

# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School



**INDUCTION MEETING FOR NEW PARENTS  
2025**



*"A Community of Faith and Learning"*

## Agenda

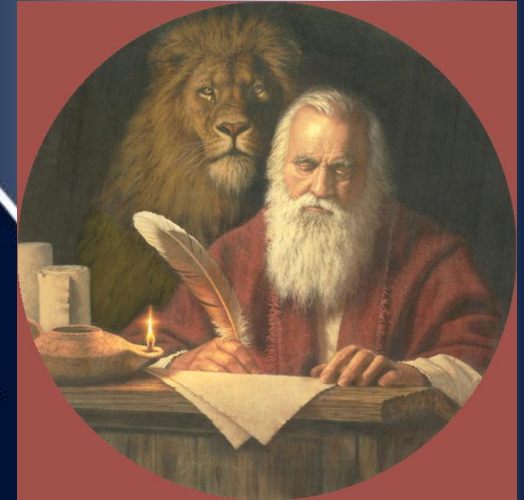
- Life at St Mark's
- Administration/Routines
- Expectations
- Reception Class
- Q&A



*"A Community of Faith and Learning"*

# Your child's journey through St Mark's

# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School



Jesus said, 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.' John 10:10  
The community of St. Mark's works hard together. We respect and care for each other.  
We make wise choices and always do our best. We learn to live life to the full.



# Mission Statement

**‘A Community of Faith and Learning’**

**Jesus said, ‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.’ John 10:10**

**The community of St. Mark’s works hard together.**

**We respect and care for each other.**

**We make wise choices and always do our best.**

**We learn to live life to the full.**





# An Academic Journey

At St. Mark's learning is never dull, routine or narrowly focused. The curriculum is broad and all subjects draw from one another. To unlock the potential of each child, we explore a wide range of educational approaches. Additional support is given where learning difficulties are identified, and also where exceptional ability demands a greater challenge.



Our pupils work hard and are motivated. They are academically ambitious, confident and accomplished young people.





# A Gospel Journey

St. Mark's is a Catholic school. Everything that happens is informed by gospel values and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are a loving community where all are treated with respect and where the presence of God is reflected in our daily routine. The support from our parish priest and from the parish community as a whole is invaluable in contributing towards our pupils' spiritual journey.

A collegiate spirit is a distinctive feature of St. Mark's and pupils naturally support one another and are happy.

HEALTHY

GOSPEL

ACADEMIC

UNIQUE







# A Healthy Journey

HEALTHY

GOSPEL

ACADEMIC

UNIQUE

Our children tell us that they feel safe at school.

Healthy living is continually promoted in its broadest sense. Our pupils are encouraged to be active and physical activity is highly valued. There is opportunity for pupils to participate in sport before, after and during the school day.



Financial capability is developed in a variety of ways so that children can embrace adult life with the ability to make the most of the resources at their disposal. We create an environment which encourages pupils to be enterprising and innovative and where their creative skills are nurtured and valued.







# A Unique Journey

HEALTHY

GOSPEL

ACADEMIC

UNIQUE

St. Mark's is an ideal size. Being 'one form entry' enables the school to function like a large, loving family. Each child is perceived as a precious individual whose learning journey is the joint responsibility of parents/carers, staff, fellow pupils and the local, wider community. Our children are taught to develop their intra – personal and inter – personal skills and work effectively, independently and collaboratively. Each child's future is seen in a very positive light and we consider it our duty to help pupils to identify their areas of strength, their preferred learning styles and to establish areas for personal development.





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## **SPECIALIST TEACHERS**

- ❖ *Dr Keller – Headteacher, Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead*
- ❖ *Mrs Birch- Deputy Headteacher/ PE specialist teacher/ Forest School Leader/ DSL*
- ❖ *Mrs Taylor- Assistant Headteacher/ SENDCo/ DSL/*
- ❖ *Madame Starling – French, native speaking specialist teacher. Rec – Y6. German Y3-6*
- ❖ *Mrs Bateman – Music teacher*
- ❖ *Mr. Entwistle – Specialist Sports Coach.*





## SCHOOL OFFICE

- ❖ The School office is open from 8.00am to 3.30pm.
- ❖ If your child is going to be absent from school, please notify the office by telephone as early as possible.
- ❖ Any money sent into school, e.g. for school trips, must be in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name, class and details of what the money is for.
- ❖ Please always keep us informed of up-to-date contact details and collection arrangements so that we are always able to reach a member of the family during the day.



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## SCHOOL UNIFORM

White shirt/blouse  
Grey trousers/skirt  
School Tie  
School Jumper

### **Summer term and Autumn up to half term**

Grey shorts/skirt  
Short sleeved white shirt  
and tie  
or  
Blue and white gingham  
dress  
Navy ankle socks

### **PE Kit:**

White polo shirt  
(embroidered badge  
optional)  
Navy shorts  
Navy socks  
Black or white plain  
trainers  
No jewellery

Optional Extras – School Coat, School Fleece and School Blazer with badge



## SCHOOL DINNERS - 1

Schools meals are cooked daily on the premises by Vertas staff our appointed Catering Contractors, following healthy eating guidelines. A menu is provided periodically showing choices for the main course (hot or cold) and dessert. Water is provided and the Little Lions are supervised when choosing lunch.

### **Infant free school meals in England**

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in:

- Reception class

- Year 1

- Year 2

All children under the age of 5 are also entitled to free milk. Please register for this at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)





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## NUT ALLERGIES

We have a number of children and adults in school who have a fairly severe allergy to a range of nuts and may require medical intervention in the case of an allergic reaction.

In order to assist in the care of these children, please do not include nuts, or nut containing products, such as peanut butter or cereal bars, as part of your child's packed lunch.

At school we talk to the children about the importance of not sharing or swapping their food at lunchtimes but it would help us to reinforce this message if you could talk to your child about this at home too – and explain the underlying reasons why we need to discourage the children from sharing food.

We would also ask that you **do not send in cakes, biscuits etc.** for your child's birthday as these may contain allergens. If you wish to send in a treat for your child's class, sweets such as Haribo or Dairy milk chocolate buttons would be a suitable alternative.



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## OUR SCHOOL RULES

- We will be polite, respectful and courteous to everyone in the school
- We will follow instructions, as soon as they are given, from all adults in our school
- We will keep our hands and feet to ourselves, giving each other proper space
- We will respect equipment and other people's property
- We will walk in the school building and in from our lines





## THE REWARD SYSTEM

St. Mark's operates a reward scheme for good behaviour and achievement:

- ❖ All pupils are praised readily when deemed appropriate.
- ❖ We use class Dojo where children can earn Dojo points. Certificates are given in assembly when they earn 25, 50, 75 and 100 points. They also receive a small prize for achieving 100 points.
- ❖ Telephone calls are sometimes made to parents where exceptional effort or progress is evident.
- ❖ Badges, class trophies for excellent attendance are regularly awarded.
- ❖ Postcards are sent home on occasions
- ❖ Celebration assemblies, charter awards.



## Home school agreement

**As a parent / guardian you are required to:**

- ❖ support the mission statement and the school's vision
- ❖ ensure that your child arrives punctually at school with the appropriate uniform and equipment, including PE kit
- ❖ ensure that your child has the best possible attendance and refrain from withdrawing them from school during term time
- ❖ notify the school of absence by 8.45 a.m. and confirm in writing if the absence is prolonged
- ❖ attend regular school meetings and help with homework where appropriate, especially phonics, reading and mathematics
- ❖ ensure that hair is within the natural spectrum of hair colour, and hair style is traditional and smart, avoiding extreme or high-fashion styles
- ❖ ensure that shoes are plain black school-style shoes (with black laces if tie-up style) without decoration, trim or logos. Trainer-style shoes and boots are not allowed
- ❖ be polite, courteous and respectful to everyone in the school community



## Attendance

- ❖ We have achieved excellent attendance rates at St. Mark's and this enables us to provide a high standard of education for all our children. The percentage attendance for the school is currently 96.2%.
- ❖ Holidays in term time will not be authorised, and a fine will be issued by the local authority. We expect your support in this. The fine currently stands at £70 per parent per child for each absence.





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## **CURRICULUM ORGANISATION – EYFS**

**There are 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas of learning**

### **Prime Areas –**

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

### **Specific Areas-**

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



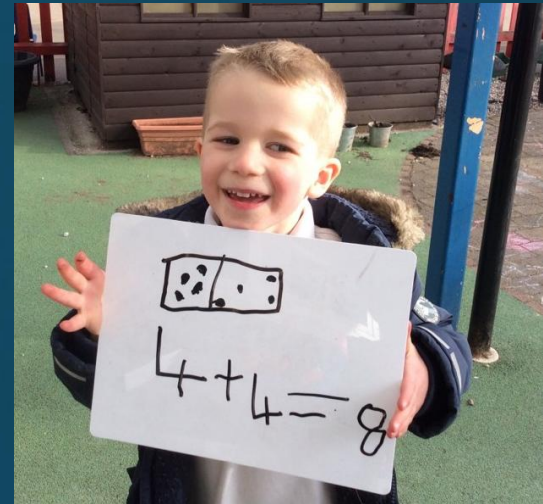
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# Adult and Child-led activities

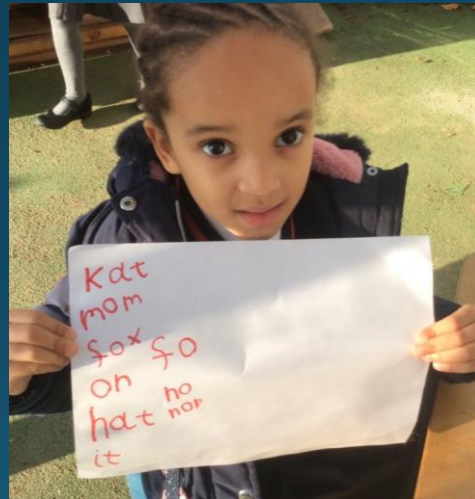




# Independently



# Consistently



# Range of situations







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# Forest School







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# Cooking





# RE



# Celebration assembly







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# A typical day in Reception

## At the start of the school day





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# Indoors and outdoors







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# Lunchtime





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# Afternoon activities



# ...home time!





# Admission arrangements

## Little Lions

**Open start** - For the first 2 weeks, children can be brought into school to our red gate between 8.30am and 9.00am. For the first 3 days children will be collected from the main office.

Week 1 -    Wednesday 3rd Sept – 9.00am - 11.45am  
                 Thursday 4th Sept – 9.00am - 11.45am  
                 Friday 5th September 9.00am - 12.30pm (with lunch)

Week 2 -    8th – 12th Sept – 9.00am - 3.00pm

Week 3 -    15<sup>th</sup> Sept onwards – 8.45am - 3.15pm



# How can I prepare my child for school?

- Talk positively about school - Speak about school as a fun and exciting place, share your stories, focusing on the positive parts, Use the photo booklet emailed to you to talk through what they will see and do, walk or drive past the school to make it familiar, reassure them
- Develop social skills - Arrange playdates to develop confidence in social situations, practise turn taking and sharing
- Build independence – Carrying their own bag, putting on and taking off their own coat and shoes, using the toilet independently and washing their hands, opening lunch boxes and eating with minimal help, tidying up after playing etc
- Establish a routine – set regular bedtimes and wake-up times a couple of weeks before school starts, create a simple morning routine, talk about the school day structure
- Stay calm and reassuring – Try not to show your own anxieties as children pick up on your mood, say goodbye with a smile, even if your child is upset, trust they will soon settle, let them know who will be picking them up



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