

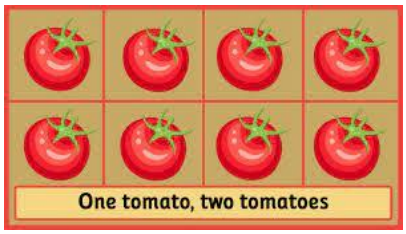


Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to St Mark's CE Primary School and team Puffins!

During the first few weeks, we will be getting to know your child, introducing routines and checking their learning needs. How wonderful to see so many children coming into school so confidently and independently. Eating lunch at big school has been a huge success. We are very proud of the children and know that you are too. This week we have been using the independent learning board to choose our own activities because we are the 'Boss' of our own learning! We have found out where the toys are kept and how to take care of our property by tidying away responsibly. We are getting better at sitting on the carpet so that we can sing number songs and share stories together. We are also working on using our fingers to show how many, singing songs such as; one tomato, two tomatoes; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive and Hickety Pickety. Should your child wish to practise, these songs can be found online by searching BBC counting songs/nursery rhymes or scan the QR code.



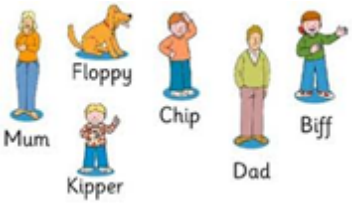


1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
Once I caught a fish alive



SCAN ME

Today, picture books have been sent home to all children. Please share the book with your child in addition to the stories you may already read at home together. We have already introduced the characters from the Oxford Reading Tree books. A copy of these have been put into your child's reading record so you can help them to learn the names of the characters. This will support your child's reading. Also inside your child's reading record, you will see a letter mat which will help your child with their phonics when they begin to sound and blend to read words. There will be an opportunity for your child to change their book 3 times a week. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is expected that reading takes place every school night, rereading the same books to develop confidence. Your child's reading log should be signed by you with a comment each time you share a book together. Every child that reads at home, at least 4 times a week, will earn a golden ticket. Staff draw a winning ticket in our celebration assembly on Fridays where the lucky winner can choose their own book to keep as a prize!



Top tips for sharing picture books:

- Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.
- Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child.

- Try to read with your child on most school days to develop good reading habits. 'Little and often' is best.
- Talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end and their favourite part. This will help them to develop good comprehension skills.
- Name objects in the pictures and listen to see what sound it starts with b-ball, d-dog.
- When revisiting the book, encourage your child to add more detail, Think about what the characters might be feeling or saying (even give the character a voice!) and use story words to join the events together such as "once upon a time" "first" "and then" "next" "suddenly" "later on" "the end."
- Try to communicate regularly with positive comments in your child's reading record book. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

Word books will be sent home once your child is confident in knowing words are read from left to right across the page, can link sounds to the letters s a t p i n m d and can blend sounds together to hear words e.g. "m-a-p map". These skills are needed to start reading successfully.

Behaviour

We aim to promote high standards by modelling positive behaviours and ensuring the following three positively phrased rules are always followed across the school: Be ready, be respectful, be safe. Through the following stories we are introducing these early concepts to own new puffins.

1. We listen. We don't interrupt.
2. We work hard. We don't waste time.
3. We are gentle. We don't hurt others.
4. We are kind and helpful. We don't hurt anybody's feelings.
5. We are honest. We don't cover up the truth.
6. We look after property. We don't break things.



PE days

Your child will be taking part in **PE every Tuesday and Wednesday**. Please ensure that they bring their PE kit on a Tuesday so that they can get changed independently. On Wednesday your child should come into school wearing their PE kit. As the weather gets colder, you may choose to send your child in wearing jogging/tracksuit bottoms or leggings so that they are warm throughout the day.

Finally, please ensure that your child has:

- Book bag (named) in school daily
- All clothes clearly named. (Especially school jumpers!)
- Water bottle (named)

A pair of named welly boots to enable your child to play in the outdoor area in all weathers

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

The EYFS Puffins' team
puffins.ssm@coastalpartnership.co.uk