Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another super week in school this week!

This week the children in Little Lions have been making playdough with their teachers and experimenting with different textures. The children in Reception have been exploring the story ‘Stick Man’ and have even had a go at creating their own. The children in KS2 have been focusing on their times tables this week after the fantastic launch of ‘TT Rock Stars’ on Tuesday. The children will all be assigned log-ins and we are encouraging them to take on times tables challenges at home, as well as in school. The children have all been incredibly enthusiastic; the staff are extremely excited too!

This week the staff in school have been completing ‘Lesson Study’ practice in all classrooms; this is a way of developing skills within teachers, as well as a fantastic opportunity to share great practice between classes. All of the staff have commented on how useful they have found this term’s focus on ‘effective classroom talk and questioning in maths.’ They will all be taking new learning and strategies back into their own classrooms.

This year we are taking part in #Helloyellow. This is a fundraiser day to support young children with their mental health. This will take place on World Mental Health Day, Thursday 10th October. If your child would like to take part we ask that they wear a subtle splash of yellow, for example, yellow socks, ribbon, bobble, etc and together we can show young people they’re not alone with their mental health. All donations made will be given to the ‘Young Minds’ charity. We hope you will all join us in supporting such a good cause! The children will also be discussing keeping mentally healthy and positive mind sets.

Today we said a very fond farewell to Mrs Ashcroft in the school office. Mrs Ashcroft has been with St Mark’s for three years and her organisation, friendly smile and warm personality will be sincerely missed. I would like to take this opportunity to say it has been a pleasure working with her and that all of the staff and children wish her all the luck in the world as she embarks on her new journey in the NHS. She has already said that she will be back in school visiting whenever possible.

As always, have a lovely and safe weekend,

Mrs K A Ferguson

Headteacher

Upcoming events: Monday 14th October - Parent Consultations

Friday 18th October - Children’s Photographs

Friday 18th October - Harvest