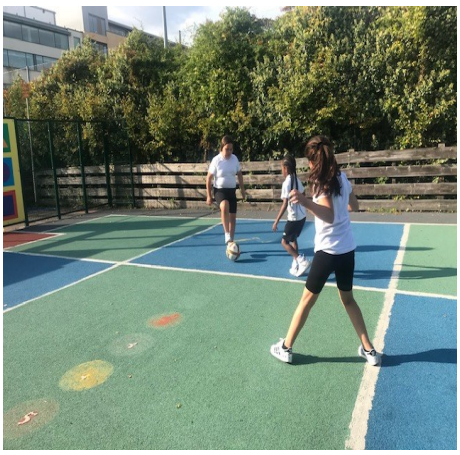
Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

24th September 2021

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills and knowledge to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy fortnight at St Mark's. Palm Class worked with local artists from Van Gogh House; Willow Class enjoyed an overnight residential school journey at Christian Youth Enterprise in Chichester; after school clubs restarted and on Wednesday we enjoyed a fabulous Car Free Day to raise awareness for air pollution in the local area.

We thank you for your support in this latter event and hope that you will continue to do your best to reduce congestion and pollution near the school by cycling, scooting and walking to school whenever you can.

Updated personal contact details

Thank you for those who have updated their personal details. Please can you do this as soon as possible if you have not. It is very important that the school can make contact with you or a close contact at all times. Please follow this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/

Goodbyes

We take this opportunity to say a big thank you and goodbye to Kerrie Elliott, our Finance and Admin Manager and to Annie Winter, our outdoor learning leader, who will be beginning her maternity leave from next Friday. We thank them both for the valuable contributions they have made across the school.

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Being prepared for learning

BIBLE VERSE

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2

Attendance and Punctuality message

Well done Year 4 for achieving 96.67%

Remember that poor attendance not only has an impact on your child's learning, it affects the whole school. Please can you make every effort to arrive to school by 8.55am

St Mark's C of E Primary School Term Dates for Autumn Term 2021/22. Please note that there are some new and amended dates

Date	Event	Details
20th September 2021	Artists from Van Gogh House are in to work with Palm Class	
22nd September 2021	Car Free day	The roads around school will be closed to vehicles between 2.30-5.30pm.
24th September 2021	Willow Class visiting the Van Gogh Alive Exhibition	Parent volunteers needed Kensington Gardens
27th September 2021	Harvest Festival Week	
27th September 2021	Willow Class participating in Into University all week	A charity based in Kennington which encourages children to have an aspiration of going to university
27th September 2021	Artists from Van Gogh House are in to work with Palm Class	
30th September 2021	PSHE parent workshop	Parents of children in Years 1 – 6 welcome at 9:00am
1st October 2021	Family Gardening event in the Edible Garden 3.45-5.00 at school	All are welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult
5th October 2021	Olive Class visiting Museum of London	10-3.00pm. Parent volunteers needed
6th October 2021	1-1 Tuition for Year 6 begins	
7th October 2021	Oak Class visiting Vauxhall City Farm 2pm	Adult helpers needed
13th October 2021	Parents' Evening	Further details to follow
14th October 2021	Parents Evening	Further details to follow
20th October 2021	Phonics Workshop	EYFS and Year 1 Parents at 9:00am
22nd October 2021	Cultural Dress Day and last day of Term 1	Children to wear cultural clothing or the national flag colours

w/c 23rd -29th Oct 2021	Half Term	
1st November 2021	Children return back to school for Term 2	School begins at 8.55am
11th November 2021	Remembrance Day	
w/c 15th November 2021	Anti-bullying week	
Tuesday 7th December 2021	EYFS Nativity tbc—new date	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Tuesday 14th December 2021	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity tbc	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Thursday 16th December 2021	St Mark's Carol Service 9.20am Held at St Mark's Church	Led by Key Stage 2
Thursday 16th December 2021	Last day of Autumn Term	
Tuesday 4th January 2021	**Children return to school**	

Year 6 school journey to CYE in Chichester

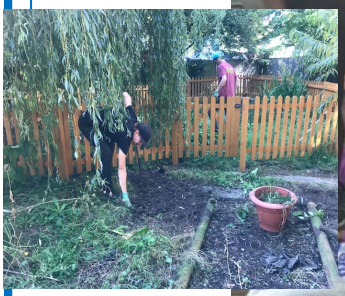
On Monday 13th September, 21 Year 6 children were present at school at 7.15am to travel by coach to Christian Youth Enterprise in Chichester. We had a fantastic time learning how to sail, build rafts and solve obstacle courses through teamwork.

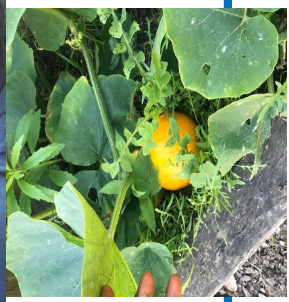
Family Gardening Afternoon

Friday 1st October 2021

3.45-5.00pm

The team who were involved in our last community gardening event back in 2017





Many of you will know that at St Mark's we believe it is important for children to be learning in the outdoor environment as well as the classroom. Last year each class had an outdoor learning session as part of their weekly lessons. This year a number of children will take part in weekly intervention groups with the school gardeners Bill and Steve who have worked with us for 5 years. To get everything ready, we will be holding a family gardening afternoon next **Friday 1st October from 3.345pm -5.00pm**. We hope that you will be able to join us but all children must be supervised by an adult. Free refreshments will be available for all who participate.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – AUTUMN 2021

Clubs run from 3.30 pm to 4.25pm, except * Taekwon-Do on Wednesdays **3.30pm-4.45pm**

Clubs will be **only £3.00**** per session! (£30.00 per term) **First 2 Clubs half price for Pupil Premium**

Children **MUST** wear **PE kits** for **all** sport activities.

Payment and bookings should be made on ParentPay

on a first-come first-serve basis.

11 weeks of clubs – Pay only 10 weeks

Please Pay using ParentPay

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

DAY & CLUB	AVAILABLE TO YEARS	Places Available	Club Cost
MONDAY			
TENNIS	Years 3 – 6	20	**PE KIT** £30.00
TUESDAY			
DODGEBALL	Years 3 – 6	20	**PE KIT** £30.00
WEDNESDAY			
MULTISPORTS	Years 1 – 3	20	**PE KIT** £30.00
*TAEKWONDO (KS1 & KS2 places available)	REC. Yr1 & Yr 2 ***3.00pm – 3:30pm** Yr 3 – 6***3:30pm – 4:45pm**		
THURSDAY			
COOKING KS 1	Years 1-2	15	£30.00
FRIDAY			
FOOTBALL	Years 3 – 6	20	**PE KIT** £30.00
HOMEWORK	Years 2 – 6	20	£30.00

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – AUTUMN 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

St Mark's Afterschool Clubs for AUTUMN Term 2021

We are delighted to be able to offer a wide range of extracurricular activities for the after school clubs this term for pupils in Year 1 to 6.

After school clubs for the Autumn Term will **begin w/c 20th September 2021 and will run for 11 weeks, ending on Friday 10th December 2021.**

The cost for each club is £3.00 per week and due to the earlier closure of clubs last term, only 10 weeks will need to be paid this term. The total cost for this term will be £30.00 per club.

All payments will be via ParentPay. Please log on to Parent Pay to book your child/children's places **by Wednesday 15th September 2021**. If you need any assistance booking online, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Please note these conditions apply to all clubs:

- Clubs have limited spaces and are booked **on a first-come first-serve basis.**

Places cannot be booked if you owe any money to the school (e.g. school dinners arrears/late fees) – please ensure this debt is cleared to allow your child to be assigned to clubs.

Please collect your child on time or give permission for them to go home alone

(Y6 only – must be 10 years).

- **Children who are not collected promptly on more than three occasions will be unable to continue to participate in the chosen club and will be charged a late fee.**
- Your child's place in any club is not guaranteed until full payment has been received and confirmed.
- Those entitled to a discount will need to pay the full amount for the clubs selected and a refund will be made through via ParentPay.
- Children are expected to behave and comply with all the school rules. Those who are unable to do so will be removed from the club without refund.
- Only those children attending a club can stay. **Siblings must be collected at 3.30pm**.
- Please provide your child with a light healthy snack & drink and ensure they have the correct kit

Clubs finish at 4.25pm (Except Taekwondo for KS2 at 4.45pm).

Yours sincerely,

St Mark's Primary School

Office Notices

School Dinners

ISS Education are our catering provider and will be providing our school dinners

School Meals cost £2.50 per day or £12.50 per week.

Please pay on ParentPay in advance to keep your dinner account in credit and prevent reminders

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Families on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals.

We actively encourage families to apply for free school meals, as this will ensure that your child not only receives a free meal but also grants additional support within school through the Pupil Premium funding. Please contact the office for a form.

If your child wishes to bring a **PACKED LUNCH** to school, please ensure the office are informed in advance and that it is Healthy (no sweets, cakes, fizzy drinks etc). Click here for details

The School Office is now OPEN to parents

We welcome parents back into the office for all queries.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available from 8am every day for £2.50 per child per day (£12.50 per week).

Please contact the office for an application form

Up To Date Pupil Records

In order to adhere to our safeguarding duty, please update your child's details on our Pupil Records Form here

We request for this form to be completed at the start of each year to ensure we have your latest details on file to contact you for regular and emergency situations.

We also require your child's updated medical details and the details of the adults you permit to collect your child/ren so we can make sure they only leave with a person identified by you.

1. Stomp through leaves

In autumn deciduous trees lose their leaves. Try gathering as many fallen leaves as you can, and have a competition to see who can build the tallest pile. Roll, jump and play in them!

Ever wondered why leaves change colour in autumn? Uncover the science behind the changing season and discover why leaves change colour in this magical season. Try finding as many different coloured leaves as you can!

2. Look out for the weird and wonderful

Try looking for different coloured fungi on your walk.

Fungi like the damp conditions among the fallen leaves, which create a wonderful rich earthy smell in the forest. Remember they don't all look like mushrooms and they don't all grow on the ground – some grow on tree trunks or fallen branches. Fungi are essential to where they are found. They rot and recycle leaf litter, provide food for small animals and are great to admire.

Did you know that trees and plants talk to each other through mushrooms? Most of a mushroom's body is made up of thin threads underground. It's recently been discovered that these threads link up, acting "as a kind of underground internet", linking the roots of the trees and plants nearby and allowing them to share nutrients.

3. Become a cone collector

During the autumn, trees produce hundreds of seeds in the hope that a few will find the perfect place to land and grow into a tree. Each plant has a clever way of scattering their seeds. Some seeds and nuts will fall from the tree, some will explode from pods, some will blow away in the wind or float in water and others will be scattered by animals.

Look out for cones, nuts and seeds as you explore the forest. Have a competition to see who find the most!

4. Download the free autumn activity sheets

Inspired by and featuring characters from Room on the Broom, inside these sheets you'll find autumn activities to bring sights, sounds and smells of the forest to life.

Forestry England

5. Explore your senses

Autumn is a fantastic time to look, listen and reflect on the things all around you. Did you know that simply taking time to be mindful can be beneficial for children's health and wellbeing?

Download our forest bathing activity sheet, find a quiet spot where your kids feel safe and relaxed and start practicing the art of forest bathing with our downloadable activity sheets.

6. Take photos as a family

When everything around us is more colourful and there's a lovely autumn light in the woods, it can be a great time to get some memorable snaps.

Don't forget to share your autumnal photos using #AutumnLeafWatch on Twitter and Instagram or by posting them directly on to our Facebook page. We want to see how autumn captivates your senses. Photos can be landscapes, macros, portraits, selfies, wildlife - if it's autumnal, we want to see it! If it's good, you're in with a chance of winning some pretty slick prizes too.

7. Calling all Gruffalo Spotters

Head out into the deep dark wood in search of the Gruffalo!

Complete fun activities and learn about each animal from the book as you follow the new interactive family trail. Download the Gruffalo Spotters 2 app and pick up a trail pack before you begin and make the most of your adventure.

8. Make hibernation homes

Many animals start preparing for winter as the cooler weather descends. Creatures like toads and minibeasts look for places such as log piles and leaf litters to keep them warm and dry, and squirrels collect and hide nuts, so that they have food to eat during winter.

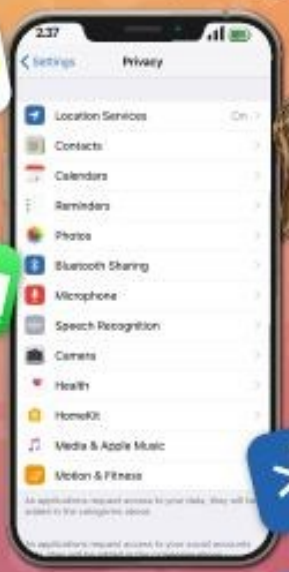
Can you look for somewhere you think would make a cosy, warm place for a toad or minibeast to hibernate?

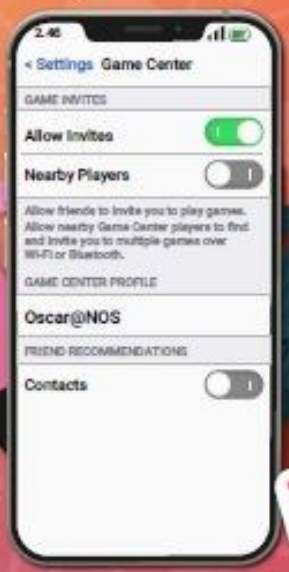
At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one area of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS

iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.





How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
5. Scroll down to Game Centre
6. Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

National Online Safety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.09.2021