

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



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

During the first few weeks, we will be getting to know your child, introducing routines and checking 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 Special Learning Journey Book. Our first topic is "My Brilliant Body." Attached to your child's home link book is a leaflet to share our learning with you. We have also sent a knowledge organiser to help you support your child with learning new vocabulary, key knowledge and skills related to our topic work and play. Home link books are sent home each Friday, containing home challenges and informing you of the learning that has taken place. Home link books are collected in by the following Wednesday.

Your child will start bringing picture books home on Friday 12th September with an explanation about how best to support reading skills. Books are changed each Monday, Wednesday and Friday if your child has read at home with you. We have already begun developing our early literacy skills by singing lots of rhymes, listening carefully and playing sound games. On September 15th we will begin our daily structured phonic sessions, teaching letter names and sounds, blending simple words together to read and breaking words up into separate sounds to spell. We look forward to offering you the opportunity to come into school after the half term to observe a phonic session for an insight into how your child is taught to read and write.

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 and to attend forest school each Friday.

Reminder for next week

Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th – You should collect your child at 12 from the main school gate.
Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th September - Your child will be staying at school for lunch, please ensure that those who have not ordered a hot school meal, bring in a pack lunch. **Please collect your child at 1pm** from the main school gates.

Last, but not least, please do not hesitate to talk to us at the school gate or via the class email Puffins.SSM@coastalpartnership.co.uk with any worries, concerns or questions that you may have, however small they seem – we're here to help!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

The EYFS Puffins' team