

Giraffes Newsletter

Autumn Term 2

This is always one of the busiest but most exciting times of the year! With Christmas fast approaching, the children are already showing lots of excitement about our upcoming Nativity. We are also introducing a new approach to phonics this half term to help develop the children's reading skills and confidence. A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support with home reading – it really does make a difference!

Miss Lewis

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 Thursday

You need to come to school in your PE kits on this day. You can wear black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt, trainers and school jumper. **Please do not wear logos or coloured tops.**
Thank you.

Reading Rock Stars!

Please look out for a phonics meeting taking place this half term. It will be a great opportunity to find out more about how the children are taught to read and give you some helpful tips and ideas for supporting your child with reading at home.

Homework

Look out for children's purple mash logins coming soon.

Children can complete spelling, maths and reading homework online. This will be set every **Friday**

E- Safety

Last month, EE recommended that children under 11 should use non-smart devices with limited capabilities, such as feature phones, ensuring they can make texts and calls but restrict access to social media or inappropriate content. Read their guidelines here: **https://newsroom.ee.co.uk/ee-launches-age-guidance-for-smartphone-usage-in-drive-to-improve-childrens-digital-wellbeing**

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

We try to check this every 48 hours.

Our learning this half term

R.E
In R.E, we are studying the faith of Christianity.

We will be learning about the story of Christmas. We will explore why Christmas matters to Christians.

English
In English, we are studying the book: **How to Find Gold by Viviane Schwarz**

The children will enjoy making their own adventurous plan to find gold and create some writing in the style of the author.

Maths
Both Year 1 and Year 2 will be exploring addition and subtraction. We will be developing our understanding of how numbers can be broken down into smaller parts and put back together to make a whole. The children will build fluency with number bonds and use what they know to solve problems, explain their thinking and tackle reasoning challenges.

ICT Children will learn the following:
To use paint tools to draw a picture.
To create a jigsaw using a digital device and share it so that others can play.
To create a placing game in 2DIY.
To create images and use these to make a game.

Science
Children will explore our amazing bodies and senses, discovering how we have changed as we grow and how our senses help us understand the world around us. We will finish the term by exploring the beautiful changes of autumn and investigating how the weather changes with the seasons.

Music
Nativity and Christmas songs.

PSHE
This half term, our PSHE unit will focus on 'Getting On and Falling Out'. The children will explore what makes a good friend, how we can show kindness and respect towards others, and how to manage disagreements when they arise. We will think about ways to resolve conflicts, communicate our feelings and rebuild friendships.

Art & DT
Exploring the seasons (linked to science)