



St Mark's Newsletter

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

Happy New Year everyone

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

05/12/2025

Headteacher's Award

Jessica Alice F

Writers of the Week

Carter George F

Mathematicians of the Week

Joseph Theodore

Readers of the Week

Kurtis Shun Long

Team of the Week **BLUE**

12/12/2025

Headteacher's Award

Joseph Phoebe

Writers of the Week

Harley Lily

Mathematicians of the Week

Oscar Clayton

Readers of the Week

Rose JH Florence

Team of the Week **RED**

09/01/2026

Headteacher's Award

Mason Delilah

Writers of the Week

Oscar Daniel

Mathematicians of the Week

Chinny Henry

Readers of the Week

Frankie Daisy

Team of the Week **GREEN**

Autumn Term 2025 Effort Awards

These awards were presented in Church on Thursday 18 December 2025

Reception Caleb

Year 1 Frankie

Year 2 Chinny

Year 3 Precious

Year 4 Delilah

Year 5 Maria

Year 6 Florence

January 2026

Issue No 4

Autumn Term Effort Awards

Attendance awards

Friday toast

After school care

Before school care

Governors

Valentine's celebrations

Church assemblies

Assembly themes

Chatterbox

Parents evening

Primary school admission

Joining St Mark's school

Primary Assessments

Attendance

Safer internet day

Diary dates

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

Attendance Awards

Bronze certificates for 100% attendance from 2 September to 18 December 2025 were presented to the following pupils -

Joseph, Frankie, Georgiana, Oscar, Jessica, Rose JH, Chinny, Carter, Henry, Daisy, Corey, Lily, Theodore, Alice WL, Rose WL and Neriayah. Well done everyone!

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.

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.

Governors

We welcome Stephen Chisholm as a Parent Governor to our Governing Body. Stephen is a parent to two children at the school, a boy in year 4 and a girl in year 2. We trust that Stephen will support our governing body in having an important and influential role to play in the life of our school. A full list of school governors can be found on the school website.

Parents' Evening

Parental face-to-face consultations will take place on Wednesday 21 January 2026 between 3.30pm and 7pm. Please complete the appointment request form and return to school as soon as possible.

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.

Chatterbox

Chatterbox sessions run by Reverend Eileen Heaney and John Forshaw will take place each Monday afternoon. These drop-in sessions are for individual or small groups of pupils who are struggling with emotions, lack of confidence, are worried or just need someone to talk to. They provide an opportunity for pupils to have a safe place to express themselves. Reverend Eileen and John will also lead collective worship in school on a Monday afternoon

Primary School Admission

If your child has a 4th birthday between September 2025 and 31 August 2026 you must apply for a school or academy place by **15 January 2026**. The school's website has a link from Lancashire County Council under Key Information, Admissions for further information.

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 attendance at the end of the Autumn

Term 2025 was 97.6%

Class 1 98.5%

Class 2 97.2%

Well done to Class 1!

Church Assemblies

These will take place on a Friday as follows -

30 January at 2.30pm

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.

Primary Assessments

Key Stage 1 Statutory Assessment Tests (Year 2) will take place during May 2026

Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessments (Year 6) week commencing Monday 11 May 2026 until Thursday 14 May 2026

Phonics Screening Check

Year 2 pupils who did not meet the expected standard in Summer 2025 will undergo the check week beginning 8 June 2026 along with the Year 1 pupils.

Multiplication Check

Year 4 pupils will be administered the multiplication check from Monday 1 June 2026.

Please do not arrange non-urgent medical or dental appointments or request leave of absence during these periods if your child is in years 1,2, 4 or 6

Assembly Themes

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

Week beginning	Theme
5 January	New Year
12 January	Teamwork
19 January	Family
26 January	Light
2 February	Personal Qualities
9 February	Science

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.

Parental Survey

Lancashire County Council has informed us to ask parents/carers to complete a very short online childcare survey. The link for the survey is

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/1e757o>

We have attached a poster relating to this survey on the school website under Parents, Before and After School Clubs.

School and childcare providers are not identifiable and responses are anonymous.

Thank you

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.

Diary Dates

January 2026	
15	Closing date for primary school admissions
21	Parents evening 3.30pm to 7pm
22	Police to talk to KS2 pupils
30	Church assembly 2.30pm
February	
3	Governors Curricular meeting 5pm Governors Resources meeting 6pm
6	Pupil School Council Meeting 12noon
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 Governos 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

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

Marilyn Freeman