St Mark's CE Primary School Newsletter - 23rd October 2026

MESSAGE FROM MRS SADLER

Dear Parents,

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who completed the parent questionnaire last week. We were pleased to receive so many responses, and were very grateful for the positive feedback which we received.

This week, Year 3 have enjoyed a history workshop, to support their learning all about the Stone Age! This was a great way for them to experience their topic being brought to life. We have also had some of our Prefects from Year 6 visiting Westcroft Nursing Home, where the children completed some autumnal crafts with the residents. We were really proud of how well the prefects represented the school.

Today, we celebrated our Courage Awards in assembly! Courage is one of the core values of the Orchard Community Trust, and we were delighted to recognise those who have demonstrated this value over the past half term. A huge well done to all our award winners! You can see who received their awards later in this week's newsletter.

We have now come to the end of the first half term of the year. In some ways, I can't believe that it is already half term. In other ways, an 8 week half term feels very long! I am sure that all of the children are now ready for a rest, and I hope that they (and you!) really enjoy the week off. We have INSET day on Monday 2nd November, so we will look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 3rd November. Have a lovely half term break,

Mrs Sadler

TEACHING & LEARNING FOCUS THIS WEEK

This week, we have had a 2-day external review, led by two OFSTED inspectors who also work in school improvement. This has been a valuable experience in evaluating all areas of the school, and supporting with our next steps.

NEXT half term we will be focusing on

Equality

Children are welcome to write prayers for our prayer box in the hall

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Jasmina (6), Minahil (5), Ubaid (10), Tayyibah (9), Mariam (8), Lamin (11), Lawe (8), Numair (7), Ahmed (10), Raamiz (8), Sunny (4), Maira (5), Younis (6), Sulaiman (11), Tatiana (8), Mustafa (10), Eshal (8),

Mrs Houston-Smith



Parent Workshops

2.15pm at school

Reception - Reading- Thursday 5th November

Year 1 - Phonics- Thursday 19th November

Year 6 - SATs- Thursday 26th November

Year 2 - Maths- Thursday 3rd December

Look out for more diary dates in the next newsletter

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 2nd November - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS

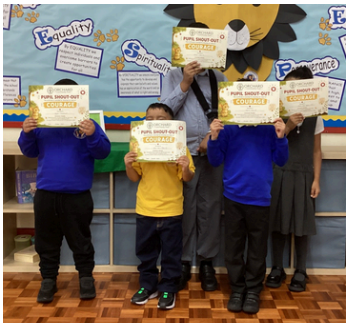
Tuesday 3rd November - Children back to school

Thursday 5th November - Stay and Play for parents with babies & toddlers - 8.45am-10.30am at the church.

Thursday 5th November - 2.15pm Reception Reading Parent Workshop

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🏆 Courage Award Winners! 🏆
A huge well done to all of our Courage Award winners this half term! 🌟
One child from each year group was nominated for showing great courage, and we're incredibly proud of them all.
We also celebrated our amazing staff, with nominations recognising colleagues who have shown particular courage this half term. 💛
Well done to everyone who has demonstrated courage and inspired others across our St Mark's community!





Flourish Together
ORCHARD Community Trust
Courage - Unity - Equity

Courage Award Winners!

- **Nursery** - Hudhayfa
- **Sunshines** - Zayan
- **Year 1** - Haris
- **Year 2** - Zahra-Noor
- **Year 3** - Maros
- **Year 4** - Daniel
- **Year 5** - Araaf
- **Year 6** - Abdul

Staff

Mr Cooke, Mrs D Khan, Mrs Elsby, Mrs Cranson, Mr Jarvis

Courage Means:
Having the bravery to speak up, take the right action and step outside our comfort zone.
We lead with integrity and stand up for what is right