



St Mark's Newsletter

So in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you'
Matthew 7:12

Head teacher's Awards

This is an award that is presented during the Friday Whole School Assembly for children that have given that 'little bit extra' during the week. This can be in any area, schoolwork, attitude etc

16/01/2025

Headteacher's Award

Carter Evie

Writers of the Week

George C Phoebe

Mathematicians of the Week

Jessica Alice WL

Readers of the Week

chinny Harrison

Team of the Week **RED**

23/01/2025

Headteacher's Award

Oscar Rosie WL

Writers of the Week

Kurtis Neriyah

Mathematicians of the Week

Rose JH Annabelle

Readers of the Week

Carter Phoebe

Team of the Week **RED**

February 2026

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School Lunches

Lancashire Catering Service has recently informed all primary schools that they recommend schools to increase the cost of a Key Stage 2 meal charge, for pupils who are not eligible for a free school meal, from £2.90 to £3.00 per meal. This increase is in line with food and labour costs.

We will increase the cost of a school lunch to £3.00 per meal from Monday 13 April 2026.

Bikeability

Bikeability training for all year 5 and year 6 pupils will take place on Monday 9 March, Thursday 12 March and Friday 13 March 2026. All relevant paperwork has been sent home to year 5 and year 6 pupils. Please complete the paperwork and return to school if you haven't already done so. Thank you.

World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 5 March 2026. Pupils can come to school dressed as a book character, if they so wish. The day will focus on pupils engaging in a wide range of literacy-based activities. Further details to follow.

Welcome to the latest newsletter with a quick update since our last one.

If you wish to speak with a member of staff, please call the office to make an appointment.
Thanks

After School Care

There are very few parents requesting wraparound care from 4.30pm until 5.30pm and on some evenings recently no pupils have stayed until 5.30pm. In order to meet all the safeguarding and welfare requirements, the school must have a minimum of two members of staff on duty during wraparound sessions. Our current policy states that parents who need wraparound care until 5.30pm need to contact school before lunchtime (12 noon) on the day that care is required. However, in order to establish demand for wraparound provision each day, we are now asking parents to inform school at least 24 hours prior to requiring wraparound care until 5.30pm. This will ensure that staff have prior knowledge of the demand for provision and enable the school to effectively manage and deploy wraparound care staff to other supporting roles within the school. Parents **do not** have to inform school 24 hours prior if they require wraparound care or wish to book an after-school activity until 4.30pm. We will amend the After School policy to reflect the changes.

Before School Care

There is no need to inform school staff prior to attending before school care, which commences at 8.00am until 8.30am.

Valentine Celebrations

On Friday 13 February 2026 the school has organised a Valentine's Jumper Day to mark Valentine's Day. Children can come to school wearing a red jumper or a jumper that they love in exchange for £1 donation. At morning breaktime children can enjoy a Valentine's treat - pancakes with strawberries and cream (toast will still be available for those who don't like pancakes!!) All £1 donations will go towards the cost of the treat. Children will spend time during the day engaging in fun activities.

Assembly Themes

Each week Collective Worship focusses on a theme. The themes for the second half of the Spring Term 2026 are

Week beginning	Theme
23 February	Promises
2 March	Fire
9 March	Changes
16 March	Spring
23 March	Easter

School Twitter (X)/Facebook

Want to see what exciting things the pupils at St Mark's are up to..... visit Twitter (X) and Facebook for more information. QR codes for these apps are on the school notice board.

Safer Internet Day

This year's Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 10 February 2026 with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. Everyone's talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology. During this Safer Internet Day we will explore the impact of AI on all our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly.

If you have any questions regarding Internet Safety, please contact Mrs Martinez, class 2 teacher, who is the Internet Safety Leader. Online Safety information for parents, which includes monthly newsletters from Knowsley City Learning Centres, is on the school website under Key Information, Safeguarding.

Joining St Mark's School

If you know of anybody who is looking for a primary school place for their child, please ask them to contact the school office. Can I also remind parents that they do not have to live in the area or in Lancashire to attend a Lancashire school

Attendance

Please can I remind you that the minimum level of attendance for this school is 96%. Our target is to achieve better than this because we know that good attendance is the key to successful schooling and we believe our pupils can be amongst the best in the area.

Our current attendance is 97.2%

Class 1 98.3%
Class 2 96.7%

Well done to Class 1!

Church Assemblies

These will take place on a Friday as follows -

27 February at 2.30pm
27 March at 9.00am

Reverend Eileen Heaney will be leading our Church Assemblies. All are warmly welcome to attend.

Mobile Phones

Several pupils appear to be bringing mobile phones into school. Phones must be switched off and handed to the class teacher or Mrs Oliver in the office at the start of the school day and collected from the office at the end of the day. If your child wishes to bring a mobile phone into school, a Personal Electronic Devices Agreement form needs to be completed. Forms are available from either the school website or the school office. For further information regarding mobile phones see 'Personal Electronic Devices' policy on the school website (paper copies available on request).

Defibrillator

A reminder to parents that the school has a defibrillator which is located on the wall in the porch entrance area and is accessible for school and community use if required during school opening times.

Outstanding Fees

For banking purposes before the half-term break, all outstanding monies for both school lunches and wraparound care must be paid on Monday 9 February 2026. Can payments for week commencing 9 February please be paid in advance. Thanks very much.

If you would like to have any other information included in the school newsletter, please do not hesitate to let us know

Marilyn Freeman

Diary Dates

February	
10	Safer Internet Day
13	Valentine's Jumper Day in exchange for £1 donation Final swimming session of the school year
16 - 20	Half-term holiday
23	School re-opens
25	House Teams meeting
27	Church assembly 2.30pm
March	
5	World Book Day
9	Bikeability level 1 Y5/Y6
10	Full Governors Meeting 6.15pm
12-13	Bikeability level 2 Y5/Y6
20	Pupil School Council 12noon
27	End of term Church Service - 9.00am
27	School closes at 2pm for Easter No after-school care
April	
13	Return to school
24	Church Service 2.30pm