

# St. Marks

## C of E Primary School



Growing and learning together



# Welcome to St. Mark's CE Primary School



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I am delighted that you are considering St. Mark's CE Primary School for your child's education. This prospectus will provide you with useful information about the school and I would also encourage you to visit our school website. If you have any questions about the school please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

St. Mark's School is a purpose-built three form entry primary school, with a superb range of classrooms and teaching spaces and an extensive outside area which gives opportunities for enhancing learning. As part of our school we have a Resourced Provision for up to seven children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

Our welcoming and caring ethos pervades the whole school. We have strong partnerships between pupils, staff, parents and governors and our open door policy enables us all to work together for the benefit of all children. Our commitment to the children is highlighted in comments from parents: "St. Marks is a school that puts children first and fantastic staff encourage them to develop in a happy and safe environment", "Children are praised and encouraged to do their best. There are a wide range of educational experiences for the children and the facilities are excellent."

St. Mark's is a Church of England Aided School and Immanuel Church, the local parish church for Hatch Warren and Beggarwood, is part of our school building. We welcome children from a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds whose parents wish them to be educated in a Church of England School and who are willing to support the aims and ethos of a church school.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you and your family.

Sally Jenkins

*"A positive and welcoming atmosphere ..."* *Primary Inspector*



## Teaching and Learning at St. Mark's

We have excellent facilities both inside and outside the school building, all of which contribute towards and enhance the children's learning.

### Our School Grounds

Our attractive and extensive school grounds provide a valuable and varied outdoor learning environment, supporting all areas of the curriculum.

Facilities include:

- Outdoor classrooms
- Grass amphitheatre
- Two climbing equipment areas
- Hard court for ball games
- Two large playgrounds
- Large grassed areas
- Wildflower meadow
- Willow dome
- Stage area
- Maths Garden
- Wooded area



In addition, each year group has its own dedicated raised bed where the children enjoy growing flowers and/or vegetables.

Facilities inside the school building include:

- Food Technology room
- Two libraries
- Music and Drama Room
- Two halls



All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and access to laptop computers.



**“... a very clear  
and positive ethos  
pervades the school”  
Primary Inspector**

**“I like the outdoor  
classroom” KSI Pupil**



“We were impressed with the children’s impeccable behaviour”  
*Parents*



“... pupils are provided with a rich range of learning experiences to engage and interest them”  
*General Inspector for Religious Education*

## Collective Worship

Collective Worship has an important and unique place within the life of St. Mark’s Primary School. It provides an opportunity for the school community to pause from activity, to gather together, to learn about and reflect on the Christian beliefs and values which bind a church school together. Our aim through worship is to educate our children and make them aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment.

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## A typical school day at St. Mark's

8.30	–	School opens
<b>8.45</b>	–	<b>Registration</b>
9.00	–	Worship
9.20	–	Activate (exercises to activate the brain and body ready for learning)
9.30	–	Lessons
10.30	–	Morning playtime
10.45	–	Lessons
12-1pm	–	Lunchtime for Reception and Key Stage 1 children
12.15-1.15	–	Lunchtime for Key Stage 2 children
1pm or 1.15	–	Registration and Activate
1.05 or 1.20	–	Afternoon lessons
2.15-2.30	–	Afternoon playtime for Key Stage 1
3.20	–	Home time



### Please ensure your child is at school in time for registration

We aim to provide our children with a rich educational experience both in and outside the classroom.

During the year the children have the opportunity to go on educational visits. Details of these and other activities, can be found on our school website [www.st-marksschool.co.uk](http://www.st-marksschool.co.uk)



“...the teachers enthusiasm and dedication was clear to see” *Parent*



“A very orderly and efficiently managed school”  
*Primary Inspector*



“...we have found all aspects of school life reassuring, engaging and very supportive” *Parents*

## Behaviour

At St Mark's Primary School all children and adults are expected to show high standards of behaviour in a positive Christian ethos. Good behaviour and achievement are celebrated by praise and reward.

We are a Rights Respecting School and our behaviour policy reflects this. We celebrate the individual and encourage team work throughout the school.

At St. Marks we promote:

- **Friendliness**
- **Good manners**
- **Courtesy**
- **Fairness to all**
- **Pride in our achievements**
- **Working together**
- **Awareness of others needs and points of view**



## Incentives

Children are rewarded for the values we promote through Achievement Points, aiming for a Gold Award.

Whole classes work collectively to achieve class stars and are rewarded with a special activity they have chosen.

## Sanctions

There are times when a child's behaviour does not measure up to the expectations of staff.

Children need to understand where the bounds of acceptable behaviour lie. The boundaries that we set, as a school, are constant, fair and clear.

“I was once again amazed, as always, with all the productions, how you manage to include all children and make each and every one of them feel special and important” *Parent*

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## “Creative approaches to teaching ...” *Primary Inspector*

### Children with Special Educational Needs

At St. Mark’s School we aim to be a fully inclusive school. We value all children and believe in providing every possible opportunity for them to develop to their full potential. The governors ensure that the necessary provision is made for any child who has special educational needs. Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) is solely responsible for overseeing that the pupil’s needs are met. We recognise the importance of working along side parents.

All areas of the school building are accessible to wheel chair users.

#### Resourced Provision

The Resourced Provision (or RP as it is most commonly known within the school) is a small suite of resourced rooms which provides an excellent learning area for up to seven children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

They spend some of their day in the RP and as much time as possible working alongside their year group peers in a mainstream classroom.

## “... a positive learning environment for our children” *Parent*



“The achievement points are very good for a child’s education. They encourage us to try harder in our work and they help us behave in a sensible manner” *KS2 pupil*



# Our School's Achievements



## Eco Schools

The Eco Committee works across the school to encourage classes to reuse and recycle our waste. It is pupil lead through a representative in every class from years 1 – 6. Each class monitors their use of electricity, water and paper. Fruit and vegetable waste is composted, and used in our school grounds. We are aiming to reduce our carbon footprint!



## Rights Respecting School (RRR)

RRR promotes children's overall well-being, including their academic attainment. It places the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of our school's ethos. We teach the children that they have a right to a happy and safe learning environment. As a consequence they have a responsibility towards each other and their school environment.

RRR ambassadors are pupils who are elected to represent their year group. They meet regularly to promote St. Marks as a Rights Respecting School.



## Healthy School

St. Marks promote the health and well being of all our children. Pupils are taught how to lead a healthy lifestyle through food choices and exercise. Children are encouraged to have a healthy snack during morning break.



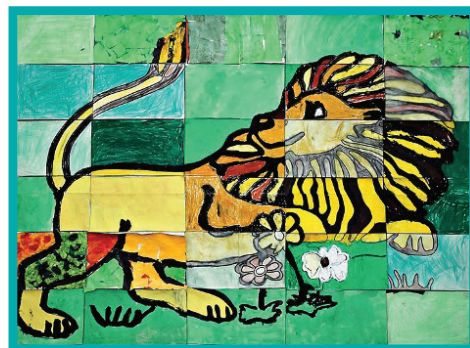
## Artsmark

Arts Council England has awarded a Gold Artsmark to St. Mark's in recognition of the school's commitment to, and excellence in, arts education.



## Activemark

Awarded by DCSF in 2008/09 for exceptional delivery within the National School Sport Strategy.



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## School Council

At St. Mark's School all children have the right to say what they think about decisions that are being made about the school.

Our School Council has a representative from every class from Year 1 to 6 and meets on a weekly basis to discuss issues that are relevant to the school.

We hold elections for our School Council early at the beginning of each school year.

We are fortunate to use resources provided by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to run the voting process. Each child is allowed to vote using an official ballot paper, in an official voting booth and post their vote in an official ballot box. The votes for each class are carefully counted and verified and the results announced in a whole school assembly at the end of the school day. This allows our children to experience what 'real life' voting is like and helps reinforce the elements of Rights, Respect and Responsibility as well.



## Clubs

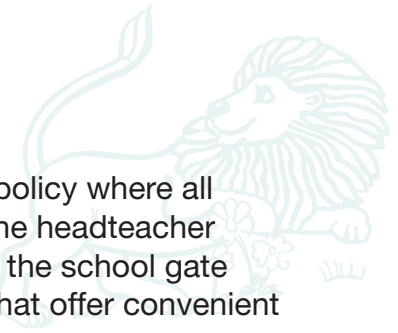
We offer a wide variety of lunch time and after school clubs catering for different ages and a wide breadth of interests. The range of activities on offer may include choir, running, writing, cookery and art. Details of current clubs are usually sent out each half term and can be viewed on our website. These opportunities enhance the children's school experience; help develop confidence, social skills and the enjoyment of learning.

**“The clubs are really good and it makes children have a chance to do activities which they haven't tried before”** *KS2 pupil*

**“I feel very privileged to be a part of your school”** *Lunchtime assistant*



## Home-School communication



Home-school communication is vital. We have an open door policy where all parents/carers are welcome to share any concerns with us. The headteacher and members of the school's leadership team are available at the school gate each morning. We also provide Home/School Reading Logs that offer convenient opportunities when a visit to the school is not possible.

Across the school we have:

- Year group curriculum evenings at the beginning of each academic year detailing topics covered and trips.
- Parent-teacher consultations in the Autumn and Spring terms
- A written report detailing your child's end of year achievement, with an opportunity to discuss your child's progress in the Summer term.
- Annual Open Afternoon
- Regular newsletters
- Termly topic letters
- An informative website

## Homework

At St Mark's School we believe that a full day in school is demanding and tiring for children working at their best. It is important that children are able to unwind and relax by taking part in a range of activities both at home and in the community. In addition to this, we believe that parents and carers can support their child's educational progress by working on a variety of activities at home.

At St Mark's School, home learning will:

- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- enrich and develop work in the classroom;
- be appropriate for the age of the child;
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- prepare Year 6 children for a smooth transfer to Secondary School.

Parents will be provided with a range of suggested activities for children in each Key Stage. Additional advice will be provided by year group teams as appropriate.

Parents are encouraged to use Home/School Reading Logs to record comments on reading and other home learning activities.

### Wizkid

Wizkid is an internet based learning platform for children to access from home. It offers a safe environment for children to communicate with classmates and develop their learning through tasks that have been set up by class teachers.

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# St. Marks

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St. Mark's Church of England Aided Primary School  
Danebury Road, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke,  
Hampshire, RG22 4US

Tel: 01256 346111  
Fax: 01256 346121

Web: [www.st-marksschool.co.uk](http://www.st-marksschool.co.uk)  
Email: [sally.jenkins@st-markscofe.hants.sch.uk](mailto:sally.jenkins@st-markscofe.hants.sch.uk)