



# St Mark's C E Primary School

## 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Newsletter No 12

<https://www.st-marks.kent.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents and Carers,

#### Trip to the Houses of Parliament



On the 24<sup>th</sup> November, twelve children from years 5 and 6 went to the Houses of Parliament to learn about democracy. We found out a lot of information about The House of Commons and The House of Lords and spent time inside their chambers. We could've met the Prime Minister if we had been there on a Wednesday! Our guide was called Scott, and he guided us around the buildings which were very fancy and very gold indeed! Then we spent an hour in their Education Department where we played games to reinforce our knowledge of who does what in Parliament and how laws are passed. Written by Hamnah



Dates to remember.  
Added dates in yellow.

#### November

30<sup>th</sup> (Sun) PTA Christmas Village

#### December

2<sup>nd</sup> (Tue) KS2 Cooking Challenge

2<sup>nd</sup> (Tue) EY/KS1 Fitness Food

Workshops

4<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Y3D Sharing Assembly 9am

DATE CHANGE

4<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Happy You Parent Workshop

5<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Parent Rep Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Rocksteady Concert 10am

10<sup>th</sup> (Wed) EYFS Nativity 9:15 or 2pm

11<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) KS1 Nativity 9:15 or 2pm

12<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Y6 Ice Skating

15<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Christmas Church Service

15<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Y1, Y2 & Y3 West End in Schools Panto

16<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Whole school Christmas lunch

16<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Save the Children Christmas Jumper day

17<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Y4, Y5 & Y6 to Panto at Assembly Halls

18<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Y3 & Y4 Christmas Bauble Workshop

19<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Last day of term

22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> **Mega camps**

#### January

5<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Inset Day

6<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Term 3 starts

Term Dates etc are on our website  
[www.st-marks.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-marks.kent.sch.uk)

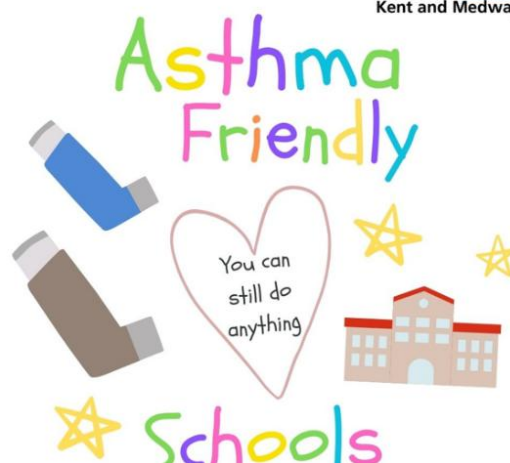


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**Aspire, Believe, Succeed**

### Asthma Friendly School award

Over the last few months, myself and the staff have been working towards an accreditation from the NHS in regard to asthma. All of our staff have undergone training and assessment, and we have improved our processes and policies around asthma. We are delighted that we have now been recognised for all our work and awarded our Asthma Friendly School certificate.



### Christmas Jumper Day

As before, we will be supporting Save the Children by taking part in their Christmas Jumper campaign. We invite children to wear their Christmas jumpers with their school uniform on Tuesday 16th December when it is the whole school Christmas lunch.

Please donate to our Just Giving page on the following link where money raised will go directly to Save the Children:

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CJD250000312?utm\\_medium=FA&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CJD250000312?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)

Many thanks

### Girl's Football



On Wednesday, me (my name is Alana), Genevieve, Jess, Aiyana, Gamze, Kelly, Isabella, Clair, Hedia, Hallie and Phoebe all took part in a football match at Claremont Primary School. We won 2:0! Claremont was a very good team with great sportsmanship. Our amazing player Genevieve was chosen as the best player on our team by Claremont and Genevieve also scored each goal!

All of us did very well and I hope

we are all proud of ourselves, especially our amazing goalkeeper, Hallie, we didn't let any of the goals in. We really hope to play again soon. Written by Alana

### Christmas Church Service

The whole school will be walking up to St Mark's Church for our usual Christmas Service on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to walk with them. We will leave school by 9.15am and return at approximately 11:15 am. Thank you.

### Mr Lawrence

Mr Lawrence will be leaving St Mark's at the end of this term, after just over 3.5 years, as he is moving abroad. During this time he has worked tirelessly to help the school in a wide variety of ways. I am extremely grateful, as I am sure that you are too, for all of his hard work and his dedication to the school. I would like to wish him and his family well in their future adventures in the Netherlands. We really hope that he stays in touch!

### TENAX update

Further to the Tenax board meeting I wanted to provide you with an update. The Tenax board voted unanimously for St Mark's to join the trust. I will keep you updated with any further developments in 2026. If there is no news for a while, trust that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes.

### PTA News

LAST CHANCE to book Santas Grotto before the Christmas Village on Sunday 30th November!

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/christmas-village-grotto--2025>

Bring your Christmas cheer, raffle tickets, or any last-minute jolly jam jars / chocolates or cakes. Thank you for all your support with donations - it can't happen without you 🙌

You can pay in cash or tokens or by QR codes that will be on every stall. Tokens can be purchased on the door and entry is FREE. Can't wait to see you there!!

### Term 2 Clubs

Just a reminder that free lunch time and after school clubs provided by St Mark's staff will end on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Please contact outside providers directly for their end dates, if applicable.



The poster features the logos for Ambition Institute and TEACH Kent & Sussex. It includes the text 'Join our virtual Train to teach information event' and '6th Jan, 7pm, Zoom'. There is a 'Register' button and three arrows pointing right. The background is light blue with a white box for the text.

### Virtual train to teach information event

For those finishing university or considering a career change into teaching, Teach Kent & Sussex can help. Our Ofsted outstanding Teach Kent & Sussex team work with leading national educational charity Ambition institute to offer the best regional bespoke, individualised teacher training programme. Come and meet the Teaching School Directors to learn all about the Teach Kent & Sussex training programme and have your questions answered.

[www.teachkentandsussex.org.uk/events/](http://www.teachkentandsussex.org.uk/events/)

### Reminders

- Lunch menu next week: **Week 5** Menu can be found on our website [St Mark's Church of England Primary School - Lunches](#) and also on the quick links tab on our website.
- **No nuts or nut spreads please.** Please click below for lunchbox ideas and recipes. [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Suggested pupil reading lists: [Words for Life | National Literacy Trust | Words for Life Book lists for children and young people | Words for Life Bookfinder | BookTrust](#)  
[Official Blue Peter Book Club | Share your reviews - CBBC](#)

- Sign up for the Happy You Parent Workshop on 4<sup>th</sup> December:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/XujWr5a92G>
- Sign up for tickets for the KS1 Nativity (2 for each child in KS1):  
<https://forms.office.com/e/vUzSXF07k>

### **Head's Heroes, Attendance and Punctuality**

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

Extra playtime goes to:

<b>Attendance:</b> Y3 Deal
<b>Punctuality:</b> Y1 Arundel
<b>This week's Attendance:</b> 95.5%

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

EYFS Camber	Pola	For always being polite, kind and helpful. We couldn't ask for more!
EYFS Windsor	Maisy	For her super-duper efforts in her reading this week. She has blown off a lot of socks!
Y1 Arundel	Jett	For making excellent contributions in our topic on toys and being an enthusiastic learner! 😊
Y1 Bodiam	Charlotte	For her attitude and independence in her work this week has been lovely to see!
Y2 Leeds	Isla H	For writing a great report about Bessie Coleman. Well done! 😊
Y2 Pevensey	Holly	For her courage and confidence answering challenging maths problems.
Y3 Lewes	Sophie	For writing a beautiful story full of creative imagery.
Y3 Deal	Amaeyah	For always being a caring and kind friend to everyone in Deal class
Y4 Dover	Iris	For your super questions and inquisitive mind! Keep it up! 😊
Y4 Farnham	Amber	For always giving 100% effort in all her work and for a stunning piece of creative writing.
Y5 Hever	Phoebe	For being such a rewarding student who pays attention to all she is taught and is reaping the rewards.
Y5 Tonbridge	Sneha	For your commitment to your learning. You always show you are ready and respectful and try your hardest with everything you are asked to do. Well done!
Y6 Oxford	Alexandra	For her superb effort and creativity in her writing on Tyger.
Y6 Rochester	Amena	For always being a St Mark's role model; you are respectful, diligent and an excellent problem-solver.

### **This week's Unsung Heroes are:**

Bodiam – Beau, Edvin Gus, Arthur

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Bird  
Headteacher

