We are St Mark's learning HEROES

23RD NOVEMBER 2026

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for making our community cooking event such a success! Thank you so much for coming along to our community cooking event on Friday and helping to make it such a wonderful, memorable occasion.

It was fantastic to see so many families working side by side, sharing kitchen tips, and enjoying great food together. Events like this only thrive because of the energy, enthusiasm and support you bring. The atmosphere in our school hall was truly special. The children were especially proud to show off their new culinary skills-and we hope you all enjoyed tasting the dishes available as much as we enjoyed seeing everyone connect.

A special thank you as well to everyone who brought a dish from home. Your generosity made the whole event run smoothly.

We would love to keep this momentum going, so please keep an eye out for details on our next family event. In the meantime, we have attached the recipes from the day so you can recreate your favourite dish at home.

Thank you again for being such a supportive part of our community.

Warm regards,

Michelle Lord

WEEKLY SNAPSHOT

Leopard Class have been working hard in RE, investigating the Transfiguration to prove their big question: Was Jesus the Messiah? They created some fantastic artwork.

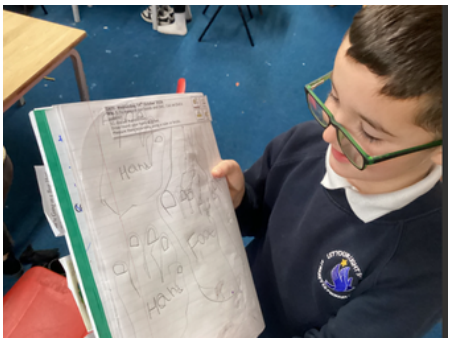
Armadillos have been producing some amazing 'wonder art' as part of tehir English lessons.

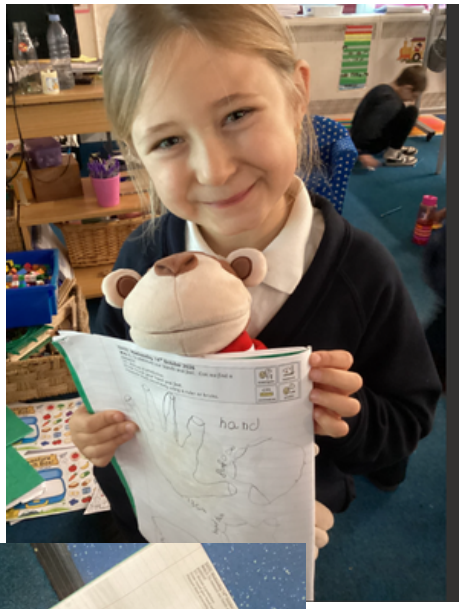
Thank you to all those that attended the Family Food and Culture Celebration. It was hugely popular with over 50 participants. Thank you to Community Kitchen for the pop up kitchen in the hall and to Lesley for sharing her tips about reducing food waste and raising awareness of the food donations available at St Mark's. Have a look at the fabulous photos below.





Giraffe class have had great fun in their science lessons. They completed an investigation into hand and feet sizes.

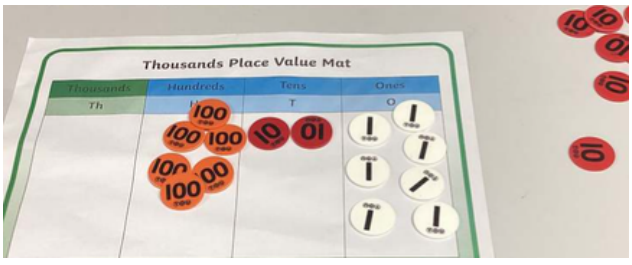








Armadillo class have been busy learning about living things in science and place value in maths.



REMINDERS

Please add to your calendars the following:
Monday 23rd Nov - Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 24th Nov - BHASVIC sports trip for The Ark Class
Wednesday 25th Nov - Sea Gallery trip - Leopards Class
Friday 27th Nov - University of Sussex trip - Leopards Class

Family Food and Culture Celebration

It was good to see so many children and adults joining in to make the delicious African curry and flatbread with Jethro from Community Kitchen. The recipes were easy to follow and are included below. Over ten family favourite dishes from home countries were expertly made and generously shared with everybody. Delicious dishes from countries such as, Czech Republic, Afghanistan and Sudan were devoured and ranged from koftas, gorgeous rice, paneer parcels and coconut cakes.

It was a true celebration of the wonderful diverse cultures within the St Mark's community and a great opportunity for everybody to connect over food. A successful event that ended with the jointly made Curry and flatbread being enjoyed by all. Due to its popularity, we hope to hold this event again later in the year so, watch this space!

Ital Curry

Prep 20 mins
Cook 40 mins
Serves 8

1 tbsp veg oil
2 red onions, halved and sliced
thumb-sized piece ginger, finely grated
2 garlic cloves, finely grated
2 tbsp Jamaican curry powder
400g can chopped tomatoes
200g coconut milk
A few sprigs of fresh thyme
A few spring onions, cut off the root and use whole
1 tbsp vegetable bouillon
3 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into large cubes
2 red peppers, chopped
½ pumpkin or butternut
400g can kidney beans
A handful of green beans, chopped

Heat the oil in a very large saucepan, add the onions and ginger, and cook for 5 mins. Add the curry powder then pour in the tomatoes plus a can of water, the coconut milk, thyme, spring onion and bouillon.

Add the sweet potatoes, carrots, pumpkin and peppers, cover the pan and simmer for 20-25 mins or until all the vegetables are tender but with a little bite, topping up with a little water if looking dry. In the last five minutes add the okra and green beans. Stir in and serve.









Family Food and Culture Celebration















Socca Bread

Prep Time 10 mins Cook Time 20 mins
Makes 12

Ingredients and Method

1. 150g of chickpea flour. 5g salt Combine the flour with the salt in a mixing bowl
2. 30ml olive oil. 300g warm water. A pinch black pepper. 1 tbsp of dried oregano. Add the oil and water and mix well, then add the pepper and oregano and leave to rest for 15 minutes
3. Vegetable oil, for greasing the pan. Lightly grease a frying pan with oil and heat it up, then ladle in some of the mixture and swirl it around so that it is spread evenly over the base of the pan in a thin layer.
4. Cook for about 1–2 minutes on each side until lightly coloured and repeat with the rest of the mixture

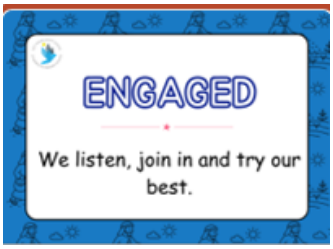




CELEBRATING SUCCESS - DEMONSTRATING SHINE BEHAVIOURS , DEMONSTRATING HERO VALUES AND GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND!



52



85



57



56

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

14% OF ALL PUPILS WERE AT SCHOOL AND ON TIME EVERYDAY (100%) LAST WEEK.

Attendance

Year 6 late arrivals

↓ 1.3%

Down from 6.8% last period

Key insights

There were reductions in late arrivals for **Year 6**, falling from 6.8% to 5.5%. Other small improvements in punctuality were seen in **Year 4** (2.3% to 2.0%) and **Year 1** (2.1% to 2.0%). However, overall present rates declined across most groups, notably **Year 1** (62.3%) and **Reception** (66.9%), which will need attention.

To watch

- **Year 1** attendance down to 62.3%.
- **Reception** attendance down to 66.9%.

WEEK 9

REMEMBRANCE AND PEACE

BIBLE VERSE:

"Blessed are the peacemakers."

— Matthew 5:9

CHRISTIAN THEME:

Peace

PRAYER:

God of peace,
today we remember people who have given their lives serving and protecting others.

We remember those who have suffered because of war and those who continue to live with conflict and fear.

Help us to be peacemakers in our own lives.

Help us choose words instead of arguments, kindness instead of anger and understanding instead of judgement.

May your light of peace shine through our school and our world.

Amen.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

CLUBS/ Groups

Mondays - CRICKET 12:40 - 13:00

Tuesdays from 15.09.26 - Table Tennis at BTTC, Kemptown: (Y3 - 6) 3.15 - 5.15pm

Tuesday from 08.09.26 - Drama Club (YR - Y6) 3.15 - 4.45pm

Wednesdays- Prayer Group (YR - Y6) 12:40 - 12.55p.m. LEOPARD classroom

Thursdays from 10.09.26 - RMA football club: (Y3 - Y6) 3.15 - 5pm

TRIPS

Wednesday 25th November - Sea Art Gallery (LEOPARD CLASS)

Friday 27th November - University of Brighton (LEOPARD CLASS)

TUESDAYS FROM 22.09.26 - ROEDEAN (ARMADILLO CLASS)

EVENTS

Monday 2nd November - INSET DAY

-9th and 11th November at 3.30 – 5.30 – Parents evening. Please book on Arbor from 23.10.26

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Wednesday 9th December: Christmas dinner and festive clothes

Wednesday 9th December: 3.15 - 4.30p.m. - Christmas Fair

Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th December: 09.00 - 09.30 a.m. - Nativity Show

Wednesday 16th December: 09:00 - 09:30 Christmas Play at St Mark's

SPORTS

Mondays - CRICKET y1/2 and The Ark

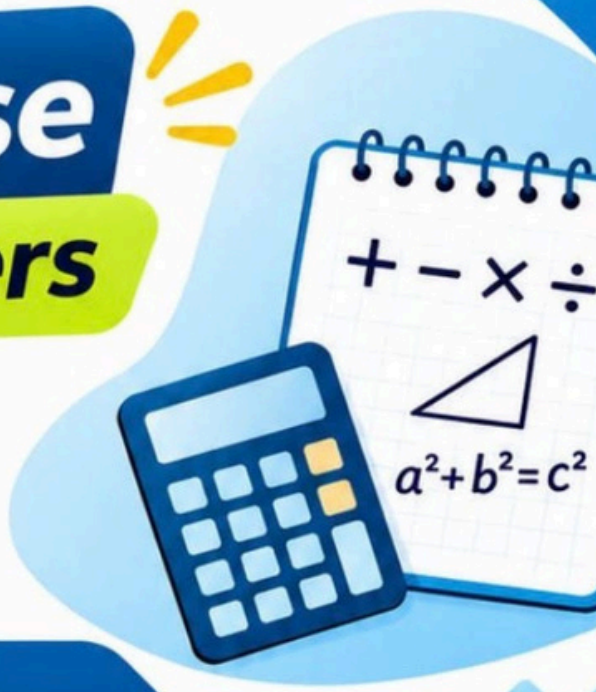
Wednesdays Table Tennis koala class (y3/4): 1.15pm - 2.30pm

Functional Skills UK

Smarter learning for stronger futures

Maths Course

For ESOL Learners



Build your maths skills and confidence in a friendly, face-to-face classroom.

December 2026

- Thursday 3 December
- Wednesday 9 December
- Wednesday 16 December
- Thursday 17 December

9:00am – 4:30pm

Portslade
(Face-to-face)

Register Interest

WhatsApp

07899836201

Message "ESOL Maths"

or

Scan to contact



Community Advocacy

Free, independent support to help you have your voice heard in health and social care.

What is Community Advocacy?

Community Advocacy is a free, non-statutory service for people whose health or social care needs are not covered by statutory advocacy. It can help you understand your options, share your views, and be listened to.



Who can use the service?

You may be eligible for Community Advocacy if you:

- Have an identified health or social care need, including one you have identified yourself.
- Live in Brighton & Hove.
- Are at risk of your health and wellbeing getting worse without support.

You should also identify with one or more of the following:

- From a culturally or ethnically diverse background.
- LGBTQ+.
- Have a long-term physical health condition or physical disability.
- Have a learning disability.
- Have sensory needs.
- Have a cognitive issue, including an acquired brain injury.
- Are neurodivergent.
- Are a refugee, asylum seeker, or vulnerable migrant.
- Are Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller.

How can Community Advocates help?

- Support you to share your views and be heard in health and social care settings.
- Help you prepare for meetings, including writing questions and clarifying your thoughts.
- Attend up to two meetings per issue type, with flexibility in exceptional cases and manager approval.
- Help raise complaints or concerns about health services outside of Independent Health Complaints Advocacy (IHCA), or about social care services.
- Support you to request reasonable adjustments or ask other professionals for ongoing help.

How to get in touch

Both professional referrals and self-referrals are welcome.

Phone 0330 440 9000

Email info@theadvocacypeople.org.uk

Website www.theadvocacypeople.org.uk

Post PO Box 375, Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 9HU



Festive Fun for All the Family!

WHITEHAWK FC
Christmas Festival
& Christmas Market

20th – 23rd DECEMBER

11AM - 8PM

ACTIVITIES

- Reindeer food making
- Ice your own biscuits
- S'mores fire pit
- Letters to Santa & Christmas post box
- Santa's Grotto – a small gift from Santa
- Christmas trail & word scramble
- Prize for the most unusual costume or Christmas jumper
- Choir

FOOD & FESTIVE FUN

- Thivo Chicken Shop
- Chilli & nachos
- Burgers & hot dogs
- Hot chocolate station
- Waffles & churros
- Photo corner

Christmas Market

Would you like to set up a stall at our Christmas Market?

Please message me for more info:

Events@whitehawkfc.com

Whitehawk FC





ARE YOUR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE HOLIDAY CLUBS?

If your child qualifies for **targeted free school meals** during term time, you can claim **FREE holiday club sessions** with us at Easter, in the Summer and at Christmas, via the HAF (Holidays and Food) scheme.

Each child can claim 16 sessions over the summer and 4 at Easter and Christmas. These sessions include a healthy meal at lunch time and we are very proud to be a provider for this programme.

To book, go to vimcamps.com/haf-programme.

If you have any questions or are in receipt of expanded free school meals and would like to know what support is available to you, please get in touch on info@vimcamps.com and we will be happy to help.

vimcamps.com

V.I.M Holiday Club

Christmas 2026





Join us this December at:

Brunswick Primary - Hove
Queen's Park Primary School - Brighton
Woodingdean Primary School - Brighton





For a Day of Festive Fun!

Den Building • Toy Making • Christmas Village Building • Elf Training Games • Winter Lanterns • Sleigh Building • Cosy Chill Out Corners • Party Hat Making • Christmas Discos • Snowman Skittles • Christmas Crispy Treat Making • Mini Winter Worlds • Outdoor Fun • Treasure Hunts • And More!

FREE HAF sessions for children in receipt of Targeted Free School Meals.

Ofsted

Department for Education

Brighton & Hove City Council

HAF Holiday Activities and Food

THE MANOR

FREE WINTER SOLSTICE EVENT 2026

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FREE WINTER SOLSTICE EVENT 2026

20TH DECEMBER 12 –5 P.M

Lots To Do At this
Amazing Event
Including
Arts And Crafts
Wreath Making
DJ Entertainment
and Games
Wreath Making
Dancing
Hoola Hoop Display
Story Telling
Stalls
Free Hot Delicious Food
Vegan and Vegetarian
Options avaritable

LANTERN MAKING
WORKSHOPS

No Need To Book Just Turn Up

28th November 12.30 –3.30

12th December 12.30 - 3.30

LANTERN PARADE ON THE 20TH 4PM
All are welcome to this beautiful seasonal event

If you would like to hold a stall please contact the Manor Gym on 01293 676828 /
the.manor@bteonmeet.com



Manor Gym, Manor Road
Brighton, BN2 5EA

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LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS

No Need To Book Just Turn Up

28th November 12.30 -3.30

12th December 12.30 - 3.30

LANTERN PARADE ON THE DAY 4PM

All are welcome to this beautiful seasonal event

If you would like to hold a stall please contact the Manor Gym on 01273 676828 /
the.manor@bteconnect.com



Manor Gym, Manor Road
Brighton, BN2 5EA