



# St Mark's C E Primary School

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Newsletter No 16

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Y5/Y6 Indoor Athletic Competition



On Wednesday, some year 5s and 6s were chosen for an athletics competition. This involved: relays, long jump, javelin and more! Hannah won a 2-lap race and Sam saved us by winning a relay. Hallie and Robbie were great at long jump and achieved the St Mark's high score of 92. In javelin we were all equally great, as well as tired! After a few more events it was time to leave. We were really good and we can't wait for the results! *Written by Orla*

## Football Match

On the 12<sup>th</sup> January, the St Mark's B team faced Claremont in a football match. Despite some spectacular saves from Manuel, we lost the match 4:0. Tyler hit the post once, a long range effort. Overall, the team played really well and player of the Match chosen by Claremont was Manuel. *Written by Odin*



Dates to remember.  
Added dates in yellow.

## January

19<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Football match v St Peter's  
19<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Fire Talks  
21<sup>st</sup> (Wed) Y3 and Y4 Rock Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> (Thurs) Y2 Georgian Workshop  
23<sup>rd</sup> (Fri) Y6 to Amelia Centre  
27<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Y6 Oxford Sharing Assembly 9am  
29<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Y4D Sharing Assembly 9am  
30<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Year 6 to Amelia Centre  
30<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Parent Rep Meeting 9am

## February

6<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Great Athletes Visit  
9<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Y3 Deal Friendship Workshop  
11<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Y3 Lewes Friendship Workshop  
13<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Pupil Mid-Year Reports  
13<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Term 3 ends  
16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> MegaCamps at school  
23<sup>rd</sup> (Mon) Inset Day  
24<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Term 4 starts  
27<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Y4 Dover swimming starts

## March

4<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Year 1 Wakehurst Place  
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Book Fair  
5<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) World Book Day  
9<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Parents Evening 3.30-5.30  
12<sup>th</sup> (Thurs) Parents Evening 3:30 – 7pm

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**



## National Year of Reading 2026

### National Year of Reading

2026 is The National Year of Reading. Sadly, reading for pleasure has declined. In 2016 58.6% of children between 8-18 reported they enjoyed reading. In 2025 it was 37.2%.

Reading for pleasure plays a huge part for children, not only enjoying reading, but it also helps them become lifelong readers.

At St Mark's we know the power of reading. The focus is on finding books, stories, texts and audio that your child is interested in. Do they love football? Perhaps they'd like looking at a football annual. Don't like to read long texts? Poems, song lyrics, short stories are great. Cooking is something they enjoy. Could they read recipes and information about food? Throughout this year St Mark's English Team will be supporting reading for pleasure. Watch this space!

So, start the weekend with finding out what your child's interests are and perhaps the library, books in school, Libby, BorrowBox or the Amelia Centre could be a source for finding what they love to read!

In the words of the Stereophonics: ' Libraries gave us power!'

Further information: [www.goallin.org.uk](http://www.goallin.org.uk)

### NSPCC assembly- Speak out Stay safe campaign

Next week we will be taking part in the Speak out Stay safe campaign from the NSPCC. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.



This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies.

Each year group will be taking part in an assembly within their class with their class teacher. Please contact your child's class teacher via the year group email address if you feel there is something they should know prior to delivering this.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout)

### Reminders

- Lunch menu next week: **Week 3** Menu can be found on our website [St Mark's Church of England Primary School - Lunches](http://StMark'sChurchofEnglandPrimarySchool-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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://Lunchboxideasandrecipes-HealthierFamilies-NHS)
- Suggested pupil reading lists: [Words for Life | National Literacy Trust](http://WordsforLife-NationalLiteracyTrust) | [Words for Life Book lists for children and young people](http://WordsforLifeBooklistsforchildrenandyoungpeople) | [Words for Life Bookfinder](http://WordsforLifeBookfinder) | [BookTrust](http://BookTrust) | [Official Blue Peter Book Club](http://OfficialBluePeterBookClub) | [Share your reviews - CBBC](http://Shareyourreviews-CBBC)

## 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> Y6 Oxford and EY Windsor
<b>Punctuality:</b> EY Camber
<b>This week's Attendance:</b> 97.5%

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

EYFS Camber	Darlah	For her enthusiasm in writing this week. We have loved seeing your writing about Goldilocks.
EYFS Windsor	Olivia	For her positive attitude and determination in her Goldilocks writing this week!
Y1 Arundel	Alice	For consistently trying to achieve high and putting in lots of effort in her learning. 😊
Y1 Bodiam	Elliot	For trying super hard with his reading and phonics this week 😊
Y2 Leeds	Eva	For super spelling and sounding out carefully!
Y2 Pevensey	Gioia	For embracing the school values in everything she does.
	Evie	For confidently sharing answers and explanations in all subjects.
Y3 Lewes	Zayn	For a huge improvement in handwriting and spelling.
	Zoe	For settling into Lewes Class so well. Welcome to our school.
Y3 Deal	Sidney	For putting great effort into his work and participating in class discussion.
	Lenny	For putting great effort into his focus and being engaged and enthusiastic during his learning.
Y4 Dover	Jasmine	For her enthusiasm and readiness to learn in PE this week. A future handball superstar! 😊
	Elsbeth	For always being ready and respectful and giving 100% effort in everything that you do!
Y4 Farnham	Julie P	For excellent learning and great attitude – well done!
	Whole class	For a brilliant start to the New Year! Well done!
Y5 Hever	Rory	Focus and effort – a great start to 2026!
	Reuben	For an excellent start to 2026 showing focus and engagement. Well done!
Y5 Tonbridge	Karina	For the consistently high standards you set yourself and achieve in presenting and completing your maths learning. Well done! 😊
	Alanna	For showing great determination, resilience and understanding of fractions. Well done! 😊
Y6 Oxford	Katus	For fantastic enthusiasm and participation in discussions about our history topic WW2.
	Jacob	For showing maturity and responsibility in the choices you make each day. Well done! 😊
Y6 Rochester	Harper	For showcasing super progress by being ready to independently solve base 10, 100 and 1000 multiplications. 😊
	Brandon	For demonstrating an impressive ability to use math analytical and application skills to solve ratio problems.
Nurture Group	Stanley-George	For his outstanding answers on friendship.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Bird  
Headteacher

