DATE: 13th November 2026

News from St Mark's

A message from the Head
What glorious autumn weather we've been enjoying! The new term has got off to a flying start, and the children have settled back into school life beautifully and are working hard in their learning.

As we head towards Christmas, we have a wonderfully busy and exciting few weeks ahead! From pantomimes, Christmas Jumper Days and Christmas dinners to nativities, our Christmas Service, the Christmas Tree Festival, raffles and, of course, our much-loved Elfridges Christmas Shop – there is so much to look forward to!

I've included all the important dates in the calendar below, so please do take a moment to make a note of the events your child will be involved in. It really is a magical time of year in school, although certainly one of our busiest!

St. Mark's Superstars
You may have noticed your child coming home with a St. Mark's Superstar sticker in recent weeks. These are part of the rewards and praise within our Behaviour Policy, and each teacher has two stickers to award every day.

The stickers recognise all sorts of wonderful things, from excellent learning behaviours, kindness and supporting others to following our behaviour curriculum, producing outstanding work or showing fantastic engagement in lessons. There are so many reasons to celebrate our children!

If your child has received a Superstar sticker, you may have noticed the words *'Ask me why I'm a St. Mark's Superstar!'* So please do ask! We hope this will be another lovely way to strengthen the link between home and school, celebrate your child's achievements and perhaps even get a slightly more detailed answer to that familiar question, *'What did you do at school today?'* than the usual *'Nothing!'*

Scouts Christmas Post
Our children, who are members of the Scouts, will be selling stamps in school over the coming weeks as part of the Scouts' Christmas Card Post.

Stamps cost just 40p each, with 6p from every stamp going towards Salisbury and South Wiltshire Scouts' Campsite Quest.

Simply pop a Scout stamp on your Christmas card, address it to someone in one of the participating local areas, return it to the special post-box in school (in the office) and the Scouts will deliver it for you. A lovely way to spread some Christmas cheer, support a worthwhile cause and save a few pennies on postage too – considerably cheaper than Royal Mail!

Last day for posting is **Wednesday 9th December**.

For more information about how the Christmas Card Post works, including a list of local delivery areas, please follow the link below.

Salisbury and South Wiltshire District Salisbury and South Wilts District Christmas Post

Applying for an infant or junior school place September 2027 intake
An important deadline for you. Children currently attending Wyndham Park do not automatically move up into St. Mark's, you must apply for a place using the link below.
Infant & Junior Applications 2027 -The closing date for applications is **Friday 15 January, 2027.**

Admissions

News from St Mark's

Art Club Poppies

Art and Craft club created a poppy display for Remembrance Day in the hall. The poppies were made using paper plates and cupcake holders



Supporting the Royal British Legion Remembrance Appeal

A huge thank you to all our parents and families for their generous support of St Mark's Royal British Legion Remembrance Appeal this year. Your contributions have helped us to support this incredibly important cause and ensure that we continue to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed so much.

We would also like to say a special thank you to our fantastic Year 6 Prefects, who have worked so hard to make the appeal happen. They have shown real commitment and dedication, giving up their time every morning and break time to sell poppies and a range of other items.

Their enthusiasm and efforts have been greatly appreciated – and judging by how heavy those collection tins felt, they certainly did a brilliant job!

Thank you once again to everyone who supported this year's appeal.



A message from our Reading Lead, Mrs Myers

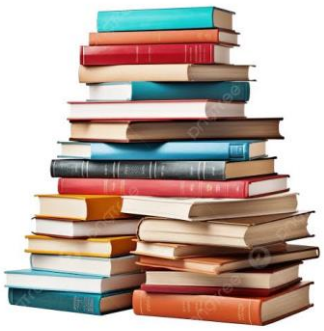
Over the coming weeks, I'll be having a big sort-out of the school library to make room for some lovely new second-hand books that have been generously donated to the school.

As part of this clear-out, there will be a selection of preloved books looking for a new home. Some may look a little sad, worn or torn around the edges, but they still have plenty of life left in them and are perfectly good to read! Rather than see them go to waste, they will be available for anyone who would like to give them a new home – completely free of charge.

Please help yourself!

Thank you.

Mrs Myers -Reading Lead.



Year 4 teeth!

Year 4 have been getting their teeth into their science learning as they explore the digestive system! As part of their work, they have been finding out all about teeth and are now investigating which drinks might cause the most damage to them – using eggs as a substitute for tooth enamel!

The children have placed eggs in a variety of liquids and will be observing what happens over the coming week before recording their findings and writing up their investigation. Stay tuned to discover the results – there may be a few surprises!



Attendance

Attendance figures for the academic year to date:

Year 3 – 96%
Year 4 – 97%
Year 5 – 96%
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

A message from Mrs. O'Keefe, our Senco

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share a series of free online webinars being delivered by the Wiltshire Mental Health Support Team. These sessions provide valuable information, advice, and practical strategies to help support children and young people's emotional wellbeing and development.

The upcoming webinars include:

Understanding Anxiety in Children and Young People

Recommended for parents of children from Reception to Year 8 This session will help parents and carers understand what anxiety can look like in children and young people, why it occurs, and practical ways to support their child at home.

Sleep and Healthy Sleep Habits

Recommended for parents of primary-aged children A good night's sleep is essential for learning, wellbeing, and behaviour. This webinar explores healthy sleep habits and provides strategies to support children who may be experiencing sleep difficulties.

Recognising and Understanding Barriers to School Attendance

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people of all ages This session helps families understand the range of factors that can impact school attendance and offers guidance on how parents and schools can work together to support children and young people.

We strongly encourage parents and carers to take advantage of these informative sessions. They offer an excellent opportunity to gain practical advice and increase understanding of some of the common challenges children and young people may experience.

To find out more and register for a webinar, please follow the booking link provided by the Wiltshire Mental Health Support Team. Parent and carer webinars - Wiltshire Mental Health Support Team

Thank you for your continued support in promoting the wellbeing of our children and young people.

Kind regards,

Clare O'Keefe

SENDCo for Wyndham Park Infants' School and St Mark's C of E Junior School

PIB
Parents In Business

Join Parents In Business

We're welcoming new members!

Community · Supporting each other · Sharing our skills with our school

Do you run your own business, work for yourself, or have an idea you'd love to get off the ground? Parents In Business is a friendly group for St Mark's and Wyndham Park parents, and we'd love you to join us.

What you'll get

- Friendly monthly meetings with other local parents in business
- Help with your business challenges in our problem-solving slot
- A listing in our directory, sent out with every school newsletter
- A turn at the featured banner to promote your event or offer
- Advice, contacts and a supportive local network

What we do for our school

- Help run the school careers day, with hands-on workshops and Q&A so children see a wide range of jobs
- Support Year 6 and other pupils with projects such as enterprise days and bake sales
- Make donations to the school and WASP

Who it's for

Self-employed, freelance, part-time, just starting out, or simply curious. Whatever stage you're at, you're welcome.

Come along to a meeting

First Thursday of every month · 9:00–10:00am · Hub 3

Open meeting: Thursday 3 December. Our headteacher is joining us to plan careers day. Everyone is welcome to come and find out more.

Questions? Contact [name] on [phone or email]

St. Mark's School Calendar

Term 2 Academic Year 2026/27	
Monday 23rd November	**Christmas Pantomime**
Thursday 26th November	Year 3 tour (for September 2027 start) 3.30pm **WASP School Disco**
Friday 27th November	**Non-Uniform Day** **For £1 donation towards WASP Christmas Raffle**
Wednesday 2nd December	Flu vaccinations School nurse
Thursday 3rd December	Year 3 tour (for September 2027 start) 3.30pm St. Thomas' Christmas Tree Festival School Choir 5.20pm
Friday 4th December	**WASP Christmas Raffle**
Wednesday 9th December	Year 3 Nativity to parents In school hall
Thursday 10th December	Year 3 Nativity to parents In school hall
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day Wear your Christmas jumper to school **WASP Elfridge's Christmas Shop**
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch at School Wear your Christmas Jumper!
Friday 18th December	**School closes at 1.15pm** **for Christmas Holidays**
Term 3 Academic Year 2026/27	
Monday 4th January	**Teacher Training Day** **School closed for children**
Tuesday 5th January	**School starts for term 3** **8.40am**

Community Messages

Family and Community Learning

Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions



Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

Helping My Child to Prepare Positively for Change

Monday 14 December
10am-12pm

Booking closes Monday 7 December

- **Explore the reasons why children may find change difficult**
- **Discover ways to support your children at home in developing their ability to cope with change.**
- **Develop an understanding of how simple steps at home can help children prepare for change.**

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478
familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/

Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ years, have a Wiltshire postcode, and meet residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick **one** of the following criteria: individual income less than £26,800 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee or asylum seeker status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning

Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry

Tuesday
15 December
10:00-12:00
Online



- **Understand how to support wellbeing at home**
- **Suggestions shared to manage anxiety together**
- **Positive and realistic help for the family**
- **Suitable for parents/carers with primary school aged children**

Booking closes 8 December

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478
familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/

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Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning

Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions

Online course

Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience

Thursday 17 December
10:00 -12:00



Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

- **Explore how the environment affects concentration**
- **Discover how words can help develop resilience**
- **Develop ways to support concentration and resilience**



Booking closes
Thursday 10 December

Visit https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
or scan the QR code

Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ years, have a Wiltshire postcode, and meet residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick **one** of the following criteria: individual income less than £25,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee or asylum seeker status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council