



St Mark's C E Primary School

15th December 2023

Newsletter No 14

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity in the final newsletter before the Christmas holidays to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you for all of your support. We are a very lucky school to serve such a fantastic community.



I would like to thank the PTA for the fabulous Christmas Village! An incredible amount of work went into staging what was a superb event for the school and local community. Thank you also for all of the other events that you have already done and those that are also in the pipeline, not to mention the tremendous work with the second-hand uniform sales. Our school Christmas tree, that was on display at King Charles the Martyr, was lovely too!

Thank you also to the Parent Reps. I really value our conversations. The Marketing group have also been very busy promoting the school to new starters and families new to the area – thank you.

The Sensory Garden is taking shape and I would like to thank the group of parents that have been involved in making this happen. We really appreciate all of the time and effort that you have put into this project. It will really benefit the children – thank you.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the children flourish at St Mark's. I cannot thank them enough for all that they do every day for the children. I am a very proud and lucky Headteacher.

I hope you all have a happy and restful Christmas.

Best wishes, Mr Bird

Dates to remember
Added dates in yellow

December

18th until 22nd Mega Camps @ St Mark's

January

2nd (Tue) Inset day

3rd (Wed) Term 3 begins

8th (Mon) School Clubs start this week

12th (Fri) PJ day (details to follow)

17th (Wed) Year 3 and 4 Rock Day

19th (Fri) Year 6 to the Amelia Centre

25th (Thurs) Y3 Rocca Trip

26th (Fri) Year 6 to the Amelia Centre

30th (Tue) Year 6 Oxford Sharing
Assembly 9:15 am

30th (Tue) Young Voices at the 02

30th (Tue) EYs Classes to Sainsbury's

February

1st (Thurs) Y4D Sharing Assembly
9:15am

2nd (Fri) Parent Rep Meeting 9am

Term Dates etc are on our website
www.st-marks.kent.sch.uk



Aspire, Believe, Succeed

School Nativities

A lot of work has gone into putting the Early Years and KS1 Nativities together – we hope parents enjoyed seeing the end results! Well done everyone!



Beauty and the Beast

The children of Years 4, 5, and 6 would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for funding our visit to see the Beauty and the Beast pantomime at The Assembly Halls on Tuesday afternoon. Despite the wet weather walking there, it was all soon forgotten as we danced, sang along, cheered and applauded the performers for the super show they put on. It was a really interactive performance and got us all in the festive mood. Well done to Mrs Laidler and Mrs Bert who keenly joined the actors on stage! Thanks also goes to **all** the Staff who helped out on this local visit.



St Mark's Got Talent

We ended this term with a wonderful show to the whole school this morning to showcase how talented St Mark's children are! Well done to all children who entered the competition and congratulations to the winners – Ella and Scarlett!



Nourish Christmas Lunch

Many thanks to the ladies in the kitchen for a lovely Christmas lunch – we all enjoyed it!



PTA News

What a busy term with all things Christmassy we've had! Thank YOU as parents for your support (& patience!!) with all our reminders and requests, especially with so much going on! But it has been worth it...

We kicked off on 1st December with wreath making where 20 of us got together drink mulled wine and sing along to some chrissey tunes whilst making some beautiful creations for our doors.

Estimated raised: £370

And what can we say about St Marks Christmas Village 2023! We went **BIGGER** than ever to create a fun-filled



and festive fair...we started with a quiet half hour to encourage those who might struggle to attend to be able to access the fun too! Then the music rang out through the corridors, the lights sparkled and the grotto cast its magic! The kids buzzed with sugar from the ever popular jolly jam jars and prizes from Leading Lights and nerf gun games, glittered with tattoos, and enjoyed crafting sessions. Meanwhile parents enjoyed delicious cakes, drinks from The Flying Reindeer bar and trying their luck on the bottle tombola and raffle.

The highlight was the stunning grotto..one to rival

professional ones. Kids enjoyed a special story from Santa and received their very own Christmas tree to plant and grow. Thank you to ALL who helped-from parents to staff, attending and spending- it couldn't have happened without you! **Final figures are to be confirmed but in the region of £3k**

Merry Christmas to you all!

Goodbye

Today we say a sad goodbye to Mrs Smith. Thank you for all your help at St Mark's and we wish you well in your exciting travels!

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 Rochester

Punctuality: Y6 Oxford

Attendance for last week was 96.15% 😊

This week the Head's Heroes are:

EYFS Camber	Camber	For a wonderful Nativity where everybody shone! Well Done Camber Class.
EYFS Windsor	Windsor	For a truly fabulous Nativity! We are all so proud of you!
Y1 Arundel	Gabriella	For her confidence and clarity reading a prayer at church.
Y1 Bodiam	Bodiam	For a fabulous nativity performance- well done!
Y2 Leeds	Aiden	For being super brave and stepping up to play a part he had not practiced in our nativity. Well done!
2 Pevensey	Pevensey	For being fabulous and unforgettable!
Y3 Lewes	Genevieve	For always being keen to learn and support those around her. Fabulous!
Y3 Deal	Sienna	Excellent progress in spelling and for always offering a kind word or helping hand to others. You are a pleasure to teach.
Y4 Dover	Anaya	For persevering with her pavilion and being a kind, helpful friend to all.
Y4 Farnham	Omii	For being caring and supportive of others.
Y5 Hever	Seb	For his mature and focused approach to learning this week and his excellent teamwork.
Y5 Lullingstone	Eliza	For persevering, despite distractions, and trying her best in all aspects of her work this week.
Y6 Rochester	Anton	For a fabulous stand-up comedy routine that was delivered with style!
Y6 Oxford	Seb	For composing a beautiful poem which perfectly captured the spirit of Christmas and our sense of fellowship. A super flair for poetry!

Congratulations to each and every one of you 😊

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Bird
Headteacher