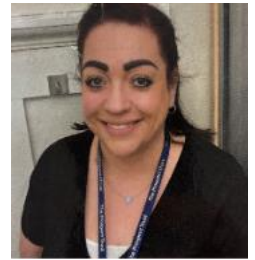


Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting year we have had- thank you so much to all of you for supporting us as we collaborate for the best for all of the children at St Mark's. I want to thank all of the staff who work tirelessly to ensure that all of the learning opportunities and experiences planned for the children are the best they can be.



Summer support

At the end of this newsletter there is some signposting to support you may need over the holidays- please take a look over this for reminders about water safety, online safety and family support should you need it.

Staffing news

Mrs Coombes, in the school office, is pregnant and expecting her second child in November. We are very excited that we will be welcoming another baby to the wider St Mark's family.

We are very excited to announce that we have been awarded the **Brightcore Excellence in Safeguarding Commitment Award**.



'The Commitment Award recognises organisations that have engaged with Brightcore's full external safeguarding review process and demonstrated a clear commitment to independent safeguarding scrutiny. It reflects the openness and professionalism involved in reviewing safeguarding arrangements thoroughly, including policies, procedures, systems, culture and practice.' Find out more about Brightcore Consultancy here- [Safeguarding & Education | Brightcore Consultancy](#)

We take this opportunity to wish our **year 6** pupils (and their families) all the best at their secondary schools. We know that they will continue to be St Mark's sticks of rock in their journeys ahead. We will miss you all.

All that is left for this academic year is to wish you all a lovely and safe summer break.

We look forward to welcoming the children back into school on **Thursday 3rd September at 8.40am**.

Best regards,

Rachel Jones



Celebrations!

All of the children at St Mark's have worked so hard this year. We wanted to share some of their academic achievements with you.

Year 6 SATs:

	Reading	Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	Writing (teacher assessment)	Maths
St Mark's % of children achieving the expected standard	80%	80%	73%	80%
National % of children achieving the expected standard	75%	74%	73%	75%

Year 4 MTC scores

The maximum score which can be achieved is 25 and all of the year 4 children achieved above 21 marks. The average score was 24.4.



Year 1 Phonics Screening

87% of year 1 passed the phonics screening this year with an average score of 34.6 out of 40.



Well done to all of our children for their excellent efforts and achievements and for all of the staff in school who support and encourage the children.

Communication



We endeavour to communicate with all parents in the most effective way, so that all parents and carers feel well informed about the events going on in school. Please ensure that you read the letters we send home to you as we are, increasingly, having questions at Meet and Greet, via the school phone and via email, which have already been communicated with you.

Please also continue to ask your child/children to take messages to their teachers as this is the best way to make them independent and to ensure that they are giving the relevant message to the relevant person in school.

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.



PTA

Thank you to the PTA who are funding the following playground equipment for the children to use in September: pickleball bats and balls, skittles, badminton equipment and stepping stones.

The PTA have worked hard all year baking, fundraising and supporting the school and we are so grateful for all of their hard work. If you are able to join members of the PTA from 9am on Tuesday 1st September for a St Mark's grounds tidy up we would be so grateful.



Key Stage 2 Pencil Cases

This is a reminder that children in Key Stage 2 need to bring in their own pencil case in September containing the following:

- A glue stick
- A pencil
- A blue handwriting pen (we will give the children their first pen). Swash pens are the ones we use in school- they are available to purchase from the school office for 40p.
- A purple pen
- A 30cm ruler
- A rubber
- A pair of child's scissors
- A pencil sharpener
- A selection of coloured pencils
- A highlighter pen



We supply whiteboard pens- however your child can bring their own to school if they would like.

Please ensure that all equipment is clearly **labelled** and does not contain/have attached novelty items as these become a distraction. All items should fit into **one plain pencil case** which can fit in your child's tray. We have whole class stationery which the children can borrow in the event that they forget their pencil case. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about stationery.

Vision and Values

Learning and Living 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.

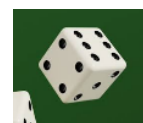
Matthew 7:24-27

This year, the children at St Mark's have focused on building on their CIRCLE values as the foundations of everything they do. We look forward to continue this journey with them next year.

Games event

On Wednesday 8th July we invited all of the children and their families into school for a games event. 33 families were represented at the event with over 80 people playing games and eating ice pops! There was such a nice atmosphere in the school hall and classrooms and we are hoping to run another event like this in the next academic year.

The children who attended received a game pack to take home containing resources for the games and laminated games cards. The children who did not receive them will be taking them home this week so they can learn game too. Our aim from this event was to give families ideas of games to interact with your children which are not reliant on screens and technology. The pack is small enough to fit into your bag and be used anywhere.



Fruit trees

We are delighted to share that St Mark's secured a grant from the **Frank Rust Memorial Trust** last year, which helped us plant three fruit trees: apple, pear and plum. We also bought stones for the whole school and the pupils in each class have decorated these with messages linked to our school values. The aim was to create a mindful space in our small garden where pupils and staff can relax, reflect and unwind. A year on, we are thrilled to see plums growing on the plum tree! A special thank you goes to Eco Club (and Mrs Bishop) for watering, weeding, litter-picking and sowing wildflower seeds in the garden and building a hedgehog house which is now situated amongst the fruit trees.



Sports Week

In the week beginning 6th July we celebrated National Sports Week by trying out a range of sports and activities in school. The children took part in: pickleball, Irish dancing, skipping with the Skipping Ninja and cultural dances. The hot weather meant that the orienteering challenges and workshops were not possible; these have been rescheduled for September. The children enjoyed the activities and learning new things. Thank you to the parent who let us borrow their air conditioning unit- this allowed us to still do all of the activities in the school hall.



Dates for Autumn term

September 1 st & 2 nd	INSET Days
September 1 st 9am - 1pm	PTA in school- Grounds/Garden Tidy Up- see the flier above
Thursday 3 rd September	First day of term for years 1-6
Friday 4 th September	Reception children in for their Teddy Bear's Picnic
Monday 7 th September	Reception children in school part time
Tuesday 8 th September	Emerald Class trip to the FAST Museum
Monday 14 th September 1.30pm	Reception parents optional Q&A drop in
Tuesday 15 th September 2.45pm	Year 3/4 Meet the Teacher
Wednesday 16 th September	Reception in school full time
Wednesday 16 th September 2.45pm	Year 1/2 Meet the Teacher
Thursday 17 th September 2.45pm	Year 5/6 Meet the Teacher
Friday 18 th September	Orienteering Day (all children in PE kit)
Friday 18 th September	Nurse Clinic in school (9-12)
Monday 28 th September	PTA event after school (details tbc)
Wednesday 30 th September 6pm-7pm	PTA meeting on Teams
Wednesday 7 th October 2pm	Harvest Festival Service at St Mark's Church
Friday 9 th October at 9am	School tours for Reception September 2027
Friday 16 th October at 9:30am	School tours for Reception September 2027
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October 2026	Half term
Tuesday 10 th November 3:30-6pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 11 th November 4.30-7pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 13 th November	Nurse Clinic in school (9-12)
Friday 20 th November	Children in Need
Monday 23 rd November at 9:30am	School tours for Reception September 2027
Tuesday 24 th November at 9am	School tours for Reception September 2027
Thursday 26 th & Friday 27 th November	School closed- WMAT Well-being Weekend
Wednesday 16 th December 2pm	Nativity at St Mark's Church
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 th December 2026 1.30pm	Last day of term

Please share tour dates with friends and family members who have a child who would be starting school in September 2027.



Mental Health and Family Support



NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

Support to help Young People with their Mental Wellbeing during the summer holidays

ChatHealth : Hampshire Healthy Families

ChatHealth - ChatHealth is a confidential text support service for parents, carers, families and young people in Hampshire manned by Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Foundation Trust Health Visitors and Public Health Nurses (school nurses).

Summer Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK)

The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS UK) - 46% of drownings occur in the summer months and this rises to 75% amongst 13 – 17-year olds. The RLSS UK offers lots of advice and tips to stay safe in the water during the summer.

Togetherness | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council

Togetherness - These free online courses offer advice and practical tips to boost your confidence as a parent, help you navigate family life and strengthen your relationships. Whether you are a mum, dad, foster parent or grandparent, there is a course for you. Developed by psychologists and professionals, they have been designed to help you understand your child's feelings, development and behaviour, as well as focus on your own feelings as you grow as a family. Click on the link to find out more information and how you can access these free courses.

Mental Wellbeing Hampshire - mental health and wellbeing support | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council

Mental Wellbeing Hampshire - is a partnership of organisations working to support good mental health and wellbeing in our communities.

Family Information and Services Hub (FISH) | Hampshire CTS

Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub (FISH) - Find information about what is going on in your area, details on how to access services, organisations and activities in Hampshire, and the advice and support that is available.

Parents & Carers - Hampshire SCP

Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership provides practical advice and help on supporting your child and keeping your family safe.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.

IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.

PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.

KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.

LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.

FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.

WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.

LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.

DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®