

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



7th September 2017

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Newsletter: Autumn 1

Dear Parents

Welcome back

I trust that everyone had a relaxing and refreshing summer break. The new school year started very well yesterday and it was great to hear the children's stories of their holidays and adventures over the last six weeks.

Staffing Update

During the holidays there have been a few staff changes:

- Mrs Inman, who has worked as a mid-day supervisor for 10 years, has been offered full time employment and can no longer work at lunchtimes. We would like to thank her for her years of faithful and cheerful service to the school.
- Mrs Mukerji has announced her intention to leave St Mark's at the end of the Autumn term. She will be moving on to train to work in the Waldorf-Steiner family of schools. We will keep you informed as to how we will mark Mrs Mukerji's leaving, as she has been a significant member of the staff and senior management teams for many years.
- We would like to welcome Mrs Hunt as a temporary Teaching Assistant in Year 6.

Building and Grounds Update

The work to replace some of the original drainage at the front of the school was completed successfully during the summer break, with little disruption to staff working in school. Our next project will be the re-surfacing of the car park to the side of the hall which we hope will be completed in the Autumn half-term break.

A huge thank you to the group of local young people who worked with the charity Chestnut Events to tidy and carry out repair works in the Hidden Haven and complete some important work around the grounds. This year we are planning to add a poly tunnel to the raised beds and fruit cage already well established in the Hidden Haven. This will enable us to grow an even wider variety of vegetables.

Values focus: *koinonia* (fellowship)

This term we will be focussing on the Christian value of *koinonia* (or fellowship). This concept includes the ideas of belonging to communities, working towards shared goals and each individual bringing something unique to any shared human endeavour. We will be exploring the idea of fellowship as it is found in the bible as well as contemporary examples of individuals working together to build community. The mystery of the trinity, God being three in one (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), is a useful symbol of fellowship as it represents unity in diversity, three different aspects of God's person working in harmony.

Sporting Recognition

We have just heard that, building on from last year's Bronze, we have successfully achieved the Silver School Games Award. Huge thanks go to Mrs Paxton for co-ordinating the wide range of activities that have led to this. Well done to the many children who took part in training, sports and games last year.

Pupil Numbers

We will be welcoming 27 new children into the Reception Class next week. This will give us a total roll of 175 for the year 2017 – 18, the largest number of children in school for many years.

Water bottles

Many of the older children are using the same water bottles they were given when they started school in Reception. While this is a major achievement the bottles are not very nice to drink from !

From now on children in Years 4, 5, or 6 can bring in their own small, labelled sports-top drinks bottle to keep in school.

New Accident Reporting Slips

From the start of this school year we will be using a new format of accident reporting. Parents will receive a white slip and a carbon duplicate will be kept in school. The information passed on will be the same as in the past, but this system will provide us with a more formal record.

Transport

Cumbria County Council has agreed to run a bus from the new Beeches housing development to school. If you would like to make use of this service you will need to apply directly. Details are available from the school office.

Can I take this opportunity to thank parents for their care, consideration and understanding when parking in the village and outside school. We recognise the difficulties you face and ask for continued patience this year. ***Please remember not to block the driveways of local residents and to ensure that your children are supervised when crossing roads from car to school.***

Music Tuition

We offer tuition for children in Years 3 to 6 for Brass, Violin, Woodwind, Guitar and Keyboard. We will assume that all the children currently learning an instrument wish to continue. As in the past we will subsidise tuition significantly and charge only £5.00 per lesson. Termly invoices will be issued. Please note an additional charge will be made by LSS Music for instrument hire. Music tuition will begin next week, please ensure your child has their instrument and music in school on the correct day. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Brass – Monday; **Violin** – Tuesday; **Keyboard and Woodwind** – Wednesday
Guitar – Mr Dewsbury is recovering from a recent heart attack. The Music Service is arranging to cover his absence and we will keep you advised when lessons will commence.

Swimming Lessons: Year 5

Lessons start next Thursday 14 September for 10 weeks. Please ensure your child has the appropriate swimming kit in school each Thursday morning. Parents are reminded that the wearing of jewellery by children is not permitted in school except for watches and earring studs. *These should not be worn on swimming or PE days*

P.T.A. Date for Diary: Beer Tasting Evening – Friday 6th October @ 8.00 p.m. run by 'The Factory Tap Bar'. More information to follow.

Thank you for your continued support. We are all looking forward to another successful year of learning and nurture.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher

