

ST. MARK'S CE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



20th October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Staplefield Bonfire and fireworks

On Tuesday 3rd November, the Staplefield Bonfire and Fireworks evening is being held. Starting at 6pm at the Victory with food available before the torch procession to the field at 7pm for the fireworks. Tickets are available to buy from the school office for £5 for over 14 with younger children going free.

Poppy products for sale

We now have poppy items in school for sale. Year 6 children will be taking the around classes until the 11th November. All items are £1 each and will be available from the school office to buy before and after school too.

Bags 2 School

We're running a Bag2School collection on 16th November. Fill as many bags as you like with clean, good condition items – the more we collect, the more St Mark's earns.

We accept: adults' and children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts, scarves, ties, bras, socks, jewellery,

Please avoid: school uniforms, workwear, duvets, pillows, wet or heavily soiled items.

Leave your bags at Church Porch by 9 am on 16th November. Thank you for supporting St Mark's.

Rocksteady concert - 11th December at 9am

Rocksteady are doing a concert that families are welcome to attend on 11th December at 9am involving the children who are in the bands. Please do come along and see all the children have been learning.

Shoebox appeal and Children in Need

Don't forget we have the shoebox appeal running currently. Half term might be the perfect time to grab some small toys to fill the box. They are due in on Tuesday 10th Nov so they can get to other children in time for Christmas.

On the 13th Nov, it is Children in Need and any children that have bought a shoebox can dress up on that day in their own clothes.

Praise Postcards

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

Florence Amos, Lexii Ansell, Ada Black-Brolly, Connor Boakes, Matej Bukovsky, Freddie Cartmell, Billy Coulton, Cody Dowling, Aaron Fenn, Florence Floyd, Barnaby Gaynor, Leni Hadingham, Jasper Hardman, Maddison Hawkins, Ambrose Hobden, Archie-Bear Kelly-Wise, Hunter-Blu Kelly Wise, Vinnie Koureas, Finley Land-Smith, Anna-Mae Liu, Bobby Manthorpe, Theodore Mills, Suki Moore, Rafael Parisi, Daisy Payne, Caelan Power, Una Power, Joe Ramsden, Jack Robinson, Aliyana Small

Diary Dates

- 20th Oct – Cross County Year 4/5/6
- 21st Oct – SEN Parents Meetings
- FGB Governors Meeting
- 22nd Oct – Parents Evening
- 26th Oct – Half Term
- 30th Oct
- 3rd Nov – Staplefield Bonfire Night
- 4th Nov -Football Festival
- 10th Nov - Shoeboxes due in
- 11th Nov – Remembrance Service
- 13th Nov – Children in Need
- 17th Nov – Sports Crew Traiing
- 25th Nov – Get Active Dolphin – Year 5 & 6
- 2nd Dec – Girls Indoor Cricket Year 4/5 & 6
- 4th Dec - FOSM Christmas Fayre
- 8th Dec - Bluebell and Fern Nativity
- 9th Dec Bluebell and Fern Nativity
- 18th Dec – Christingle service
- 21st Jan - Christmas Holidays
- 4th Jan – Return to School

Safeguarding spot - school photographs and AI (BBC news)

Recently, the BBC reported on concerns by photographers that parents were uploading school photographs to AI in order to remove the watermark.

Whilst the copyright infringement and loss of income are important, the article raises other concerns. That is the safeguarding risk of uploading children's photographs to AI, particularly where a parent uploads a whole class photograph. The other children in the picture have been uploaded without their parents knowing.

One example in the report was a child who was ill on photograph day. A parent used AI to add the child back into the group photograph afterwards. The academic quoted said he understood why the parent did it. He also said they did not seem to appreciate the privacy and safeguarding risks of uploading and manipulating images of children in this way. [You can read the article here:](#)

Child starting school September 2027?

Is your child turning 4 before 31st August 2027? [You can apply for a place in our lovely Bluebell class from this to start school next September via this link.](#) 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.

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 31st October on the [WSCC website here.](#)

Parking at school

Just a reminder to please not block next door's driveway when dropping or picking up your child/ren. Our neighbours do need access to their drive at all times so please don't even stop there for a few minutes as this can cause an issue.

Laurel residential

Our wonderful Laurel class had an amazing time at their residential to PGL Windmill hill last week. A huge thanks to the staff who gave up their time to take them!

