



St Mark's C E Primary School

21st May 2026

Newsletter No 31

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful time the children had at the colour run today! There are lots of photos below to see the fun they had.

We have also had such success with our football team last week. Please see Franklin's write up below.

Year 6 finished their SATs and went to Calverley Park to enjoy a morning of fun and ice cream, which were kindly donated by the PTA.

The PTA fair took place on Sunday, with the weather holding up to make a wonderful day. More details are below, but we would like to thank all the parents who took the time to help make this happen. These events do not happen without your support, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to making the fair a huge success.

Year 5 had their visit to the local Mosque, in not ideal conditions, Year 1 and Year 3 had their sharing assembly and KS1 had the parents in to read with them yesterday. All in all, busy but joyous events.

Reminders

INSET Day tomorrow. We are back to school on Monday 1st June.

Kent Test Dates

Monday 1 June 2026: Registration opens at www.kent.gov.uk/kenttest

Tuesday 1 July 2026: Registration closes at midnight.

Thursday 10 September 2026: Children who attend a Kent primary school sit the test in their school.

Thursday 15 October 2026: Kent Test Decisions emails are sent after 4pm to the email address used to register the child.

Parking – Please 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, driveways or on the grass verges.**

Dates to remember.
Added dates in yellow.

May

22nd (Fri) INSET DAY

25th – 29th Half Term

25th – 29th MegaCamps in School

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

10th (Weds) Jamie Smart Trip

11th (Thurs) Y5 Globe Theatre Trip

11th (Thurs) The Amelia Summer Reading Challenge

17th (Weds) EYFS to Godstone Trip

18th & 19th (Thurs & Fri) Bikeability Group

18th (Thurs) New Reception Children

Welcome Morning

19th (Fri) Y6 Trip to Rochester Cathedral

23rd (Tues) The Amelia Summer Reading Challenge

24th - 26th (Weds - Fri) Bikeability Group 1&2

July

2nd (Thurs) Y5H Sharing Assembly 9am

2nd (Thurs) Transition Day

2nd (Thurs) Y3 Knex Workshop

3rd (Fri) Parent Rep Meeting 9am

7th (Tues) Rocksteady Concert at 10am

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



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Boys A Team Tournament Report

On the 15th of May, the A team went to a football tournament at Jockey Farm Stadium. In the group stage, Robbie and Sam scored great goals and we got through the group stage after only conceding 1 goal. In the quarter finals, after a tense 0-0 game against St Matthew's, we won on penalties after great saves from Tommy and excellent penalties from Sam and Elie. After that game, we played Kingshill. After conceding early, Sam scored a goal. After a few more chances from both sides, it went to another penalty shootout. We won, yet again, by a penalty by Robbie that got stuck in the top right netting, which got us into the final. In the final, we played Claremont A but sadly we lost 1-0. Despite losing, we all played well and deserved to win.

Written by Franklin.



KS1 Parents Reading for Pleasure

On Wednesday, Key Stage 1 welcomed parents, carers and grandparents to their classrooms for a reading for pleasure session. The adults read stories to their child and listened to their child reading to them. It was wonderful to see so many children and adults sharing stories and reading together in such a calm and relaxing way.

"It was enjoyable and exciting to have Mummy reading in my classroom with me," Ruby
Key Stage 1 will repeat this activity again next year as it was such a success.



Year 6 Calverley!

I think the Calverley experience was great. Everyone who went I believe would agree. The ice cream was impeccable and the lovely break after SAT's was needed. I think for most it was a refreshing and exhilarating experience. It was filled with fun, playing all types of games, such as football, rounders and cricket and more! In conclusion, it was an amazing time that was well spent!

Written by Jules.



Year 6 Workshop

Year 6 took part in an engaging and age-appropriate Addiction Awareness Workshop kindly facilitated by Dr Comline. Dr Comline thoughtfully designed a talk to help the children understand the importance of making healthy and safe choices. Pupils explored the different types of addiction, including the effects of smoking, alcohol, vaping and gaming on the human brain and the science behind addiction by focusing on dopamine release. The session was interactive and positive, the year group showed maturity when sharing ideas and asking questions.

We hope this valuable learning experience will support our pupils as they continue to grow into well-informed and responsible young people.

Thank you The Year 6 Team



PTA Messages!

Hello everyone!

Thank you so much for all your support for this year's May Fair. We think you'll agree it was a fantastic day, full of fun, laughter, and as usual, a very wet headteacher! You were all so generous with your donations, your time, and your money, we raised **£4,530.45** 🙌🇬🇧

We are all exhausted but exhilarated - it's always a huge undertaking but worth every minute! This year had some new elements - the Morris Dancers, some new games, a cuddly toy tombola, and the exotic animal meet and greet! If you have any feedback please share it with us at PTA@st-marks.kent.sch.uk.

Thank you so much to all the staff who came along on the day to volunteer on the bottle stall, run forest school, provide first aid where necessary, and of course, a huge thank you to Mr Bird who once again volunteered as tribute in the stocks, and ended up very, very wet!



2026 St Marks Golf Day Year 6 Legacy

Friday saw the annual St Marks Golf Day played at Dale Hill in Ticehurst. 19 golfers played in the afternoon, followed by an evening at the Bengal Brasserie with prize giving. The weather was kind to us and everyone had a great time. Congratulations to overall winner Jason Oogarah! Longest drive was won by Alex Conway and nearest the pin (for school parents) was Barney Dash. Thank you to all who attended and for all our donations for prizes from Jules Reason Golf, The Gallery, Bengal Brasserie, Dale Hill and The Bull. **Total amount raised: £590** See you next year! 🏌️👤



Lastly, a note from our sponsors:

Leaders Estate Agents

Leaders are our main sponsor:

With over 40 years of experience in the property market in England and Wales, Leaders are a great choice if you are looking to sell your home. In fact, they are offering free valuations: <https://www.leaders.co.uk/online-instant-property-valuation/>

Choice Carpets

Choice Carpets sponsored our bar on Sunday:

Choice Carpets is a local family-owned company that for over 40 years has been providing carpets, curtains, blinds and hard flooring across Kent, with shops in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. We also provide an upholstery, cushions. Visit www.choicecarpets.co.uk to find out more!

Thank you all again for your contribution to Sunday - too much from too many people to mention everyone by name...which is a good problem to have!

From the PTA

Head's Heroes, Attendance and Punctuality

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

Attendance: Rec Camber

Punctuality: Y5 Tonbridge

This week's Attendance: 96.3%

This week the Head's Heroes are:

EYFS Camber	Jake	For always being safe, ready and respectful. You are a role model to others with the great choices you make Jake!
EYFS Windsor	Caden	For always being so kind and respectful of all his friends and Teachers!
Y1 Arundel	Coco	For always being so kind, thoughtful and a really good friend! 😊
Y1 Bodiam	Cobey	For great effort and concentration with his reading!
Y2 Leeds	Anna	For persevering with her reading!
Y2 Pevensey	Ruby	For challenging herself to try new things and persevering when something was tricky.
Y3 Lewes	Joe	For learning his ten times tables and presenting his new learning in our class assembly with confidence.
Y3 Deal	Monty	For showing his friends compassion and care when they need help.
Y4 Dover	Logan	For his brilliant communication and effort in our cricket match yesterday. Well done 😊
Y4 Farnham	Aiden	For scoring the most amount of points in Y4 Farnham during this week's Times Table Rock Stars tournament. Magnificent Maths! 4374 points!
Y5 Hever	Rory	For starting each day positively, with great focus and motivation in maths!
Y5 Tonbridge	Sneha	For the fantastic teamwork you showed this week in cricket and music and for using good metacognition to plan and organise your group's Gamelan performance. Well done! 😊
Y6 Oxford	Robbie	For showing creativity and demonstrating accuracy in his writing.
Y6 Rochester	Asher	For consistently showing support and kindness towards your peer, your positivity has brought joy and pride into their learning. Thank you for being a caring and compassionate role model. 😊

This week's Unsung Heroes are:

Tonbridge – Leon, Audrey, Melissa, Gamze, Kyla, Olivia, Giselle, Ivan, Orla, Manahil, Nirvi, Sneha, Karina, Manuel, Autumn, Kenda and Josh.

Yours sincerely,
Mr S Bird
Headteacher



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Aspire, Believe, Succeed







WEDS
27th May
10am-1pm
1.30-4pm

KIDS POND DIPPING

**PRICE:
DONATION**



AT NOTCUTTS GARDEN CENTRE, TONBRIDGE ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TN2 4QN

A great opportunity to learn about nature & have fun!



Raising funds for Folly Wildlife Rescue - your local wildlife hospital





GUITAR LESSONS

LEARN TO PLAY GUITAR AT
YOUR SCHOOL



FOR MORE INFORMATION ——— LESSONS ———

Email Rupert Horne:
info@guitarclubs.co.uk

LEARN TO READ MUSIC, PLAY
SONGS. STUDY GRADES.
EXPLORE POP, ROCK, BLUES,
FINGERSTYLE & MORE!



30 MINUTE SMALL GROUP LESSONS



LESSONS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY





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Academy



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