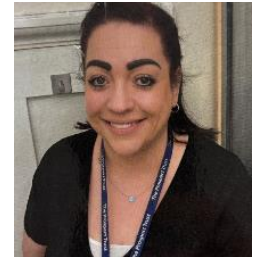


Date: 14th November 2025

Issue: 2

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope that you had a lovely restful half term and are ready for all of the activities ahead in the lead up to Christmas. I cannot believe that we are already in November- it has been a great Autumn term so far. We have enjoyed visits to the Church for Harvest and to Marwell Zoo and have been busy learning lots of new things. We have also had many prospective parents in school who have commented on how calm and purposeful it has been around school.



Home school agreement- we will be sending this home, please look over this with your child so that we can all continue to work together for the best for your children.

Staffing news: Mrs Watson has decided to retire at the end of this term after dedicating 20 years to all of the staff and families at St Mark's. Mrs Watson will be very much missed but we hope she will enjoy her 3 month cruise to celebrate her retirement. I also have some very happy news to share with you- Mrs Wooley is pregnant with her second child who is due in January 2026- congratulations to the Wooley family. This will mean that she will be going on maternity leave at the end of this half term. I am sure you will join me in wishing both Mrs Watson and Mrs Wooley all the best- and hope they will both come back to visit us soon.

Thank you to parents who came to the Online Safety Forum on November 7th. It was great to be able to get together to discuss how to keep our children safe. There will be a follow up newsletter about Online Safety with some tips and ideas from the forum which can be used with children of all ages. We are also planning a follow up meeting and are hoping to have a technician to come into school to show us how to put parental controls on devices.

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 Mrs Wright and I, 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.

PTA: A big thank you to the PTA for organising a disco, the Scarecrow Trail, Christmas cards and also Tea Set each week. They are busy organising the Christmas Fair on November 29th 11-2pm- please look out for information about this and please support the school by coming along to the fair and bringing in donations for the PTA to sell/use as tombola prizes.

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

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Best regards,

Rachel Jones

Learning updates

We are continuing to work on developing resilient attitudes to learning and embracing challenge. Please can you encourage your children at home to give things a go- even if they find them tricky- this will help with both their resilience and independence. At the end of this newsletter there are some tips for things to say and do to develop resilience in your child/children.



In order for your children to be more independent please empower them to come and tell a grown up in school if they have a message for a teacher (for example a missing jumper/cardigan/water bottle etc).

All of the children have been busy working very hard and learning lots- here are some of the highlights since the last newsletter:

Diamond class thoroughly enjoyed planning and making bread as their DT project. Another highlight was writing survival stories in their English lessons. Last week they enjoyed making poppies for their Remembrance wreath:



Ruby class enjoyed their visit to Marwell Zoo and are enjoying their phonics sessions:



Sapphire class have enjoyed learning about magnets:



Emerald class enjoyed reading *Poo in the Zoo* and putting on their own class zoo for their outcome. Seeing the snow leopards at Marwell Zoo was definitely a highlight of the half term.



Vision



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

Children have been 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 this term:

Trisha, Niyrika, Keegan, Rosie, Rey,
Esther, Elijah, Emerald class, Reuben
Hannah, Indiana, Oliver, Arlo, Marni, Maddie,
Teddy, Lyra and Ayaan.



Attendance

Attendance Matters



At the end of Autumn 1 our whole school attendance was 96.3% against the national figure of 95.2%. Let's keep working together to aim for as high a figure as possible. If you are unsure whether to send your child into school please refer to the NHS website: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

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 \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Harvest



On Wednesday 8th October the whole school walked to St Mark's Church to hold our annual Harvest Festival Service. As always, the singing was amazing and the children confidently shared the journey of a seed from a seed to bread.

Thank you for all of the donations which were collected from the church by volunteers from Farnborough Foodbank.



Hockey Festival

On Wednesday 15th October Mrs Hagan took some of our year 3 and 4 girls to Fleet and Ewshot Hockey Club at Aldershot Garrison for a Hockey Skills Festival. The girls really enjoyed themselves and were great ambassadors for St Mark's.



Online Safety




Attached to this newsletter is a help sheet for parents from National College about age ratings for films, apps and computer games. There are also tips about parental controls on the help sheet.

Dates for your diaries

Autumn 2025	Event
Friday 21 st November	MUFTI day in return for donations for the Christmas Fair
Monday 24 th November, 9am	Prospective Parents tours
Wednesday 26 th November, 9.30am	Prospective Parents tours
Friday 28 th November, 9am	Prospective Parents tours
Saturday 29 th November 11-2pm	PTA run Christmas Fair at St Mark's
Saturday 29 th November 6.30pm	Church run Lantern Procession (separate information has been sent out). Walk from St Mark's School to St Mark's Church with hot chocolate at the church.
Thursday 4 th December	Flu immunisations
Thursday 11 th December, 2.15pm	Nativity at St Mark's Church led by Reception and KS1
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Dinner (please note change of date) Children can wear Christmas jumpers to school this day with their uniform
Wednesday 17 th December 5pm	Carols around the Camp fire
Friday 19 th December, 1.30pm	End of term


BEST 8 WAYS TO BUILD RESILIENCE

- 

1 I have resilient adults around me

What you model matters
- 


2 I am good at some things and need to work on others

Find and celebrate strengths
- 


3 I am hopeful and positive even when it's tough!

Teach optimistic thinking to power success
- 

4 I can cope with change

Build capacity to be adaptable and flexible
- 

5 I can practise to achieve my goal

Connection to meaning and purpose fuels the many steps to mastery
- 

6 I have people who help me to shine

Resilience is supported by people who mentor, guide and model
- 

7 I can learn from mistakes and solve problems

Problem solving and taking action leads to self-improvement
- 

8 I am me – and that's enough

Self-acceptance builds the capacity to embrace strengths and accept challenges



Publish date: 06/02/19

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

Universal, suitable for all ages	Parental Guidance required	Suitable for people aged 12 and over	Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult
Suitable for people aged 15 and over	Suitable for people aged 18 and over	Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers	

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

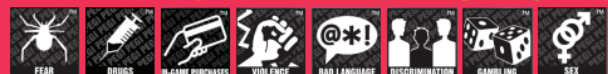
WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info
--	--	--	--	--

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info