



# St Mark's C E Primary School

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Newsletter No 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful half term break. As usual, Term 2 is looking to be a busy one!

With the weather turning wet and cold please ensure children bring a coat to school and have all personal items **named** to minimise lost property.

### Parking

We have been contacted by a few parents and neighbours regarding parking around school during drop off and pick up times. I have written to the Council and I suggest any concerned parents do the same please. Please can we ask for safe, conscientious parking and drop offs at all times to make the roads safe for children and adults to walk to school. Thank you.



### Christmas Church Service

This year, our Christmas Service is at St Mark's Church on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> December and is for ALL pupils. If you are able to walk with your child's class, please let the class teacher know. Many thanks.

### Lunch bookings

Please can we remind parents to book school lunches via Parentmail. This can be done within the Parentmail App or by logging in to the Parentmail website. Even if your child receives Free School Meals or is in Eys – Y2 and receives Universal Free School Meals they will still need to be booked in please.



Dates to remember  
Added dates in yellow

### November

6<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Y3D rearranged parents evening 3:30 pm  
9<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) School Photos: individual and siblings (school age only)  
13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Anti Bullying week  
13<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Odd sock day  
13<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6 Cross Country Race at Skinners School  
15<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Fire Safety Assemblies  
17<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Friendship Friday  
17<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Football match home v Speldhurst  
28<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Y3D Sharing Assembly 9:15am  
29<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Y1,2, 3 Pantomime (in school)  
30<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Y5L Sharing Assembly 9:15am

### December

1<sup>st</sup> (Fri) Whole School Flu Vaccines  
4<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Bach to the Future Roadshow  
5<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Rocksteady Christmas Concert  
6<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Drama workshop EYs-Y3  
7<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Y6 Ice Skating  
10<sup>th</sup> (Sun) PTA Christmas Village  
11<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Christmas Church Service  
12<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Y4-Y6 Panto at Assembly Halls  
13<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Christmas Lunch  
13<sup>th</sup> (Wed) EYFS Christmas Production 9.30am  
14<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) KS1 Christmas Production am and pm  
14<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Y6 Crossteach Christmas Experience



**Aspire, Believe, Succeed**

### **Bowles Yr6 Residential Trip**

Before half-term, we visited Bowles Activity Centre. We were really excited for all the different activities we were hoping to try and spending time in each other's company. We weren't disappointed!



The endless activities kept us busy during the day and meant the food on offer at mealtimes was relished. The variety of meals were healthy and nutritious, with all of our dietary requirements catered for. The staff even prepared two delicious cakes so we could celebrate Cecily and Violet's birthdays together.



All the instructors were really friendly and funny and helped us when we struggled with things out of our comfort zone. Their professional knowledge meant we all achieved something and could end our time there with a sense of accomplishment.

The rock climbing was especially tricky due to the relentless rain and slippery rocks, but we soldiered on and made the most of it. We also ventured to Harrison's Rocks by minibus to explore the surrounding area. With torches in the dark, it was a real adventure!

The high ropes provided another challenge and it made for quite an exhilarating experience as many of us had never done anything like it before.

We are really grateful for the support of Mrs Mitcheson, Mrs Lake, Mrs Bert, Mrs McPherson, Mrs Laidler and Miss Pearman – especially when they were giving encouragement to try new things. We've made so many fantastic memories that we'll remember for a long time.



By Emmeline, Lily, Finn and Chloe



## PTA News

- **Arty Autumn**

Lots of fun was had after school on Friday before half term...glue, stickers, leaves and stencils combined to make some wonderful creations! Congratulations to Iris with her prize-winning paper mache pumpkin - she took home a carving set and a pumpkin donated by Birchden PYO Pumpkins. We raised approximately £100 whilst having fun so thank you to all!

- **Christmas Wreaths**

Our popular Christmas wreath making is once again back on Friday 1st December at 7:30pm. Enjoy making your own wreath with a glass of fizz/mulled wine. Tickets are £30 (bargain as most events are £40+!!) and can be booked by emailing: [secretarytn4@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytn4@gmail.com)

- **Christmas Village**

Mrs Claus is in need of your outgrown uniforms, ready for the "Mrs Claus Boutique" at St Mark's Christmas Village. You can leave uniforms by the box at Reception or THIS FRIDAY at pickup on the KS2 playground.

Finally WE NEED YOU! Plans for St Mark's Christmas village are under way and we need volunteers to help plan/run/man the stalls - everyone's input and help is welcomed and appreciated. Please join the What's App groups for;

- Santa's Grotto: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Li4ZZcDzo5eHH9YeSmD7A4>

- Christmas Village planning: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Li4ZZcDzo5eHH9YeSmD7A4>



### Head's Heroes, Attendance and Punctuality

On Fridays we celebrate children for their effort and achievements throughout the week:

Extra playtime goes to:

**Attendance:** Y6 Oxford

**Punctuality:** Y6 Rochester

Attendance for Term 1 was 96.7% 😊

### This week the Head's Heroes are:

EYFS Camber	Anna	For always coming to school with a smile and a "can do" attitude
EYFS Windsor	Evie	For always being so responsible and helpful in class!
Y1 Arundel	Lily	For being so kind and thoughtful during our PHSE discussions
Y1 Bodiam	Alexander	For polite behaviour towards adults and classmates at school
Y2 Leeds	Freddie	For being kind and helping his friends
Y2 Pevensey	Ibrahim	For excellent effort in Phonics
Y3 Lewes	Tommy	For showing thankfulness for discussing his family during PSHE
Y3 Deal	Ivan	For trusting in your own ability to learn to read phase 4 phonics words. Well done!
Y4 Dover	Charlene	For growing in confidence to share her ideas in English lessons
Y4 Farnham	Jessie J	For growing confidence in sharing ideas with the class
Y5 Hever	Sara	For setting a wonderful example through her hard work and perseverance in Maths
Y5 Lullingstone	Eden	For settling into Lullingstone beautifully as an engaged and focus learner. We are delighted to have you!
Y6 Oxford	Chloe	For friendship shown in class and at Bowles when helping others
Y6 Rochester	Aaron	For showing trust in his gently flowering poetic creativity to produce a beautiful and personal poem
Mr Smith PE	Bentley	For his creative thinking when producing the spy dance in PE
Nurture Group	Jessie J	For her thoughtful contribution in Nurture Group

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Bird  
Headteacher