this and for all their hard work organising events which help fund projects like this at school for the benefit of all the children!

Please make a note of all the important notices and dates below, and don’t forget to visit our website - www.stmarkscofe.co.uk - for up to date news of what is going on with all our classes, school activities and lots more.

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased”
Hebrews 13:16
Christmas Nativity  
Wednesday 11th December 2.00pm  
St Mark’s Church  
The Infants will be performing their nativity  
‘Everyone Loves a Baby’ supported by the  
Juniors. All family and friends are welcome to  
attend.  

Please collect your child from the church at  
3.20pm on this day.

Whole School Carol Concert  
18th December at 6.00pm  
St Mark’s Church  
All the children will be involved in this service,  
led by the Juniors and supported by the Infants.  
We look forward to seeing you all there!  
If for some reason your child is unable to attend  
this service, please let us know in writing as soon  
as possible.

School Dinners  
School Dinners for junior children cost  
£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

Odd Socks Day’ for Anti-bullying week  
and BBC Children in Need

On Friday 15th November we will be having an ‘odd  
socks’ day for anti-bullying week. We would also like  
to help raise money for Children in Need.  
Children are welcome to bring Pudsey Ears to wear  
with their odd socks, but it will not be a mufti day.  
We would suggest a donation of £1 or more.  
Don’t forget your 50p for T-Set as normal!  
Thank you!

Projects this half-term

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Poppy Appeal 2019

Poppies are now available in school! Please  
send in a donation with your child if they  
would like a poppy.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 4 Nov  School Photographer to take individual photographs
Fri 8 Nov  Friendship Workshop (and understanding the term bullying) with our Parent Support Advisor
11-15 Nov  Anti-Bullying Week
Tues 12 Nov  Years 1-6 Cinema Trip - Juniors require packed lunch. Please complete the online permission if you have not yet done so.
Tues 12 Nov  Parent/teacher consultations; see lists for timings
Wed 13 Nov  Parent/teacher consultations; see lists for timings
Fri 15 Nov  Wear odd socks day for anti bullying week and Children in Need - £1 donation suggested
Fri 22 Nov  Mufti Day for Christmas Fair Tombola donations of chocolate & bottles. More details soon from the PTA
Fri 22 Nov  Whole School Flu immunisations
Sat 23 Nov  Christmas Fair 2:00-5:00pm at Church Hall
Mon 2 Dec  Parent Workshop - 9.00am Top Ten Tips for parents by Linda Parry, Parent Support Advisor
Thurs 5 Dec  Last Cheerleading Club
Wed 11 Dec  Infant Nativity at 2.00pm St Mark’s Church—PLEASE COLLECT YOUR CHILD FROM THE CHURCH
Wed 11 Dec  Last Judo Club - will take place as normal - please let us know if you would like us to walk your child back to school for this.
Wed 18 Dec  Whole School Carol Concert at St Mark’s Church 6.00pm
Thurs 19 Dec  School Christmas Dinner for the children
Fri 20 Dec  Last day of school and £1 Mufti Day 1.30pm finish

Back to school
Monday 6th January 2020

PTA Christmas Fair

This year the Christmas Fair is being held at St Mark’s Church Hall.

Tombola Mufti Day
There will be a Mufti day on Friday 22nd November in exchange for bringing any kind of chocolate/chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola; this could be a box of chocolates, an advent calendar, Christmas tree chocolates etc. Also if possible a bottle for the Bottle Tombola; this could be wine, spirits, non-alcoholic or fizzy drinks etc, or toiletries such as bubble bath, shower gel or body lotion.

Christmas Trees
Every year we take orders for fantastic quality Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees. They are low-drop trees and come in a variety of different sizes.

Last orders for Christmas trees will be on 23rd November at the Fair, and the trees will be available for collection from the school on Saturday 30th November.

To order, please complete the attached order form and return to the school office in an envelope with your payment, marked ‘Christmas tree order’.

Thank you!
Your PTA
School Christmas Dinner

This will be the usual Turkey roast dinner with a vegetarian option and dessert, and will be on Thursday 19th December 2019.

Please let the school office know by Monday 9th December if your child does not usually have a school dinner and would like to have the Christmas meal.

We will assume that all the infants will have the Christmas Dinner unless you inform us otherwise.

The cost is the usual school dinner price of £2.40.

Before & After School Club Dates

Griffins Club finishes on 18th November.

Lego Quest finishes on Tuesday 3rd December

Cheerleading Club finishes on 5th December

Cardboard Engineering finishes on 5th December

Judo Club finishes on Wednesday 11th December

Netball and Tag Rugby will continue until it becomes too dark to take place

Uniform Labelling

The lost property box is still overflowing! We are gathering an increasing amount of ‘lost property’ due to lack of appropriate labelling with children’s names. It can be very upsetting for children to misplace their belongings and as all the uniform looks the same it is important that all uniform is labelled clearly for easy identification. If you use pen, this can quickly become faint when washed, so please check regularly to ensure it can be read.

Parents Evenings

Parent Evenings will take place on Tuesday 12th November and Wednesday 13th November.

Please be advised these sessions are for parents only. There will be no facilities available at school for childcare on this evening. Due to safeguarding and health and safety concerns it is not possible for children to be on the school site during this time.

Sign up sheets are now in the school entrance. Please sign up for a slot.

Mrs Bale our SENCo will be available to speak to parents on Wednesday 13th from 4.30-7.30pm.