

# ST. MARK'S CE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



22nd September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers  
and Children,

## School photos - this Wednesday

We have the school photographer coming on Wednesday 23rd September, in the morning to take individual photos of each child as well as any sibling groups. If you would like your pre-school child photographed with you child/ren, please take them all to the school hall from 8:40am.



## Child starting school September 2027?

Is your child turning 4 before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2027? You can apply for a place in our lovely Bluebell class from the 5<sup>th</sup> October to start school next September. If you would like a tour, please get in touch and tell your friends about us too. We only have 15 spaces in our beautiful Bluebell class so contact the office to book a tour.

## Parents/carers Consultations

Parents/carers consultations are coming up on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** to see your child/ren class teacher. Appointments to speak to our Inclusion Lead, Martha Button, telephone appointments will be from 8am on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**. Bookings are open now on MCAS.

## Safeguarding spot - Looksmaxxing

Looksmaxxing is a term used to describe the online phenomenon of improving and 'maximising' your looks. Predominantly affecting boys and young men, the trend originated in misogynistic forums but has since become more mainstream and is often associated with manosphere content.

For parents and carers who want to know more, [Internet Matters](#) provides a [comprehensive guide to looksmaxxing](#), including the risks, common vocabulary associated with the trend, and advice on supporting young people.

## Praise Postcards

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

Florence Amos, Noah Arnold, Georgia Bentley, Billy Bickerdike, Joseph Boakes, Axel Booth, Georgina Bostock, Sam Bostock, Matej Bukovsky, Louis Carlisle, Freddie Cartmell, Cody Dowling, Florence Floyd, Isabella Gorvett, Harper Green, Isabella Hartfield, Eli Hocken, Archie Bear Kelly-Wise, Aiden Khazanehdari, Freya Kidd, Vinnie Koureas, Finley Land-Smith, Suki Moore, Ivy Neen-Gurney, Daisy Payne, Lily-Mae Payne, Lexi Pinington, Phoebe Ramsden, Eliza Riches, Gigi Riches, Mia Robinson, Lorcan Roddy, Lilah Rowberry, Lorenzo Smith, Sienna Smith, Mihaela Stoyanova, Gaia Tackie, Alexaner Tyler-Tarrant, Bertie West, Diezel Wheble, Star Wheble

## Diary Dates

- 23rd Sept - Individual Photographs
- 29th Sept - Harvest Festival
- 30th Sept - Football Festival Year 3 and 4
- Flu Vaccination
- 7th Oct - NEARS Football Year 5 and 6
- 12 Oct - PGL Residential Laurel
- 14th Oct - Class
- 19th Oct - Parents Evening
- 20th Oct - Cross County Year 4/5/6
- 21st Oct - SEN Parents Meetings FGB
- 22nd Oct - Parents Evening
- 26th Oct - Half Term
- 30th Oct
- 3rd Nov - Staplefield Bonfire Night
- 11th Nov - Remembrance Service
- 13th Nov - Children in Need
- 17th Nov - Sports Crew Traing
- 25th Nov - Get Active Dolphin - Year 5 & 6
- 2nd Dec - Girls Indoor Cricket Year 4/5 & 6
- 18th Dec - Christingle service
- 21st Jan - Christmas Holidays
- 4th Jan - Return to School

## Census Day - 1<sup>st</sup> October

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, all schools have to take a census which includes how many children are eating a school lunch. Our funding for school lunches for the entire year is taken from this number so we ask all parents in Bluebell, Fern or who receive Free School Meals to please order a lunch for this day.

Unfortunately, ISS forgot to publish a census menu in time so some parents who had ordered before this was released may have had their order cancelled so please do double check you have ordered for this day. There is a special themed menu including chicken goujons, pizza and jacket potato.

## REMINDERS

Please remember to complete the forms below if not already done so for this academic year:

[Permission to collect your children from school](#)

[Photograph permission](#)



## Worship Spot - Harvest Festival 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

Next week, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, we hold our school Harvest festival at St. Mark's Church. It is happening at 9am which is our normal Tuesday morning service time and children will be singing Harvest hymns and bringing their offerings to be blessed.

We are collecting for Handcross Community Pantry who appreciate our support so could all children bring in an offering on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**. A list of suggested donations was sent out via MCAS last week.

## Flu vaccinations :

We have the nurses coming in to give children their flu vaccinations on 30<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like your child to have this, please complete the consent form emailed out at the beginning of term. You do not need to contact the school if you do not want your child to have this vaccination.

## Year 6 transfer to secondary school

The deadline to apply for secondary school for our Year 6 pupils is fast approaching. Parents/carers must submit their preferences by 31<sup>st</sup> October on the [WSCC website here](#).

## Appropriate clothing

We know it's still lovely and warm at the moment but please don't forget to check the weather forecast and send children in with a rain coat if there is a chance of rain as we still go out to play if it is raining lightly.

## Disabled parking space

Please remember to leave the disabled space free outside school unless you have a blue badge as we have many disabled families that rely on this to get their children to school.

## Our new Wellbeing Champions and Vision In Action Council (VIACs)

We are delighted to introduce our new members for 2026 - 2027.

Wellbeing Champions:  
Y5s - Louis, Suki, Barnaby, Daisy

VIACs:  
Roma (YR)  
Joe (Y1)  
Summer (Y2)  
Sam (Y3)  
Sienna (Y4)  
Axel (Y5)  
Matej (Y6)

BEAVERS

# TIME FOR FUN

For fun, friendship and  
activities that get you thinking  
as well as doing.

1st Balcombe Scout Group

Join@1stbalcombe.cdscouts.org.uk

f /ScoutAssociation

© 2018 The Scout Association. Registered charity numbers: 306101  
(England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland)

## CHOOSE A SCHOOL MEAL SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER IS CENSUS DAY.

The number of  
children enjoying  
a school meal on  
Census Day can help  
determine the meal  
funding available to  
your school.

By booking a meal for your child, you'll  
be supporting your school while giving  
them the chance to enjoy our special  
Today's Harvest menu.

BOOK  
YOUR CHILD'S MEAL  
THROUGH THE FEED  
APP TODAY!

### TODAY'S HARVEST

#### MAIN COURSES

- Chicken Goujons  
with Chips
- Halal Chicken Goujons  
with Chips
- Margherita Pizza Slice  
with Chips
- Jacket Potato with  
baked beans, tuna or cheese

#### SERVED WITH

- Sweetcorn from the  
Sunny Fields
- Country Baked Beans

#### DESSERTS

- Autumn Banana Bread  
with Custard
- Harvest Rainbow Fruit  
& Yoghurt

Plant-based and special-diet options are also available  
through the FEED app.

## MISSION CONTROL IS CALLING...

MISSION  
Starlight

### OCTOBER PROGRAMME

Give your child an October half  
term filled with activities, creativity,  
active play, new experiences and  
plenty of fun at Holiday HQ.  
With exciting activities throughout  
the day and a programme  
designed to keep children  
engaged, Holiday HQ offers  
October half term childcare that's  
about much more than simply  
filling the school holidays.  
Find your nearest October half term  
holiday club and join Mission  
Starlight.

### DAILY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



Big adventures  
bringing each day's  
theme to life



Fun challenges to  
test skills, teamwork  
& confidence



Imagine it. Create it.  
Make it yours.

MAKE YOUR OWN  
PLANETARIUM

PLUS - 100+ WAYS TO PLAY WITH  
CHILDREN'S CHOICE EVERY DAY



SCAN TO FIND YOUR  
HOLIDAY HQ & BOOK NOW



0333 577 1533



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Bird
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Accepted