



St Mark's Newsletter

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

Welcome back everyone. We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break

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, school work, attitude etc

04/07/2025

Headteacher's Award

Georgiana Alice WL

Writers of the Week

Mark Maria

Mathematicians of the Week

Oscar Shun Long

Readers of the Week

Henry Florence

Team of the Week **GREEN**

11/07/2025

Headteacher's Award

Frankie Florence

Writers of the Week

Oscar Miranda

Mathematicians of the Week

Harley Blake

Readers of the Week

Rose JH Harrison

Team of the Week **BLUE**

The following trophies and certificates were presented to the children in church on the last day of the Summer Term 2025

Termly Effort Awards

Harley, Georgiana, Daniel, Shun Long, Evie, Phoebe

Attendance Certificates 2024/2025

Bronze - 100% attendance for one term - Clayton, Millie, Annabelle

Silver - 100% attendance for two terms - Henry, Oscar, Miranda, George F, Daisy, Neriya

Gold - 100% attendance for whole school year - Florence, Theodore.

Well done everyone!

September 2025

Issue No 1

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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

Good News from Tesco's

We are delighted to inform you that we have been successfully selected for the customer vote in Tesco stores. Thanks to Mr Dean (father of Y5 pupil and governor) for completing and submitting the application to Tesco Stronger Starts. Voting will commence in store from the first week in October 2025 until mid-January 2026.

St Mark's project relates to auditing and resourcing additional books for the school library. The project with the highest number of votes will receive up to £1500 and the third placed project £500.

To vote you will need to make a purchase of any value within the stores listed below and you will receive one token per transaction. You then post the token in the project box.

Churchtown Express	PR9 8PD
Birkdale Express	PR8 4NX
Southport Extra	PR8 5JH
Chapel Street Express	PR8 1BZ
Hesketh Esso Express	PR9 0LP
Southport Eastbank Street Express	PR8 1ES
Ainsdale Station Road Express	PR8 3HW

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here www.tesco.co.uk/store-locator/uk

Please encourage your family, friends and colleagues to vote for St Mark's School.

School Uniform

Can I say a huge thank you to all parents for their support with regards to school uniform. All the children started the new school year dressed in school uniform looking very smart, clean and tidy. We do have some items of 'pre-loved' free uniform. Please see Mrs Oliver in the school office for more information.

Swimming

Pupils in class 2 (years 3, 4, 5 & 6) will be taking part in weekly swimming lessons each Friday morning commencing 19 September 2025 until February 2026. These weekly lessons are delivered by the West Lancashire Sports Partnership (WLSP) at Park Pool, Ormskirk. Please return the permission slip, recently given to the children, if your child wishes to wear swimming goggles before Friday 19 September 2025

Harvest Gifts

St Mark's Church is holding a Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 5 October 2025 at 11.00am. The service will be led by Reverend Eileen Heaney and all parents, friends and pupils are warmly invited.

In preparation for the Church Harvest Thanksgiving celebration some of our older pupils will be decorating the porch area of the Church on Friday afternoon. If you would like to make a harvest donation (tinned/packets of food, cereals, biscuits etc) please bring them to school by Thursday morning, 2 October 2025. Please no fresh food eg vegetables/fruit.

Thank you for your support.

School Games Award

We are pleased to announce that once again St Mark's has achieved the Gold School Games Award for their commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport in 2024/2025

Chatterbox

Reverend Eileen Heaney and John Forshaw will continue to run drop-in sessions each Wednesday afternoon (1.15pm - 3pm) in school to support individual or small groups of pupils who are struggling with emotions, lack confidence, are worried or just need

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.

Secondary Admissions

If you have a child in year 6 who is due to start high school in September 2026 you need to apply for a school place. The local authority is promoting its on-line admission system as the main means of applying for school places in Lancashire for Sept 2025.

To apply for a secondary place go to

www.lancashire.gov.uk

and search 'School Admissions' or telephone 01772 532190

The closing dates for applications is 31 October 2025

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 97.4%

Class 1	97%
Class 2	97.6%

Well done to Class 2!

someone to talk to. They will provide an opportunity for pupils to have a safe place to express themselves.

These sessions are also available for parents. If you would like more information or want to pop into school for a coffee and a chat please contact Mrs Oliver on 01704 880636 or Rev Eileen Heaney on 01704 880463

Security at the end of the school day

All pupils must be accompanied by an adult or older family member when leaving the playground at the end of the school day unless a permission request has been made to the school. Parents must complete a permission form if they wish their child to leave the school playground at the end of the day unaccompanied by an adult. Permissions forms are available from the school office.

All nursery and reception pupils have a 4 digit number which must be shared by parents with an adult collecting a pupil who is not named on the pupil's data sheet.

Data Information

All pupils new to St Mark's have recently been given a Pupil Data Collection Form to complete and return to school. If you have not already done so, can it please be completed, signed and returned immediately. This information is vital to the school for safeguarding and the wellbeing of the pupil. For existing pupils, your child has been given a Pupil Data Collection Form to be completed and returned in order for school to ensure that all information they hold is up-to-date and correct.

Please ensure that school has the relevant contact details, home address, medical needs information etc as we are in the process of updating our records. It would be much appreciated if these forms are dealt with immediately. Thanks

Wraparound Childcare

We will continue to provide wraparound childcare for the academic year September 2025 to July 2026. In order for the provision to be financially viable and sustainable, unfortunately, we can no longer offer wraparound care on Fridays and some changes to the charges have been implemented in September 2025.

- Before School Club, Monday to Friday, 8m to 8.30am, will remain at the cost of £3.50 per child per day.
- After School Club, Monday to Thursday, 3.30pm-4.30pm will remain at the cost of £4.50 per child per day (this includes extra-curricular activities).
- After School Club, Monday to Thursday, 3.30pm-5.30pm will cost £9.00 per child per day.

Can I please remind parents that, although prior booking is not required for breakfast club, a booking request for after school care, Monday to Thursday, must be made by lunchtime (12 noon) on the day that wraparound care is required. This will ensure that staff have prior knowledge of the number of children requiring wraparound care and enable the school to effectively manage and organise staff. The reviewed/amended Before/After School Care Policy is on the school website, www.st-marks.lancs.sch.uk

Could I also ask that fees, if possible, are paid in advance or at the end of the week. Unfortunately, we have some parents who we have to continually make contact with regarding outstanding balances. Wraparound childcare is not funded by the school budget and needs to be self-funded. This is not possible if fees are not paid. There are Government support packages, Universal Childcare or Tax-Free Childcare for those parents who are eligible to help with the cost of childcare.

Start of the School Day

Some pupils are consistently arriving after the start of the school day which is 8.50am. Children are able to arrive at school from 8.30am (at no charge) or from 8.00am at a cost of £3.50 per child each morning. The gate will be locked at 9.00am to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff on the school premises.

Toast

Thank you to all parents who have made a monetary donation to the PFTA to enable the children to have toast on a Friday.

Thanks also to the PFTA members for making the toast.

New Pupils

We have had several pupils join St Mark's this term. We would like to welcome Kurtis, Mason, Caleb, Ray, Kimi, Eddie and Chin and their families to the school. We hope that they will be very happy here.

Church Service

Our next Church service is on Friday 26 September 2025 at 2.30pm. All are warmly welcome to attend.

Can You Help?

Do you have any spare children's underwear (knickers, underpants) or socks that are new and have not been worn that you would be willing to donate to class 1 (ages 3-6 years). Thank you, they would be much appreciated

Free School Meals

Is your child eligible for free school meals? Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you qualify, please inform the local authority as the school can get extra funding.

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

Diary Dates

September	
15	Greenbank/Birkdale to talk to Y5/Y6 pupils
19	Swimming commences for years 3, 4, 5 and 6
26	Church Assembly at 2.30pm
30	Governors' meetings - Curriculum at 5pm, Resources at 6pm
October	
2	Flu immunisations 11.30am
2	Census day
3	Pupils to decorate porch area of church for Harvest Festival Service
7	House Teams Meetings
8	Family Church Parish Hall 3.30-4.45pm
10	Pupil School Council Meeting 2pm
20	Individual/siblings school photographs 9am
21	Reception/Y6 Height & Weight check
22	Class 2 visit to Manchester Museum 8.45am TBC
24	Church Assembly at 2.30pm
24	School closes 3pm for half-term break

Marilyn Freeman