



St Mark's CE Primary School

Newsletter 10

Spring Term
28th February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Diary Dates

3rd Mar	First Aid Workshops
5th Mar	Quickstick Hockey Year 3/4
6th Mar	World Book Day
10th Mar	Handball @ Year 5
13th Mar	Laurel Trip to Hindu Temple
14th Mar	Skip2BeFit
18th Mar	Ready Set Dance - Ardingly Inclusion Festival Year 3
20th Mar	Oathall Multi-Skills KS1
24th Mar	Choral Day @ Christ Hospital Year 5
	Netball Festival Year 3 & 4
4th April	2 pm - Easter Service
7th April	Easter Holidays
21st April	Children Return to School
6th May	Bikeability Year 5
7th May	Bramble trip
	Evacuation Day
8th May	Red White & Blue Day
13th May	Quidditch Tournament Year 3/4
19th May	Archery Day
23rd May	Sports Day



School Trips:

We send out a paper copy of each letter about any trips as well as sending it out via MCAS (My child at school). You can give consent for your child/ren to attend either by paper copy or electronically on MCAS. Please remember that you are required to make payment via MCAS for any trips. If we do not receive payments we will not be able to undertake the trips.

Lost Property

1 pair black gloves/1 pair of blue gloves/1 pair of white gloves
1 grey hat
1 pair of black shorts
1 goal keepers glove

All above unnamed and in the school office. Please remember if not collected by Friday 7th March, this item will be disposed of.



Comic Relief

We will be selling Red Noses in school from Monday—there are only 30 available so it's first come first served. Each nose is £2 each. Children can wear them on Red nose day on 21st March.



Ordering lunches

Don't forget you need to order your child's hot lunch 3 weeks before via Parent Pay. If you don't, your child will be offered a jacket potato as we only receive the right amount of meals

Upcoming Roadworks.

Please note that we have been informed that there will be road closures as stated below between Tuesday 4th March - Friday 7th March

24hr/day road closures between the junctions with Whitemans Green recreation ground and Cleaver's Lane for new electrical connection works. Please remember if you need to use any of the above roads to plan extra time for your journey.

World Book Day—6th March

Don't forget World Book Day is this Thursday 6th March. Children can come to school dressed up as a book character or in comfy clothing/PJs/Onesies. We will be looking at the book Matilda by Roald Dahl and working across classes to explore this fantastic text.

Worship spot—Forgiveness

This half term, alongside learning about Lent and Easter, we are looking at the theme of Forgiveness. This week, we learnt the story of the Prodigal Son and thought about what it would be like for both sons in the story. We also heard the parable of the unforgiving servant who had his debt cancelled but then insisted on others paying debt he was owed.

Together, in God's love, we will shine

Safeguarding spot— Manipulative marketing in games

Children's online experiences increasingly intersect with potential financial and psychological risks. Manipulative marketing tactics are commonly employed in digital platforms, games, and apps that target children. Understanding these tactics is crucial for safeguarding professionals, as they can lead to unauthorised spending, privacy breaches, and impacts on mental wellbeing.

There are three important areas to consider: persuasive features (such as 'dark patterns' and variable rewards), subscription traps, and product placement. As digital safeguarding becomes increasingly complex, children need support to recognise and respond to manipulative online marketing strategies. To read more about how manipulative marketing affects children and young people, go to: <https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en/learning-corner/parents-and-caregivers/marketing-games>

Mega fun family fest

Please see the attached flyer about an event happening at The South of England Showground on 11th May. They are giving a 10% discount to all local families.

Junior Bake Off

Channel 4 are looking for keen bakers between 9-15 years old to apply for Junior Bake Off this year (filming in July). Apply online at www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk by 23rd March.

Laurel Residential

Thank you to those parents who contacted me to chat through ideas for Laurel residentials after the last newsletter.

We have looked into lots of different options and are going to do a two-night trip to Windmill Hill PGL every two years and look at doing activity days on the other year. This will be more affordable for parents and the school. The cost of residentials continue to rise and most primary school children only go on one in Year 6. As we have a mixed aged class, it's not possible just to take half a class so we have always taken Year 5 and 6, so historically children have had an extra residential. When parents can't or don't pay the full amount, the school is left carrying this cost. Over the last four years, this has cost the school £1706 from the school budget which in the current financial climate is not sustainable. Our next residential will be October 2026 and we have booked this early to make some savings and will be sending out details on this to those parents shortly. We know some of the current Year 5 parents and children may be disappointed with this decision but we hope you understand and we will plan some fun activity days to give a similar experience for next year.

Fern and Bluebell trip

This week, Fern and Bluebell had an amazing trip to Drusillas Park. They had so much fun and learnt all about habitats in the workshops.



Praise Postcards

The following children have received a postcard in the past few weeks:

Noah Arnold, Georgia Bentley, Billy Bickerdike, Daisy Billington, Joseph Boakes, Winnie Booth, Bea Brewer, Freddie Cartmell, Esme Clarke, Harper Clayton, Florence Copley-Williams, Isaac Dove-Wallington, Aaron Fenn, Barnaby Gaynor, Florrie Gaynor, Connie Goozee, Isabella Gorvett, Amara Heaver-Lewis, Ambrose Hobden, Skye Hobden, Amelie Horner, Summer Joslova, Hunter-Blu Kelly-Wise, Scott Langridge, Daisy Payne, Lily-Mae Payne, Alfie Pears, Wilfred Potter, Mia Robinson, Aliyana Small, Ollie Stenning, Edward Szajdzicki, Gaia Tackie, Blasé Wheble, Diezel Wheble

Together, in God's love, we will shine