



St Mark's C E Primary School

17th July 2026

Newsletter No 37

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful school year, we would like to thank all our pupils, families, staff and governors for their continued support. This term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities, sporting achievements, performances, trips and memorable experiences.

Make yourself a cup of tea and read this week's Newsletter as we have a lot of news to report this week!



Year 5 Tonbridge - DT

As part of our learning in DT, Tonbridge had a fantastic afternoon preparing and enjoying different salads. We had researched salads and thought about how to make them more nutritious. During the afternoon, we first tasted lots of new ingredients. We then all worked as a team to make 5 different salads and shared them as a class. Watermelon and apple and halloumi, carrot and orange were definite favourites with lots of us going back for seconds!



Year 4 Howletts Trip

On Monday, Year 4 went to Howletts Zoo. As soon as we arrived, we went straight to a talk on 'Habitats and Adaptations'. The zookeeper explained the link between animal's characteristics and their environment. It was fascinating! We saw so many different animals when walking around the zoo, such as lions, tigers, elephants and rhinos. Whilst having our morning snack, we were lucky enough to spy a baby gorilla clinging to its mother! Thank you to the parents who kindly supported us on the trip. (photos on the next page)

Dates to remember.

Added dates in yellow.

July

20th (Mon) Leavers Church Service 9.30am – school uniform mandatory.

20th (Mon) Grandparents Reading Party at 2.30pm

21st (Tues) Term ends. Wrap around finishes at 4.15pm.

22nd July to 28th August Mega Camps

September

1st (Tues) Inset Day

2nd (Weds) Term1 to start for Y1-Y6

10th (Thurs) Kent Test



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Sports Thank you

Since Easter we have been very busy with our sporting activities at St. Marks. We began with the Mini London Marathon, where 40 lucky students were able to run the last mile of the London Marathon the day before the race. We also took part in the Marathon at school: each class competing with each other to see who could run 2 miles around our track first, over a number of days. Oxford class were the overall winners, with Bodiam being the first KS1 class to complete the event. Just before half term we also held our school colour run, which we hope was enjoyed by everyone.

We have also taken part in various cricket competitions from Year 1 to year 6, and our Y1&2 children took part in a football tournament held at the Tonbridge Angels Stadium. We must also mention our Boys A football team who won the Tunbridge Wells Championship League this year and reached the finals of the inter-school cup, losing by a single goal. The girls' football team also impressed with their 3rd place finish in the league. The weather (too hot this time) prevented some of our events from going ahead, including a base-ball tournament and KS1 rugby festival, maybe next year.

We would like to take this chance to thank all the parents who have helped us out this year with our sporting events, without you taking your children to and from various places, we would not be able to take part. A special thank you to those parents who have helped coach the football, rugby and hockey teams and also refereed our matches. Also, to the two lovely parents who volunteered to run an athletics club after school in term six. We are always looking for assistance, so if anyone does want to run a club, referee (help needed please) or help with coaching all help is appreciated, please contact sport@st-marks.kent.sch.uk

One final plea, if anyone still has a St. Mark's sports top or football shirt, please can they return it to school before the end of term. We are still missing several of our shirts.

We have had lots of fun taking part in all our sporting activities this year and are looking forward to next year.

Thank you all once again.

Miss Truscott and Mrs Sheppard.

Year 6



Thank you to everyone who came to watch and support Year 6 in their showings of their production of Grossbusters this week! We hope you enjoyed the children's hard work and had a good laugh at some of their 'pants' jokes. They should all be extremely proud of themselves!

Read to Succeed

This year's reading challenge ended last Friday on the 10th July. This week has been filled with the final tea party, final S'mores parties and today we have been to Waterstones with those children reaching 300+ reads.

The children have all read so well with so many classes reaching fabulous milestones. I am delighted that this year we got our first class where everyone reached 100 reads - this is fantastic.

A huge thank you once again to the PTA for funding this challenge. We really couldn't do it without this level of support.

Thank you also to Mr Bird for manning the fire for the S'mores parties on some very warm days.

This year we have given out:

319 pencils for 25 reads

302 bookmarks for 50 reads

271 reading bugs for 75 reads

238 books for 100 reads

150 invites for afternoon Tea with Mrs Crane

104 books for 00 reads

60 invites for S'mores parties with Mr Bird

27 books were bought at Waterstones for 300 reads

PLEASE, please keep reading over the summer holidays. I look forward to hearing about everything that's read, new authors that are discovered and everyone recommending me books to read. I have had a pile of books accumulating over the last few months and am looking forward to reading them and being able to share these reads with everyone in September.

Mrs Crane

The Children's Book Trust book collection

WOW!

We have been blown away by your generosity. On Wednesday, a group of parents helped to deliver almost **700** books to ASDA for the charity to collect. We cannot thank you enough for your support and donations.



Our toy collection, for the Key Stage 1 playground, is still on going, please drop off any suitable toys to Mrs Vickers in Pevensey class.

Thank you again, for the donations so far.

Mrs Vickers

Head's Heroes, Attendance and Punctuality

On Friday this week and last week, we celebrated the children for their effort and achievements throughout the week.

Friday 17th July
Attendance: Year 5 Hever
Punctuality: Early Years Camber
This week's Attendance: 95.1%

This week the Head's Heroes are:

EYFS Camber	Jake	Having a positive, can-do attitude in school
EYFS Windsor	Olivia	For being a ray of sunshine and always having a fantastic attitude to learning!
Y1 Arundel	Lidia	For being a superstar all year
Y1 Bodiam	Gus Isabelle	For always applying himself fully in our phonics sessions. For settling in so well to Bodiam class- a great addition.
Y2 Leeds	Ivy	For being brilliantly confident when reading a story to the whole class.
Y2 Pevensey	Gioia	For creativity and design during our clay art project
Y3 Lewes	Maria	For being an excellent role model to others all year.
Y3 Deal	Henry	For his fantastic team spirit, Henry is always supportive to his friends.
Y4 Dover	Dover class	For their super behaviour and enthusiasm during our trip to the zoo! 😊
Y4 Farnham	Finley	Outstanding attitude to learning! Always safe, ready and respectful-well done!
Y5 Hever	Amaaya	For being the most delightful and rewarding student throughout the whole of year 5. Amaaya is the perfect role model – she embodies our school values and follows our school rules.
Y5 Tonbridge	Finley	For the commitment and effort you bring to all your learning, how well you work in teams and your ability to also have fun while learning. Well done! 😊
Y6 Oxford	Yusufur	For continuing to be a super role model at St Marks and a super performance as 'The Voice' in our show!
Y6 Rochester	Jonas	For exemplifying how courtesy, artistic creativity and quiet confidence can shine every day. Well done! 😊

This week's Unsung Heroes are:

Tonbridge: Leon, Scarlett, Tyler, Alex, Audrey, Alanna, Melissa, Gamze, Kyla, Ethan, Olivia, Giselle, Alvin, Ivan, Orla, Ruu, Nirvi, Sneha, Karina, Finley, Sienna, Autumn, Kenda, Josh.

Yours sincerely,
Mr S Bird
Headteacher



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