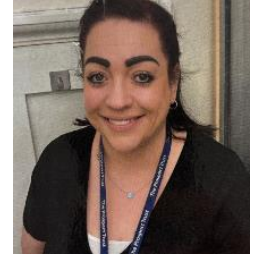


Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Issue: 1

Dear Parents/carers,

I can't believe we have already been back at school for 4 weeks already- and what a lovely 4 weeks it has been. We have been so pleased to welcome all of the families who have chosen St Mark's as the school for their child and we cannot wait to continue to get to know them over the 7 years we have them with us. All of the children have settled into their new year groups so well and continue to demonstrate the CIRCLE values in all that they do. A big thank you to all of the staff who continue to show so much dedication to the children and families at St Mark's.



This term we have launched our new school vision and have been working hard to build on our 'firm foundations' by using our CIRCLE values in our learning and our relationships around school. Later on in this newsletter you can read about the vision in full.

Staffing news: This term we have welcomed Miss Sandberg as the teacher of Diamonds Class and Mrs Sheen as a Learning Support Assistant. They have both been warmly welcomed and have already contributed so much to our school.

Prospective parents visits: Do you, or anyone you know, have a child currently in Nursery or looking for a Reception place for September 2026? If so, we would love to meet you/them! We are delighted to be able to open up the school for tours where prospective families can come and spend some time in school, have a look around the classrooms and get a feel for what goes in our amazing school. These tours will be led by myself and Mrs Wright and dates are listed on our website. Please do call the main office to book onto one of the tours and we look forward to welcoming new and existing families to St Mark's. Please spread the word.

A couple of reminders from me: please can you arrive promptly for your child at 3.20pm. If you are running late (which can happen to all of us) please can you either ring the office or drop us an email so that we can tell your child where you are. Also please can I remind you all that the play equipment which is next to the Queen's Road entrance is only for use with a member of school staff present.

Please see later in the newsletter for a list of dates for this half term, a few additional ones have been added from the ones which were sent out to you at the end of week 1.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Best regards

Rachel Jones

## Learning updates

There is no learning  
without mistakes.

Mary Walton

This term we are all focusing on understanding that making a mistake is an important part of the learning process. We are working on developing resilient attitudes to learning and embracing challenges. Please can you encourage your child at home to reflect on their mistakes and to understand that adults make mistakes too!

All of the children have been busy working very hard and learning lots- here are some of the highlights of this half term so far.

**Diamond class** have been learning about the heart and the circulatory system (their clay hearts were amazing).

**Ruby class** have enjoyed meeting Flora and seeing her hot air balloon- I wonder where she has been on her travels now!



**Sapphire class** are learning how to write instructions for a robot (their robot hands were incredible).



**Emerald class** are loving reading Dear Zoo and learning all about animals. They enjoyed ordering the animals in the story and pretending to be the animals by wearing masks.



## Vision Update



As of September 2025 our school vision is:

### Living and Learning together- Building Firm Foundations

**Our vision is for all children to develop a lifelong love of learning and sense of belonging, within a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive Christian community. All children have the opportunity to become free thinking, responsible citizens, whilst understanding and appreciating the wonder of our world. Children leave St Mark's with the confidence to live fulfilling lives, based on the teachings and example of Jesus. Matthew 7:24-27**

The vision is based around the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders from Matthew 7:24-27. This teaches us the importance of building our lives on firm foundations and this is what we aim to support the children (and families) of St Mark's to do.

Children will be selected in Celebration Worship on Friday as 'Builder of the week' where they have shown dedication to improving in one of the CIRCLE values. They have been enjoying wearing their hard hats around school!



### Builders of the week so far:

Trisha, Niyrika,  
Esther, Elijah,  
Hannah, Indiana

## Attendance

### Reminders about Penalty Notices:

The Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, state that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Head teacher is required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

Where a child is taken out of school for 10 sessions (1 session is a morning or afternoon) or more, within a 10 week period, and the 'leave of absence' is without the authority of Mrs Wright, each parent is liable to receive a penalty notice for each child who is absent. This also includes children being late to school on 10 or more occasions after registers close at 9am, without good reason.

Further information can be found at: [Attendance guidance for parents | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/attendance-guidance-for-parents)

Attendance Matters



## Online Safety and Phone Forum

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 9am (in the school hall) we will be hosting an Online Safety and Smart Phone Forum. This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to get together and discuss online safety and the use of smart phones and the internet for the children at St Mark's. It will be an opportunity to have a discussion about the online world our children are facing and how we can work together to support our children through this. We hope to see you there- please encourage other parents/carers to come along too.



### Dates for your diaries

Autumn 2025	Event
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	INSET day (school is closed)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2.15pm	Harvest Festival Service at St Mark's Church
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Hello Yellow for Young Minds/World Mental Health day
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 3.30pm	Early reading meeting for parents/carers of Reception and Key Stage 1 (we will have a classroom with staff available for children to play in so that parents can attend the meeting)
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 9am	Prospective Parents tours
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Reception and KS1 visit to Marwell Zoo
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am	Prospective Parents tours
27 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Individual and sibling photos (preschool siblings offered too)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 9am	Online Safety and phone forum.
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening (school hall)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening (school hall)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Cinema trip for Anti-Bullying week (Years 1-6)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 9am	Prospective Parents tours
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am	Prospective Parents tours
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November, 9am	Prospective Parents tours
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu immunisations
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December, 2.15pm	Nativity at St Mark's Church led by Reception and KS1
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols around the Camp fire
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm	End of term