



# ST. MARK'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

9th January  
2026  
edition

## Headteacher's Message

Dear parents/carers,

It was wonderful to welcome all the children back on Wednesday morning. They have settled back into school routines brilliantly, and as always, we are incredibly proud of them. We began the New Year together as a whole school with a Celebration of God's Word, led by our pupil chaplains, to mark the Feast of the Epiphany. During this celebration, we reflected on the theme of Light, remembering how the light of the star guided the Wise Men to Jesus and how we are called to shine God's light through kindness, love and service to others each day.

Yesterday, we were pleased to welcome Dan from Living Streets, who came to launch the 'Let's Walk to School' initiative. This includes the WOW – Walk Once a Week scheme, a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they travel to school each day using our interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If pupils travel sustainably at least once a week for a whole month, they are rewarded with a collectable monthly WOW badge. Please see the attached information in this newsletter for further details about this initiative.

As we begin this new term, I would like to highlight the importance of attendance and punctuality. We saw a significant decline in attendance in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays, and we understand that there was a lot of illness at that time and many of our children were unwell. This half term, our aim is to achieve our school attendance target of 96% or above each week, and we kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child is in school every day whenever possible. Children thrive on the routine of school; it supports them academically and, just as importantly, socially. When children miss school, they miss valuable time with their friends, which is vital for their mental and emotional wellbeing.

We would also appreciate your support in ensuring children arrive on time each day. Unfortunately, we have begun the new year with a high number of late arrivals. This can be disruptive for your child, their class and staff, and it means children miss important learning at the start of the day. Please help us by ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives punctually.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Woodruff.

Happy  
New Year

Class	Attendance
<b>N</b>	<b>86.6%</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Y1</b>	<b>91.1%</b>
<b>Y2</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Y3</b>	<b>84.9%</b>
<b>Y4</b>	<b>98.1%</b>
<b>Y5</b>	<b>92.2%</b>
<b>Y6</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>90.9%</b>

## Important Dates for next week

### Monday 12th January

- Y6 SATs meeting for children and parents in the school hall at 3:30pm
- Coach Rob's after-school sports clubs begin following the Christmas holidays

### Wednesday 14th January

- The School Nursing Team will be in school to complete catch-up nasal flu vaccinations for any children who missed them previously and where parental consent has been given

### Thursday 15th January

- Year 6 Assembly in school at 9:30am - parents of Year 6 children are very welcome to join us
- Own clothes day for Year 4 for highest attendance

### Friday 16th January

- Times Tables Rock Stars Day
- Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite rock star, favourite number, favourite fraction, or anything else linked to Maths - please see the attached letter for further information
- Please note, we will not be attending Mass on this day

