



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

13/03/2026

Headteacher's Award

Georgiana Annabelle

Writers of the Week

Rose JH Miranda

Mathematicians of the Week

Joseph Ray

Readers of the Week

Mason Clayton

Team of the Week **GREEN**

20/03/2026

Headteacher's Award

Caleb Clayton

Writers of the Week

Kurtis Annabelle

Mathematicians of the Week

Oscar Maria

Readers of the Week

Chinny Alice WL

Team of the Week **RED**

March 2026 (2)

Issue No 7

Staffing Update

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Staffing Update

After over 30 years of exceptional service to the school, Mrs Lyness is moving on to a well-earned retirement at the end of this academic year (July 2026). We want to take this opportunity to officially thank Mrs Lyness for her remarkable contribution to the school. The commitment that she has shown to the school community is rare and inspiring. Mrs Lyness, as you all know, wears so many hats and is the heart of the school. Her impact to the school is immeasurable and her patience and kindness will be fondly remembered by all who have had the pleasure of working with her.

Mrs Lyness has touched the lives of so many pupils helping them find their confidence and supporting them through their struggles. She makes every pupil feel seen and supported.

We all wish Jan the very best as she begins this new chapter of her well-deserved retirement.

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

Spring Term Assessment Reports

Reception to Year 6 pupils will receive their Spring Term 2026 progress report and attendance data when we return to school in April 2026.

Easter Raffle

Jenny (Clayton's mum) has kindly organised an Easter Raffle for the pupils. Tickets are on sale at a cost of £1.00 per ticket. The draw will take place on Friday 27 March 2026.

Easter Themed Day

This will take place on Friday 27 March 2026. All children can come to school dressed as Jesus's friends (long skirt, dress, shirts, plain dressing gowns, towel on head etc) if they wish to do so. If they do not want to dress up, they are to come to school in their school uniform.

The morning will commence with an end of term church service followed by a procession around the church and school grounds (weather permitting) for pupils, parents, staff and friends to reenact the crowds greeting Jesus who rode a donkey to symbolise peace, not war. Throughout the morning pupils will learn more about the Easter story.

Mother's Day Gifts

A huge thank you to Jenny (Clayton's mum) for organising the recent Mother's Day Gift sale.

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

After School Activities

A timetable of extra-curricular for the first half of the Summer Term is available to read on the school website.

*On behalf of everyone at St Mark's School,
we hope you have a good Easter.
We will see you all on Monday 13 April 2026*

Marilyn Freeman

Friday Toast

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the toast for the pupils on a Friday breaktime it would be greatly appreciated. Please could any donations be given to Mrs Oliver in the school office. Thank you for your support.

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 96.6%.

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Class 1 | 97% |
| Class 2 | 96.4% |

Well done to Class 1!

Church Assemblies

These will take place on a Friday as follows -

27 March at 9.00am
24 April at 2.30pm
26 June at 2.30pm
End of term - Friday 17 July at 9am

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

Diary Dates

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|--------------|---|
| 27 | End of term Church Service - 9.00am |
| 27 | Easter Themed Day |
| 27 | School closes at 2pm for Easter |
| | |
| April | |
| 13 | Return to school |
| 24 | Church Service 2.30pm |
| | |
| May | |
| 4 | May Day - school closed |
| 7 | Visual Screening Reception Pupils |
| 11-14 | Key Stage 2 SAT's |
| 9 | Governors Curriculum meeting 5pm Governors Resources meeting 6pm |
| 22 | Pupil School Council |
| 25-29 | School closed for half-term break |
| | |
| June | |
| 1 - 2 | INSET Days |
| 3 | School reopens |
| 8 | Phonic Screening Check Year 1 |
| 10 | House Team Meeting |
| 18 | Life Education PSHE Workshops |
| 26 | Church Service 2.30pm |
| | |
| July | |
| 1 | Class 1 Educational visit to Blackpool Zoo |
| 3 | Pupil School Council |
| 8 | Full Governors Meeting |