



News from St Mark's

Headteacher Coffee Morning

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for the coffee morning this week. We were a small but mighty group! It was a great opportunity to discuss a range of topics and answer some of the questions that had been submitted. I will be bringing all the questions and answers together shortly and sharing them with you via email. I will be holding another Headteacher Meet in Term 3, this time at the end of the school day, in the hope that this will make it easier for more of you to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

Year 3 tours

These are now on the school calendar. **Please book via the school office.** Although, every year, approximately 98% of Wyndham Park families choose St. Mark's for their child/ren's Junior education we never take this for granted. Please do come and see for yourself what we can offer your child and do tell your extended families and friends too!

To book a tour on one of the following dates, please contact the school office on

01722 333497 or email smadmin@wyndhamstmarks.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to St Mark's!

Tuesday 10th November at 9.30am

Thursday 26th November at 3.30pm

Thursday 3rd December at 3.30pm

Open classrooms

A reminder that we have our Open Classrooms event at the end of term. **Please note that I have changed the time slightly to give those parents with more than one child in the school, more time.** This is an opportunity for you to visit your child in school and sit with them to look through all the fabulous learning they have completed so far. If you are able to attend, you should come through the school at reception from 2.15pm to 3.00pm and make your way to your child's class. At 3.05pm the bell will ring when you can head to the playground and we can dismiss the rest of the class. Once you have finished looking through your child's learning, you are free to take them home but please ensure you have 'signed them out' with the class teacher.

Personal Best Education – Football Holiday Club

Our wonderful new Wraparound provision is offering a football themed holiday club at school during October half term. I have included the flyer on the newsletter for you. Parents have the option to pay for just one day or more. The holiday club runs for three days from 27th to 29th October with Personal Best staff the children are familiar with. Sign up through the Personal Best website.

Wedding Bells

I have the great privilege of sharing with you that our lovely Miss. Jackson is getting married in the half term holiday. I know you will join me in wishing Miss. Jackson and her fiancé Jake all the very best for their future lives together. After half term, Miss Jackson will take her married name and be known as Mrs. Myers.

Many, many congratulations!



News from St Mark's



Parents evening

If you haven't done so already, please sign up for a time slot at one of our parents' evenings next week. Running on Wednesday 14th October and Thursday 15th October, this is a valuable time to talk to your child's class teacher about your child's learning. You can sign up using the Arbor system.

Reading volunteers

Do have some time in the day that you could offer to the school to read with our children? We have a small band of reading volunteers who do just that, but we would love to have more to support our targeted children who really benefit from 1:1 reading with an adult. If you are interested, please ask at reception for an application form.

Skills/talents

Do you have a special skill, talent or achievement that you'd love to share with our children? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Would you be able to spare an afternoon to come into school to talk to the children or work with a class? Perhaps you speak another language, are an avid painter, a published author, a talented dramatist, a first aider or a keen chef – the possibilities are endless! Or maybe you've achieved something amazing, such as running a marathon, climbing a mountain or starting a movement. Would you be willing to share your story and inspire the children by leading an assembly?

Whatever your skill, passion or achievement, we'd love to hear from you and explore how you could get involved and support our school. You never know how much your experience could inspire our children! Call in at reception or email.

Our new morning routine

I'm so pleased to see our new morning routine working so well. Just a reminder that once teachers are out, please step away from the line and wait around the edge of the playground. This enables our teachers to lead the line in safely. I also politely ask that you do not hold the line up by conversing with the class teacher. Anything urgent should be called into the school office or written in your child's communication book. Teachers will have time at the end of the day to briefly discuss non-urgent matters.

Incident

I have been alerted by one of our parents to an incident that happened this week where a group of teenagers on bikes, and wearing balaclavas, shouted threatening things at one of our pupils. This child sensibly ran back to where a group of our parents were for safety but was shaken by the incident. The teenagers rode off.

While we don't have control over the actions of others, for those children who walk home or part of the way home alone, please let them know that if anything should happen where they feel uneasy or frightened they have the option to return to school immediately where we can take care of them and ring you.

Applying for an infant, junior or secondary school place September 2027 intake

Some important deadlines for you:

Infant & Junior Applications 2027 -The closing date for applications is **Friday 15 January, 2027.**

Secondary Applications 2027 -The closing date for applications is **Saturday 31 October, 2026.**

[Admissions](#)

Year 3 have had a busy time of late.....

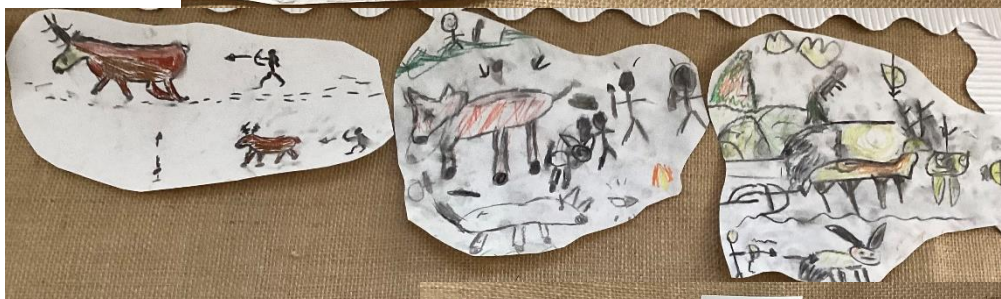
The children thoroughly enjoyed their Stone Age Day last week and they totally looked the part, as you can from the photos.



Stone Age Cave Painting



In Year 3 we used soft pastels to create cave paintings inspired by 'The Stone Age Boy' book we are reading and actual Stone Age cave paintings.





Congratulations to our Lions Award Winners this week



Ash

Arthur and Araiylha

Beech

Imogen and Michelle

Chestnut

Brody and Joey

Elm

Matilda and Charlie

Fir

Naomi and Omer

Holly

Mya and Isla

Maple

Eric and Sabali

Oak

Danny and Mimi

Pine

Lola-Rose and Ben

Spruce

Jonas and Safwaana

Willow

Max and Kenzie

Attendance

Attendance figures for the first 5 weeks back are:

Year 3 – 98%

Year 4 – 98%

Year 5 – 97%

Year 6 – 93%

Our aim is to maintain 96% across the year.

Be an attendance H.E.R.O
Here, Every day, Ready, On time

Our handwriting system at school is now available for children to log in at home

Letter-join Pupil log-in

Dear Parents,

Our school is now part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme and our pupils can log in to the Letter-join website at home on iPads, tablets and computers.

There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.



PC DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Log in at www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Desktop log-in option with these details:

Username: **jk6576**

Password: **home**

PC Browser:

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs/Macs:

- Google Chrome
- Safari

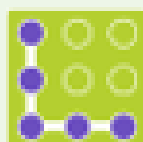
Do not use Internet Explorer.

IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Tablet log-in option with these details:

Username:

Swipe code
(starting at top left):

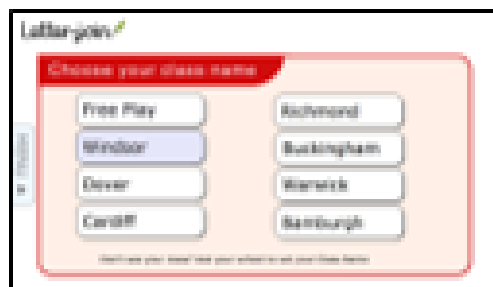


Tablet/iPad Browsers:

Letter-join will run on the following tablets:

- iPads running iOS7 and above through the Safari browser.
- Windows 8 tablets (8 inch and bigger) using the built-in browser.
- Android tablets (8 inch and bigger) using Google Chrome.

Choose a Classroom



Once logged-in, choose your child's classroom and you can use Letter-join's resources and fun activities to reinforce the handwriting we teach at school. You can trace over the letters and words and play the games on your tablet.

We are limited to the number of users who can log in to this account, so please do not share these log-in details.

Delivered by our own Wraparound provider Personal Best Education

OCTOBER HALF-TERM - 27TH - 29TH

9AM TO 4PM

FOOTBALL CAMP

-ST MARK'S COFE JUNIOR SCHOOL
SALISBURY



PERSONAL BEST
EDUCATION

£30
per day



SAVE 10% WHEN YOU BOOK THE WEEKLY RATE

For children
in Year 1 -
Year 6



www.personalbesteducation.com

Term 1 Academic Year 2026/27	
Tuesday 13 th October	Harvest Festival at St. Mark's Church 10am Year 4 leading – Year 4 parents invited
Thursday 15 th October	Year 6 weight and height measurement School nurse
Monday 19 th October	Year 4 Trip to Salisbury Local history
Wednesday 21 st October	Last day of term 1 OPEN CLASSROOMS 2.15 pm
Term 2 Academic Year 2026/27	
Monday 2 nd November	Teacher Training Day School closed for children
Tuesday 3 rd November	School starts for term 2 8.40am
Wednesday 4 th November	School photos Individual and school siblings
Tuesday 10 th November	Year 3 tour (for September 2027 start) 9.30am
Monday 23 rd November	Christmas Pantomime
Thursday 26 th November	Year 3 tour (for September 2027 start) 3.30pm WASP School Disco
Wednesday 2 nd December	Flu vaccinations School nurse
Thursday 3 rd December	Year 3 tour (for September 2027 start) 3.30pm St. Thomas' Christmas Tree Festival School Choir 5.20pm
Friday 18 th December	School closes at 1.15pm for Christmas Holidays
Term 3 Academic Year 2026/27	
Monday 4 th January	Teacher Training Day School closed for children
Tuesday 5 th January	School starts for term 3 8.40am

Community Messages

Salisbury Cathedral Choirs

Salisbury Cathedral has a musical tradition dating back 900 years and in 1991 Salisbury took the historic step of forming another 'top line', bringing girl choristers into the Choral Foundation and Choir School. Today the regular singing duties are divided equally between the two sets of twenty choristers, usually singing with the six Lay Vicars of the Choir. To find out more about our choir and choristers please visit our website: [Our Choirs - Salisbury Cathedral](#).

We are now recruiting for our next generation of Cathedral Choristers. We are looking for children in years 3, 4 & 5 who enjoy music-making and who will benefit from an exceptional music education. Outside of musical ability, we look for outgoing and friendly young people who are great team players.

Coming up, we have our annual 'Be A Chorister For A Day' event. This year, it will be held on Saturday 4 October 2026. Children in years 2, 3 & 4 are welcome. This event is completely free and allows prospective choristers to gain an insight into what it is like to be a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral. The day ends with a special Evensong, led by the Cathedral's Director of Music, David Halls, and performed by all the visiting children with the choristers.

Following BACFAD we run 'voice trials' for prospective choristers at the beginning of the new year. Our 2027 dates are as follows:

Boys' Voice Trials: Saturday 23rd January 2027 (for girls in Year 3, 4 & 5)

Girls' Voice Trials: Saturday 30th January 2027 (boys in Year 3, 4 & 5)

For more information about 'Be A Chorister For A Day' or Voice Trials please visit: [Choir Recruitment - Salisbury Cathedral](#)

News from St. Mark's Church

ALL AGE HARVEST SERVICES AT ST MARK'S AND ST ANDREW'S Sunday 4th October

In Laverstock at St Andrew's Church is the 10.30 All Age service. At St Mark's Church on the roundabout is the 10am All Age Service. Everyone is welcome, we will be collecting donated food items for the Foodbank. A list of items they are currently short of is here:

[Donate food - Salisbury Foodbank](#).

Children and Families



Beatrix Potter's The Tailor of Gloucester

Mondays 7th - Sunday 27th Dec | All Ages

Salisbury Playhouse, Salberg Studio

Join us for an interactive, magical musical show for young children and families this Christmas

To book go to: www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/whats-on

**WILTSHIRE
CREATIVE**

Children and Families



Stage 65: Group 1 (Years 2-3)

Mondays 4:15pm - 5:15pm | Salisbury Arts Centre

£85 per 10 week (bursaries available) | Ages 6-8

We have a few spaces in our youngest youth theatre group. Why not book in for a free taster?

[Click here to find out more](#)

Or email takepart@wiltshirecreative.co.uk

**TAKE PART
AT SALISBURY
ARTS CENTRE**

**WILTSHIRE
CREATIVE**

October Half Term Activity



PlayLab: What will you create?

Tuesday 27 Oct | 10am - 4pm | Salisbury Arts Centre

£40 (or £50 for 9am - 5pm) | Ages 7 - 11

We will use use props, pictures and sound effects to create our own spooky stories.

[Click here to book](#)

Or email takepart@wiltshirecreative.co.uk

**TAKE PART
AT SALISBURY
ARTS CENTRE**

**WILTSHIRE
CREATIVE**



Wiltshire Council

ATTENTION WILTSHIRE

Get Active & Win Prizes!

Sign up to Street Tag

Collect virtual tags, while walking, running, cycling, scooting or rolling in your wheelchair to accumulate points via the Street Tag App.

HOW TO JOIN

- Install the app from Play Store/App Store and sign up.
- Enter the valid details, then click continue.
- Select the school leaderboard option then click continue.
- Select Wiltshire Schools Leaderboard and chose your school team and click continue
- Enter your preferred gender, fill in the other optional details then click on sign up.
- Verify with your email or phone number.
- After the verification step, please answer the short questionnaire.
- Congratulations, your account is ready for use!
-
- PS: Parents can add up to two Child accounts on their Main account.



WILTSHIRE SCHOOLS LEADERBOARD DATES & PRIZES

DATE:

Season 1- 2nd March to 25th May, 1pm
Season 2- 22nd June to 16th Oct , 1pm

PRIZE:

1st: £150
2nd: £100
3rd: £75
4th: £50
5th: £50

PRIZE DRAW

Please note that a minimum of 10 players is required in a school team to be eligible for prizes.

Choosing a Secondary School

A parent's guide to visiting specialist schools and resource bases

Finding the right secondary placement is an important step. When you visit a school, don't just look at the building – try to understand what everyday life will feel like for your child.



1

Will my child feel safe and understood?

Your child's emotional wellbeing is key to them being able to learn and thrive.



Questions to ask:

- How do you help children who feel anxious about coming to school?
- What happens when a child becomes overwhelmed?
- How do staff build trusting relationships with pupils?
- How would you get to know my child's individual needs, interests and triggers?
- What support is available when things aren't going well?

Look for:

- ☐ A calm and welcoming environment
- ☐ Staff who know pupils well
- ☐ Clear, consistent routines
- ☐ Adults who talk positively about supporting children



2

What will my child actually learn?

A good secondary setting will offer a meaningful and ambitious curriculum, adapted to individual needs.



Questions to ask:

- What does a typical day or week look like?
- How is the curriculum adapted to individual needs?
- What qualifications or outcomes can pupils work towards?
- How do you maintain high expectations while providing support?
- How are pupils supported to develop independence?

Look for:

- ☐ Meaningful learning throughout the day
- ☐ Appropriate challenge
- ☐ Opportunities to develop life skills
- ☐ Clear pathways towards qualifications and future goals

3

How will relationships and behaviour be supported?

A relational approach helps children feel safe, build trust and develop positive relationships.



Questions to ask:

- How do you respond when a child is struggling?
- What happens after an incident?
- How do you help pupils repair relationships?
- How do staff understand behaviour as communication?
- How are parents involved when concerns arise?

Look for:

- ☐ Respectful language about pupils
- ☐ A relational approach
- ☐ Clear and consistent expectations
- ☐ Staff who can explain why they use particular strategies

4

What will everyday school life look like?

Think about how the environment, routines and organisation will work for your child.



Questions to ask:

- How big are classes and teaching groups?
- How many pupils are in the setting?
- How much movement is there around the school?
- Are there quiet or low-stimulation spaces?
- How are transitions between lessons managed?
- What are break and lunchtime like?

Think about:

- ☐ Noise and sensory needs
- ☐ Movement and crowds
- ☐ Transitions
- ☐ Opportunities for friendships
- ☐ Access to quiet spaces
- ☐ How the environment supports your child to feel regulated

5

How will you work with us?

A strong partnership between school and home helps your child make the best possible progress.



Questions to ask:

- How often will we hear from school?
- Who will be our main point of contact?
- How are parents involved in reviewing progress?
- How are pupils involved in decisions about their support?
- What happens if we feel something isn't working?

Look for:

- ☐ Open and regular communication
- ☐ A genuine partnership with families
- ☐ Pupil voice being valued
- ☐ Staff willing to listen, collaborate and adapt

6

Don't be afraid to ask...

The best way to understand if a school will be right for your child is to give them a real example.



"What would you do if this were my child?"

Share a specific example of something your child finds difficult – for example, anxiety, low attendance, sensory needs or friendship difficulties – and ask how they would support them.

This can tell you much more than a tour around the school.

7

Before you decide...

Ask yourself:



- ☐ Could my child feel safe here?
- ☐ Could they build trusting relationships here?
- ☐ Would they be appropriately challenged here?
- ☐ Could they make progress here?
- ☐ Could they develop independence here?
- ☐ Can I see the school working with my child, rather than simply expecting my child to fit in?



Take this with you – Quick checklist

Use this checklist when you visit schools:

- ☐ **Safety** – Does my child feel safe and understood?
- ☐ **Relationships** – Will staff build positive relationships with my child?
- ☐ **Curriculum** – Is learning meaningful and ambitious?
- ☐ **Environment** – Will the setting meet my child's sensory and emotional needs?
- ☐ **Support** – How will behaviour and wellbeing be supported?
- ☐ **Communication** – Will we work in partnership?
- ☐ **Future** – Are there clear pathways towards qualifications, independence and adulthood?



Remember...

There is no single "best" type of secondary placement.

A specialist school, resource base or another provision may suit different children in different ways. The important question is:

"Is this the right environment for my child?"



Every child is different. The right school will see, value and support your child for who they are – and help them to build a brighter future.

Want to boost your cycle skills and learn how to ride confidently and safely on the road?



Join our Bikeability Level 1 & 2 course

Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 October
Sarum St Paul's Primary School,
Salisbury
09:30-15:00 each day

Cost: £20 per rider.

No charge for pupils receiving free school meals

Open to riders aged 10 and over (Year 6 plus)
You must be able to ride a bike already (pedal and glide) to take part in this training.

For more information and how to book, please email
bikeability@wiltshire.gov.uk



Active
Travel
England



Wiltshire Council



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

Join us for festive craft stalls,
delicious refreshments and a
special visit from Santa!

Thursday 26th November
7pm - 9.30pm
Free Admission

Salisbury Rugby Club,
Stewards Bungalow, Castle Road,
Salisbury SP1 3SA



HERO LIGHT PARTY

ST MARK'S CHURCH, SALISBURY

31 OCTOBER • 4-6PM

**LIGHT
QUESTS!**

**BUILD
HERO GEAR!**

**GLOW
DISCO!**

**TUCK SHOP
FUN!**



★ WEAR YOUR **BRIGHTEST** & **SPARKLIEST** CLOTHES! ★



PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

FREE Online Tickets



★ A CELEBRATION OF **LIGHT** & **FUN** FOR R-KS2! ★



JOIN US FOR HALF TERM HALLOWEEN FUN

26th to 30th October

Themed trail and Bat hunt all week

Halloween
themed crafts
each week day
10.00 - 12.30

26th Oct and 1st Nov
Models for Heroes
10.00 - 15.00

28th Oct
Meccano at the
museum!
10.00 - 15.00

29th Oct
Crazy Creatures
10.00 - 14.00

Salisbury City Hall Event

We have a Dinosaur Adventure Live event happening at Salisbury City Hall on Saturday 20th February 2027. We thought this may be of interest to children and parents of your school. Please feel free to share this.

I have attached some images and text about the show. For more information, visit <https://www.salisburycityhall.co.uk/event/dinosaur-adventure-live/>



**OCTOBER
HALF TERM**



**FUN
ACTIVE
CREATIVE
FOR EVERYONE!**

HALLOWEEN CAMP

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER - FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

8:30 - 15:30



**ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
SALISBURY**



**£20.00
PER DAY**



**BREAKFAST
& LUNCH
PROVIDED**



**DISCO
THURSDAY
29TH OCTOBER
(FANCY DRESS
OPTIONAL!)**



**TEA & COFFEE
AVAILABLE
FOR PARENTS
ON DROP OFF!**

NOT JUST FOOTBALL!

**A MIX FOR *EVERYONE!*
TRY NEW THINGS!**



**SCAN HERE
TO BOOK!**



**A SAFE, FUN
AND INCLUSIVE
ENVIRONMENT
FOR ALL! ♥**

**FOR AGES
YEAR 1 - YEAR 7**

BELIEVE | STRIVE | ACHIEVE

