



Friday 8th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to St Mark's CE Primary School - we hope that you had a great summer holiday and that you are ready for the exciting year ahead.

We have been very pleased by the way the children have settled into their new class this week and also by how independent they are at coming in, organising themselves and saying goodbye. We have been particularly impressed with the way you, as parents, have encouraged your child to hang their coats, put their book bags in the box and store their water bottles on the trolley etc. for themselves and then left promptly.

We will be spending the first few weeks getting to know your child, introducing routines and assessing their learning needs. We will take lots of photographs of your child at work and play and write about all the great things they can do, now they are at 'big' school. These observations of their learning will go in their very Special Learning Journey Book. Once our assessments are complete we will begin our new topic "Marvellous me!" We have asked the children what they would like to find out about/make/do and have sent home their ideas for you to chat about and add to. Please return their topic ideas on Monday 11th September. Everyone's ideas will be used, on a weekly basis, to plan your child's learning experiences. We have attached an overview of our topic to share your child's learning with you.

Your child will start bringing picture books home on Friday 22nd September with an explanation about how to support reading skills. On September 25th we will start our daily structured phonic sessions, teaching letter names and sounds, blending simple words together to read and breaking words up into separate sounds in order to spell. We will be offering the opportunity for you to come in and observe a phonic session after half term for an insight into how your child is taught to read and write.

Some children are finding it tricky to undo and do up zips and buttons, turn their inside-out clothes the right way round, and take their jumpers off/put them back on again. Please help your child by allowing them to dress/undress at home, practise makes perfect!

Finally, please ensure that your child has:

- PE kit (named) in school all the time (no outdoor footwear needed until the summer term)
- Book bag (named) in school daily complete with their reading record and reading book
- All clothes clearly named. (Especially school jumpers!)
- Water bottle (named)
- **A pair of named welly boots** to enable your child to play on the outdoor climbing equipment

Reminder for next week 11th-15th September - Your child will be staying at school for lunch, please ensure that those not having a hot school meal have a pack lunch. Please collect your child at 1pm from the main school gates.

Thank you all for your patience at home-time whilst we are gradually recognising faces and matching parents/carers to children. We will get there! Last, but not least, please do not hesitate to pop in with any worries, concerns or questions that you may have, however small they seem - we're here to help!

Mrs Cooper - Class teacher
Miss Williams - Teaching assistant
The EYFS Ducklings team ☺