



St Mark's C E Primary School

2nd April 2026

Newsletter No 26

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful and truly action-packed term it has been at school, filled with an incredible variety of experiences and highlights for our pupils and wider community. From our energetic sporting events, inspiring workshops, class and music assemblies and exciting class trips, to the fantastic PTA-led activities—including the treat sale, the Y6 disco and the very popular Easter egg hunt—there has been so much to enjoy.

We were delighted to welcome our visiting Great Athlete, celebrate learning together at Parents' Evening, explore new reads at the Scholastic Book Fair, dive into curiosity during Science Week, admire the creativity of the children's work at the puppet exhibition, support good causes on Red Nose Day, and round it all off with a fantastic celebration assembly this morning. It has certainly been a term to remember!

Reminders

Lunch menu next week: **Week 1** 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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Parking - as a school community, we all play a part in keeping our children safe. Please help us maintain a calm and safe environment at drop-off and pick-up times by parking responsibly. **Try to avoid stopping in the road** to let children in or out of the car — this can be dangerous and causes congestion, and **do not park across dropped kerbs or driveways.**

Communication – please remember to look at your emails from Arbor for reminders and consent for trips. We send these out from 4.30pm each day.

We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed, and ready for another exciting term ahead.

Dates to remember.

Added dates in yellow.

April

3rd (Fri) Bank Holiday
7th – 17th Mega Camps at school
20th (Mon) Term 5 starts
20th (Mon) **Outside provider clubs start**
23rd (Thurs) EY Vision Screening
23rd (Thurs) Y2 Continents & Oceans Workshop
23rd (Thurs) **Y6 Limitless Workshop**
24th (Fri) St Mark's Day
24th (Fri) School Photographer: Class Photos
24th (Fri) **PTA Uniform Sale**
25th (Sat) Mini London Marathon
27th (Mon) **Teacher led clubs start**

May

1st (Fri) PTA Toys & Bottles donations -Non-Uniform
4th (Mon) Bank Holiday
6th (Wed) Y3 Y4 Rock Day
8th (Fri) **PTA Meeting 9am**
11th to 14th **SATs week**
11th **Parent Coffee meeting with NELFT**
15th (Fri) **PTA Cake donations – Non-Uniform**
17th (Sun) PTA Summer Fair
19th (Tue) Y5 Mosque visit
19th (Tue) Y3L Sharing Assembly 9am
21st (Thurs) Y1B Sharing Assembly 9am
21st (Thurs) **Y6 Workshop**
22nd (Fri) **INSET DAY**
25th – 29th Half Term

June

1st (Mon) Term 6 starts
2nd (Tues) **Y1 Minibeast Workshop**
3rd (Weds) **Y3 Roman Workshop**
4th (Thurs) **Y4 Howletts Trip**
5th (Fri) **PTA Meeting 9am**
5th (Fri) **PTA Uniform sale**
11th (Thurs) **Y5 Globe Theatre Trip**
17th (Weds) **EYFS to Godstone Trip**
18th & 19th (Thurs & Fri) **Bikeability Group 1**
25th & 26th (Thurs & Fri) **Bikeability Group 2**

July

2nd (Thurs) **Y5H Sharing Assembly 9am**
3rd (Fri) **Parent Rep meeting 9am**
8th (Weds) **Sports day - EYFS & KS1 in AM & KS2 in PM**
14th (Tues) **Y6 Show – 2pm**
15th (Weds) **Y6 Show – 6pm**
20th (Mon) **Leavers Church Service 9.30am**
21st (Tues) **Term ends**
22nd July to 28th August **MegaCamps**

Sports Activities

We would like to thank everyone for their support with sporting activities since Christmas. Without you taking your children to and from: football/netball matches; athletics, gymnastics, water polo, and hockey tournaments; the Tunbridge Wells Schools Swimming Gala; and physical literacy experiences, we would not be able to join in with so many events and have so much fun. A special thank you to those parents who have helped coach our teams and referee matches for us. We are looking forward to taking part in many more events over the next two terms and hope for your continued support.

Ms Truscott and Mrs Sheppard

Swimming Superheroes

On Wednesday, selected boys, and girls from Year 5 and 6 went to compete in a swimming gala against 11 schools. There were multiple races such as relays, freestyle, backstroke, and breaststroke. In the finals, Martin and I raced against some of the best swimmers in the competition. I received a bronze medal, and we were all super supportive to each other. Overall, we came 4th place and collected many medals as well as a girls' relay trophy. We all worked really hard and we had loads of fun. Written by Florence.



Football Champions

On Monday, the boys A team played a match against Temple Grove. We played well, winning 3-0! Despite having no goalkeeper, Luke K filled in and played really well, not conceding a goal and making some great saves. Elie and Luke B were solid in defence; Robbie played very well and scored a goal after a lot of attempts. Toby, Kevin, and Sam played brilliant upfront with Sam and Kevin also scoring goals. Overall, everyone played well and got a well-deserved win.



PTA Messages

Thank you to all you lovely St Marks families who attended our first family Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday. The weather held as we worked to solve the clues to identify the culprit who stole Mr. Bird's eggs! even the Easter Bunny joined us 🐰 We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. It's wonderful to report that we raised £640!!

Don't forget to sponsor our wonderful runners in the London Mini Marathon - running to raise vital funds for our school! [Mini London Marathon 2026](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

St Mark's May Fair on Sunday 17th May, 11am to 2pm.

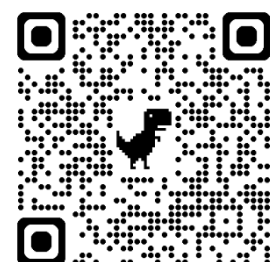
Year 3 Trip to Maidstone Museum

Year 3 spent a wonderful day at Maidstone Museum learning about life in Ancient Egypt. The children made clay canopic jars with animal heads and explored artefacts, including a 3,000-year-old shabti.



NASA's Artemis II Launch

WOW, WOW, WOW! You may have seen recent news regarding NASA's most recent project, and late last night, Artemis II was launched on its journey to navigate around the moon with the aim of taking the next steps in humanity's exploration into deep space. It will be the farthest that humans have ever been in to space – roughly 250,000 miles away from Earth! How truly incredible! If you didn't manage to watch the launch, there will be plenty of footage over the coming days. You can also find lots of information on the Newsround website (QR code below). Continuing the theme from British Science Week of 'Curiosity: What's your question?', we encourage you to discuss this milestone in space travel as you never know, children at St Mark's today could be flying to the moon in years to come! Wishing all the astronauts a successful and safe mission!



Blue Peter Badges

Many children at St Mark's have already earned Blue Peter Badges for different personal achievements, so how about joining this group by making it a project for the Easter Holidays if you find yourselves with some spare time? There are several different badges representing different skills or interests and if you manage to earn a badge, you can gain free entry into many UK attractions as well as wear the badge with pride knowing you've achieved something special. You can find all of the registration details on the Blue Peter website.



Easter Maintenance Works

During the Easter holidays, we'll be undertaking an exciting programme of updates, including new playground markings, the removal of old gym equipment ready for the Year 6 legacy gift, and essential statutory maintenance.

Head's Heroes, Attendance and Punctuality

On Thursday, this week we celebrate children for their effort and achievements throughout the week. Extra playtime goes to:

Attendance: Y4 Dover
Punctuality: Y1 Arundel
This week's Attendance: 95.7%

This week the Head's Heroes are:

EYFS Camber	Dana	For filling our classroom with smiles and joy. You are the kindest friend, and it is so lovely to have you around!
EYFS Windsor	Reya	For always being so kind! You are such a lovely friend Reya, and we love that about you!
Y1 Arundel	Jamie	For trying really hard all term and showing resilience in writing.
Y1 Bodiam	Moli	For listening carefully to guidance and support when editing writing this week.
Y2 Leeds	Kiansh	For creating a brilliant moving monster!
Y2 Pevensey	Lucs	For his courage demonstrating tennis skills during our PE lesson.
Y3 Lewes	Joe	For taking so much care with everything he does, especially handwriting and artwork.
Y3 Deal	Eames	For working really hard to improve his handwriting
Y4 Dover	Harriet	For being a considerate and compassionate friend to all. 😊
Y4 Farnham	Freddie	For excellent timetables practise. Well done, Freddie!
Y5 Hever	Kelly	For infectious positivity, high energy, and a warm personality :)
Y5 Tonbridge	Leon	For the interest, enthusiasm, and knowledge you bring to our wider learning and for sharing that with our class. 😊
Y6 Oxford	Florence	For being a super representative of St Mark's - she is dedicated, kind and respectful in all she does.
Y6 Rochester	Louis	For demonstrating our school rule of being respectful with exemplary behaviour and keen participation during the Easter Service on Monday.

This week's Unsung Heroes are:

Lewes: Scarlett, Mara, Maria & Ethan.

Pevensey: Dea-Rose, Yash, Holly, Rita, Candice, Reggie.

Rochester: Jessie J, Lois, Bella, Flora, Felix, and Kevin.

Tonbridge: Leon, Scarlett, Tyler, Audrey, Alanna, Gamze, Kyla, Ethan, Olivia, Giselle, Alvin, Orla, Manahil, Nirvi, Sneha, Karina, Finley, Sienna, Manuel, Autumn, Josh.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Bird
Headteacher



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