Welcome to Early Years at St Mark's CE Primary School

September 2026

Welcome to St. Mark's C.E Primary School!
We hope that the information in this pack will help you and your child prepare for starting school. Please get in touch if you have any questions or need any further information.

St Mark's Primary School
Wood Terrace
ST1 4LR

01782 234411

office@stmarks.orchardct.org.uk

www.stmarksprimary.org.uk

St Mark's Nursery
(located in the Shelton Family Hub)
College Road
ST4 2DQ

01782 237125

nursery@stmarks.orchardct.org.uk

www.stmarksprimary.org.uk

Our School Values

Loving to learn, learning to love



Responsibility
Equality
Spirituality
Perseverance
Enthusiasm
Commitment
Trust

'Let all that you do be with love.' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Meet the staff

Mrs D Sadler – Headteacher

Mrs Sadler is the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Leader at St Mark's CE Primary School.

Mrs S Goodwin – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Goodwin is the Deputy Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leader at St Mark's CE Primary School.

Mrs V Bradbury – Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader

Mrs Bradbury is the Deputy Headteacher, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leader and Inclusion Leader at St Mark's CE Primary School.

Mrs S Khan – Home School Link worker (Main site)

Mrs S Malik – Home School Link Worker (Nursery site)

Mrs Malik is also the Bi-Lingual Support Assistant at St. Mark's Nursery Site.

Nursery Class (Based at Shelton Family Hub)

Mrs L Bradbury - Teacher in Charge and Designated Safeguarding Leader

Miss W Lewis - Early Years Practitioner

Mrs R Kasyoki – Early Years Practitioner

Mrs N Razaq – Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Reception Class (Based at St Mark's CE Primary School - Main Site)

Mrs R Nicholls - EYFS Lead and class teacher

Mrs L Burton - Class teacher

Mrs M Baggaley – Early Years Practitioner

Mrs D Khan – Early Years Practitioner

Mrs S Wainwright – Early Years Practitioner

Learning at School

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) begins at birth and continues until the end of Reception. During this time, children learn such a lot both at home and school. Our curriculum at school is split into prime areas and specific areas. Children need to progress through the prime areas first to allow them to make progress in the specific areas.



The EYFS curriculum is based on the idea that children learn best through play and the staff at school spend time playing and talking with the children as well as planning activities that are aimed to develop certain skills.



We understand that children have different experiences and starting points but know that every child is entitled to a curriculum that takes these into account and allows them to make progress at their own rate.

Learning at Home

We know that starting school is a big thing for your child and it will help them if they know what to expect.



Talk – Talk about anything! Children learn so much from being talked to. Encourage them to talk to you too. It is such an important skill to be able to hold a conversation by listening and responding.



Read stories – in any language. Talk about the pictures – what can they see? What is happening? Can they retell the story by looking at the pictures? Choose a quiet place – maybe at bedtime – and enjoy some quality time with them.



Encourage independence - The staff at school are always there to help children with whatever they need support with, but a child will often feel more confident when they are able to simple tasks independently. These tasks might include putting their coat on, feeding themselves, getting dressed, or going to the toilet.



Encourage them to put things away – In a busy classroom, it is important that all children help to tidy the toys and equipment away. At home you can make this a game – how quickly can you put your toys away? Can you do it before I count to 20? Could you do it quicker than last time?

What your child will need

Children will need the following uniform…

White shirt/polo shirt
Blue jumper or cardigan





Black or grey skirt, trousers, pinafore
or knee length shalwar kameez







Black School Shoes
(with a Velcro fastening)











No trainers or sandals





No jewellery

A small book bag



A water bottle



A coat



PE Kit

White t-shirt



Black pumps



Black shorts, black jogging
bottoms or leggings



Children in nursery will need to have spare clothes to keep at school on their peg. Including spare underwear and socks

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

All children make progress at different rates, but some children need a little support to help them access the curriculum. Our Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo) is Mrs V Bradbury and she is based at the main school site. If a child is identified as having additional needs, Mrs Bradbury will help us to ensure that they get the right support to help them make progress.

Child Protection

We know that children have bumps and accidents at home as well as at school. We will let you know if we are aware of any injury / accidents that happen at school.
However, we will talk to you if we notice any unexplained marks on your child or if they tell us that something has upset or worried them at home. Usually there is a simple explanation, but we might need to check with you.

Mobile Apps

ClassDojo – When you sign up to class dojo, you will receive updates and reminders about events that are taking place in school. You will be able to contact us if you need to and, if you consent to your child's photo appearing on ClassDojo, you will be able to see photos of them accessing their learning at school.

Arbor – All payments to school will be made through Arbor. When your child starts at school, you will be able to download the app. Children starting in the Nursery class will also be able to pay for their school dinners through the app too. You will receive messages from the school through the App. Please allow notification Pop up.

School Website – Our school website www.stmarksprimary.org.uk provides parents with additional information, term dates, year groups pictures and much more.

We are strictly a **NUT FREE** school- items that state 'may contain nuts' will be allowed in school

School dinner costs

Nursery - £ 12.50 per week (current prices from September 2026)
Reception – Free of charge.

Uniform costs

School cardigan (with school badge)
School jumper (with school badge)
School book bag - £5 (Available from school)

All of these uniform items will be available to purchase from LPC Personalised Clothing
www.lpclothing.co.uk/schoolwear/st-marks-primary