



Elephants Newsletter

Autumn Term 1



WOW! What an amazing start we have had to the year. I am so proud of all of the children and how well they have settled into Elephant class. The children have been learning all of the classroom routines and have been busy learning through their play. I am so excited for the year ahead and all the fun we are going to have ☺

Miss Xerri, Mr Burrows & Clare

Uniform

All of our uniform can be purchased online from Sussex Uniforms.

<https://www.monkhouse.com/school/st-mark-s-c-e-school-urn-114545>

Our uniform is:

- Navy Sweatshirt or cardigan
- A white polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers, shorts or skirt
- Black school shoes

Your child should also bring a named book bag and a named water bottle.

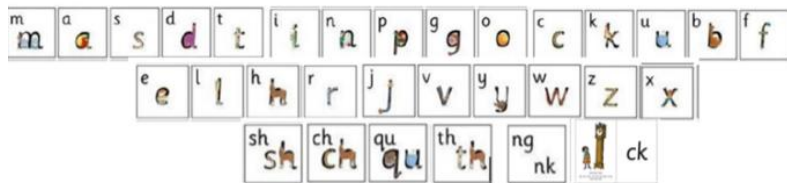
Our PE day is on a Tuesday.

We are going to start PE on **13th October**. Children should come to school in their PE kits on this day. Uniform is: black/dark blue tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt, trainers and school jumper. **Please do not wear logos or coloured tops.** We will stay in our PE kits all day.

Thank you.

Phonics

We use the scheme *Read Write Inc* to teach all children to read and write. Before the children can start to read, they need to learn to say the sound that is represented by each letter or groups of letters. These are called 'speed sounds'. They also need to know how to blend the sounds together in a word to read it e.g. c-a-t -> cat. This is called 'sound-blending'. In Read Write Inc. phonics the individual sounds are called 'speed sounds' – because we want your child to read them effortlessly. The children will be taught all the single letter sounds and oral blending skills for CVC (consonant – vowel – consonant) words. The children learn a sound a day. We teach the children the letters that represent a speed sound e.g. 'm', a simple picture prompt linked to the 'speed sound' and a short phrase to say e.g. 'Maisie mountain mountain'. Children will also learn an action that will help them to remember the phrase and sound.



Snack

Children are provided with fresh fruit/vegetables and milk for snack time each day. If you would like to send your child in with a snack, we ask that it is a **fruit/vegetable snack** please. We are also a **nut free school** due to allergies. Thank you.

Our learning this half term

Communication & Language

We are learning to name our feelings and link them to 'Just right'. We will join in with repeated phrases from books and nursery rhymes.

English

In English, we will be reading many stories including, *Croc & Bird* and *So much*. These books teach us about family, friendship and sense of self.

Maths

We will learn how to subitise (say how many objects there are without counting) up to 5. We will create patterns, develop 1:1 careful counting skills and compare and contrast amounts.

Understanding the World

In UtW, we are studying the change of seasons and will look closely at the weather.

Physical Development

We will be developing our gross motor skills (movements that use the large muscles in the body, such as the arms, legs, and torso) and also fine motor skills (small movements we make with our hands, fingers, feet, and toes)

PSHE

In PSHE, we are learning how to share, take turns and make friends. We will learn to express personal interests and preferences in classroom activities

Expressive Art & Design

We will be exploring colour mixing and will learn how to make basic joins using glue and masking tape. We will make autumn pictures and painting leaves!

If you have any questions please email:
info@stmarks.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Check out our website for lots of useful information

www.stmarks.brighton-hove.sch.uk