

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



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Autumn Newsletter 1

Dear Parents

Today is the start of a new school year and it was good to welcome all the children back after the long summer break. Our new Reception children begin tomorrow in two groups, morning and afternoon, and will start full time on Monday 10th September. The Natland and Oxenholme Pre-School are now able to offer provision for five full days a week. They also start their school year tomorrow.

New Homes for Reception and Year 2

With the Pre-School now on-site at the far south end of the building, it seemed appropriate to move Reception into the classroom next door. Work has been completed during the Summer break and the old Year 2 classroom has been refurbished as a Reception classroom. This has included the building of a new section of wall (in place of the door that used to lead through to the old Year 1 and the Nest); provision of a new sink unit and storage cupboards; new carpet and wet area laminate flooring area. The whole classroom has also been re-decorated.

Year 2 has moved to the old Reception classroom.

Staffing Update

A quick reminder of the changes to staffing for this year:

- New members of the teaching assistant team, Mrs Atkinson and Miss Lishman, have begun their support work in Year 1 today.
- Mrs Hardy has started with Year 6 today. Mrs Millington will be teaching in Year 6 on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Mrs Ainsworth has started with Year 4 today. Mrs Burrow will be teaching in Year 4 on Thursdays and Fridays *and alternate Wednesdays*.

This year Mrs Cook will be reducing her hours temporarily and working four days a week, Monday to Thursday. On Fridays, Year 3 will be taught by Mrs Christensen, one of this year's School Direct graduates. Mrs Christensen is well known in school, having completed her beginning placement in Year 1 last Autumn. She will be employed through the Cumbria teaching Agency.

A set of dates will be sent later in the week to parents of children in Years 2 and 4 detailing which of the Class teachers will be teaching on Tuesdays (in Year 2) and Wednesdays (in Year 4)



School Games Gold Award

We are very proud to announce that we have been awarded the School Games Gold Award. Congratulations to Mrs Paxton for all her hard work and enthusiasm in co-ordinating sport in school. Well done also to all those children who have enjoyed the wide variety of sports activities and represented St Mark's in competitions over the last year.

Behaviour

St Mark's is a happy and well-ordered environment in which children and staff are able to thrive. Occasionally some children behave in ways that disrupt learning, prevent staff from working, damage property or threaten the safety of themselves or others. We have recently reviewed our approach to dealing with behaviour in school.

A new system has been introduced today which works with a series of colour codes. More details will be sent to all parents later this week. Here is a brief summary:

- All children begin each day in Neutral, the behaviours we expect are those listed in the Code of Conduct.
- Going beyond what is normally expected with positive behaviours would take a child to Green.
- Behaviours breaking the Code of Conduct can lead to either Yellow, Orange or Red.
- The consequences arising from behaviour leading to these colour zones are as follows:
 - **Yellow:** warning and possible sanction e.g. time out of class
 - **Orange:** detention, Orange Slip sent home for parents to sign and return, withdrawal of privileges and possible short internal exclusion (working in school away from class)
 - **Red:** withdrawal of privileges, formal meeting with parents, planned internal exclusion (working in school away from class)

Beyond this, serious incidents or continued negative behaviours could lead to fixed term or permanent exclusion from school

In the first few weeks of term we are planning to run meetings for the parents of children in each class, at which we will explain this system in more detail.

Reminder: Dropping off and Picking up

Can I remind all parents to be particularly careful at these times when the road outside school gets very busy. The bus bay needs to be left clear until 9.00 in the morning and at 3.30 for when the bus arrives. Please do not block the driveways of local residents. For children's safety we ask that they are helped across the road as necessary.

Morning Routine

School staff will be in the playground from 8.45 a.m. There is no supervision in the playground until then. MOSAICS staff and children may sometimes be outside before school **but they are not responsible for children who are not booked into the Breakfast Club session.** If a child arrives unaccompanied before 8.45 a.m. we reserve the right to put them into the care of MOSAICS staff and charge parents accordingly.

If not on duty in the playground, teaching and support staff are busy working in classrooms preparing for the school day before 9.00 a.m. If parents wish to speak with staff, please do so at the end of the day or make an appointment to meet at a convenient time. Messages for class teachers can be left at the school office.

We are looking forward to an exciting new school year. I hope that as many parents as possible are able to get involved in school activities and their child's learning.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barfoot
Headteacher

