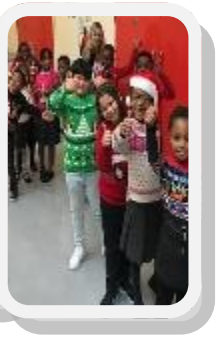
Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Newsletter

17th December 2020

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills and knowledge to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'



"Christmas greetings to everyone within the St. Mark's Primary School community!

On behalf of the School Governors, I want to thank Mr. Ingram and the whole staff for the care and commitment they have shown to our children through this very challenging year. As Governors, we are extremely proud of the high standards of teaching and learning that have been maintained through the year. Well done on all that you have achieved this year!

*And, I congratulate all our children, from the very youngest in Nursery through to Year 6, for their continued resilience and cheerfulness. In the shared life of our School, I see so many examples of kindness and hope in contrast to all the doom and gloom we daily hear about in the media. This reflects the wonderful truth of the Christmas story - in the midst of darkness, the coming of Jesus into the world brings light and life. My prayer is that the homes of every member of our School family would know the reality of the meaning of the name Emmanuel - God **is** with us."*

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Flourishing Individuals— Being a peace-maker and re-maining positive

BIBLE VERSE

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Romans 12:18

Attendance Update

Nursery — 94.15%
Reception — 92.12%
Year 1— 84.21%
Year 2— 93.2%
Year 3— 90.74%
Year 4— 91.07%
Year 5— 80.95%
Year 6— 93.88%

WELL DONE!

Overall Attendance:

The children have done so well to achieve attendance over 95% for the Autumn Term in this current climate.

School News Nursery

The highlight for this term is how well the children have been practising their Nativity play, Christmas Carols and the recording of it all.

I am proud of how well all the children have settled into Nursery Class.—**Miss Hutchings**

School News Reception

I am proud of how well the children have practised their singing ana the Nativity play . They put 100% effort into their practise. The highlight of this term is how well the children have settled into Reception Class and developed in all areas.—**Miss Stewart**

School News Year 1

The highlight for the class this term was our walk to the River Thames. It was a great start for our Term Topic on London. We saw the London Eye and Big Ben and we had a great time.

I am proud of the children's resilience in the abnormal situation we are in and how willingly they have participated in class.—**Miss O'Rourke**

School News Oak Class - Year 2

I am proud of how well the children performed in their Phonics test. They showed perseverance and did not give up. Our class highlight is Darek's arrival in Year 2 and the warm way the class have welcomed him.- **Miss Brockwell**

Year 2 have began making their Christmas lanterns in the shape of the pyramids in Egypt, where they celebrate Christmas on the 7th January!

The children in year 2 have been busy making Christingles as part of their RE lessons on light. They were learning about what each part of the Christingle represents and why it is significant to Christians at this time of year.

School News Year 3

The class highlight of this term is how beautifully they have performed their Christmas Carols.

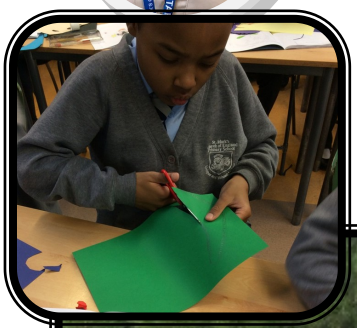
I am proud of how hard all the children have been working independently.—**Miss Buchanan**

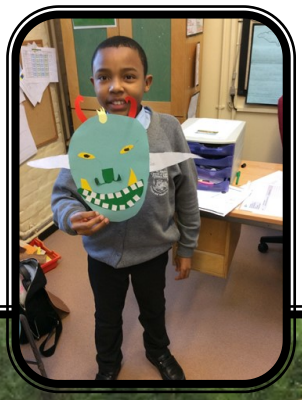
School News Year 4

Our Class highlight is the recording of the Christmas Carols.

I am proud of how responsible Year 4 are becoming.

—**Miss Mullen**





The children have been learning about how different countries around the world celebrate Christmas. Year 4 have been making masks for the traditional masquerade party of 'John Canoe' or Jonkanoo that happens during 'Gran Market' on Christmas Eve.

School News Year 5

I am proud of their English Work. They have been reading Shakespeare and they have written some pieces of work based on it.

Their hard work and good progress, even when isolated for two weeks , is the class highlight for this term.—

Miss Hankins

School Council Election

School News Year 6

The highlights for this term are the children's dedication to learning and the good attendance at Action Tutoring. They have also achieved their Pebble Jar Rewards through working hard and demonstrating team work.

I am proud of how hard they have been working, especially in their writing. I am also proud of how they are learning to take responsibilities for their actions.—**Miss Trott**

STAFF FEATURE

Miss Bowerman
Curriculum Assistant Head

Hello. My name is Miss Bowerman and I am the Assistant Head for the Curriculum at St Mark's. Since starting at the school in 2018, I have taught in Year 5, Year 6 and most recently in Year 1. I love the sense of community in our school and how passionate our pupils are about their learning. I have taught in London for ten years but grew up in Somerset. When I'm not in school I love to read and visit the cinema and the gym, although unfortunately lockdown has made that difficult. Soon I'll be going on maternity leave and will miss everyone at St Mark's while I'm away.

We all wish Miss Bowerman well during her maternity leave and take this opportunity to thank her for her work across the school. We are also pleased to inform you that Miss Parkin gave birth to a baby girl at the beginning of December.

END OF TERM AWARDS WINNERS

	Joyful and Positive	Self-control and collabora-	Leadership and Accountability	Effort and Hard Work	Kindness and Compassion
Juniper Class	Amelia	Eli	John	Lisa	Amy
Oak Class	Darek	Haris	Alejandro	Santiago	Joshua
Olive Class	Gerard	Moriah	Kimberly	Elijah	Juanita
Palm Class	Miguel	Joseph	Leandro	Eni	Nadya
Sycamore Class	Olivia	Jayden	Kelly	Josiah	Shyanne
Willow Class	Tomiwa	Deborah	Grace	Faith	Taj
	Having a go	**Trying their best**	**Being a good friend**	**Being involved & concentrating**	
Cedar Class	Y'Israel	Annaiyah	Joseph	Kashay	
Ebony Class	Sammy	Lillian	Sofia	Betty	

Well done to the children above who have consistently displayed the school values this term

School Notices

FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Services for parents and carers: Information for parents and carers of 5-19 year olds

Did you know you can still get help from our school nursing team over the Christmas holidays?

You can send a text for advice about your child or teenager on all kinds of issues, like emotional health, keeping healthy, bed-wetting, sleep, bullying, keeping safe, growing up, dental health or support with medical conditions in school.

It's available over the Christmas holidays Monday-Friday 9am-5pm excluding bank holidays (with automatic bounce-back responses to incoming messages out of hours). **The text number for this is 07520 631 130** Or visit www.chathealth.nhs.uk and search **Lambeth or Southwark** to start a chat.

http://www.lambethlarder.org/emergency-food.html

EMERGENCY FOOD

Find emergency food in Lambeth, if you don't have enough money for food, or are a vulnerable person.

LAMBETH LARDER

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

MyCommunity Gateway
MyCommunity Gateway can help if you need food, medicines or advice. They can direct you to support and issue **food bank vouchers**. AgeUK Lambeth runs this service.
T 0333 360 3700 (Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm)
E mycommunity@ageuklambeth.org
W connectlambeth.org

Lambeth Mutual Aid
Local volunteer network providing support across Lambeth. Contact them to receive help or volunteer.
Tuesday and Saturday, 9am-12pm, Thursday, 2-5pm.
T 0800 009 6504
W lambethmutualaid.co.uk

After school clubs will NOT resume in Term 3. We will re-assess the situation at the end of term.

KEY SCHOOL DATES FOR TERM 3	
DATE	**DETAILS**
Mon 4th Jan 2021	**Inset Day—School closed for Pupils**
Tue 5th Jan 2021	**Children return to school**
15th January 2021	Applications for a Reception place in September 2021 need to be completed today
Mon 18th Jan 2021	YR4 Art workshop
w/c Mon 18th Jan 2021	Maths Week
Thurs 4th Feb 2021	YR3 Pedestrian training
Fri 5th Feb 2021	KS2 Parent's Reading Workshop –tbc
w/c Mon 8th Feb 2021	Science Week
Weds 10th Feb 2021	Parent's Evening
Thurs 11th Feb 2021	Parent's Evening
Weds 10th Feb 2021	Year 3 Ancient China Day
Friday 12th Feb 2021	St Mark's Day
Mon 15th Feb 2021—Fri 19th Feb	Half term

Reception Admissions for 2020-21

If you have a child in Nursery, please be aware that it is not an automatic process to gain a place in Reception for September 2021. You will need to follow the Reception application process following this link https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/ . Click here for more guidance

Please speak to the school office or Headteacher if you would like further details. The application deadline is **15th January 2021**.

Parental Feedback from the PSHE, Relationships and Health Education Survey—Autumn 2020

Thank you to all the parents that contributed to the questionnaire sent out requesting feedback, comments and suggestions on the PSHE, Relationship and Health Education curriculum and policy. Your comments were very helpful.

Positive Comments

- All curricular training for the growth of the person as an individual is always welcome.
- All of these themes are important for our children's growth so that when they grow up they are well prepared.
- I'm happy about this because I think it prepares children of today for the future. Things have changed dramatically over the years in regards to relationships and social life so its really important that children get extra support to make better decisions for their future.
- Appreciate being provided with a document detailing the scheme of work and what will be taught during each term.
- It's good to know the topics to be covered in advance so as parents, we can either build upon the sessions or help by creating/ starting the conversation and build our own foundations of learning before hand.
- Really happy with the curriculum and think its great that the school is entwining everyday life challenges into school classrooms. Especially money management.
- It's very helpful to have the opportunity to read about the PSHE topics; it's useful to have an idea of what is being covered each term and how this relates to the wider learning framework across the primary years.
- In Health Education pupils will be taught about the benefits of a healthier lifestyle what determines their physical health and how to build mental resilience and wellbeing.

Parental Feedback from the PSHE, Relationships and Health Education Survey—Autumn 2020 Continued

Some Parental Questions	School Responses
How many times a week are these sessions? How do I report any concerns that may have arisen from a lesson?	PSHE lessons take place weekly for 30 to 40 minutes. Themes are reinforced during collective worship and other discussions in the classroom. If you have any concerns please do report them to your child's class teacher or to Mrs Eade or Mrs Moses.
Also, is there any clarity on feedback on PSHE lessons, what is being taught, how information is being received. I think given the sensitive nature of the topics there should be a stand alone parents evening	Feedback on PSHE lessons—we gather feedback from teachers and pupils and adapt and develop the curriculum where necessary. What is being taught? We use lessons from The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues to teach the statutory requirements of Health and Relationship Education. https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/1844/character-education/teacher-resources/the-character-curriculum With regards to the sensitive nature of the topics please do draw our attention to any points that might be discussed at home, in relation to what has been taught at school, which you feel we need to be aware of.
How will pupil progress be measured against the desired learning outcomes?	We are in the process of developing a assessment framework to measure progress. The reflection activities in lessons and children's response to the discussion points and moral dilemmas demonstrate their understanding as do their actions
How you will address topics of same-sex parent households in accordance with Scripture. "Learning about different families" what is the content and the structure of how this would be taught.	From the PSHE, Relationship and Health Policy: *The Character Education is unique because it uses character as a lens through which to explore issues like friendships, communities and different types of families. As a Church of England School we endeavour to develop children's appreciation of the Christian union of marriage and family as the gold standard; nevertheless it is statutory requirement that children are informed about different types of family units that exist and that are legally recognised in society.* At St Mark's we choose the Character Education route as it most in line
Will the school provide or make available to parents more detailed lesson plans on how exactly sessions will be taught and what resources will used especially in the area of sex education?	Yes, the Sex Education policy and content of what will be taught will be sent out before Term 6. Some aspect of what is covered in Sex education is also covered in the Science Curriculum, i.e. puberty, and this is statutory.
What can parents do if they are not happy or feel comfortable with things being taught to their child, since the option to opt-out is not available, how does the school plan	Relationship and Health Education is statutory but you have the option to opt out of Sex Education—the aspects which are not in the Science curriculum. If you don't feel comfortable with content in the relationship and Health education please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Eade.

ST MARK'S TREES

Nursery

Cedar Class

Reception

Ebony Class

Year 1

Juniper Class

Year 2

Oak Class

Year 3

Olive Class

Year 4

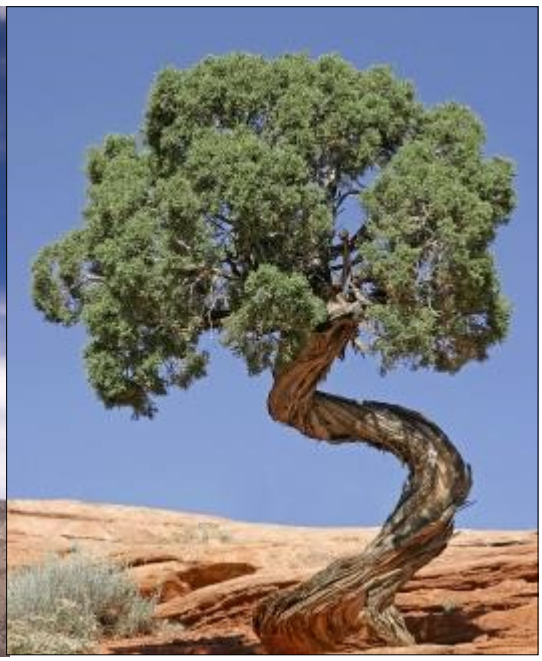
Palm Class

Year 5

Sycamore Class

Year 6

Willow Class



Juniper Tree

- There are between 50-70 species of juniper.
- Juniper's are coniferous plants, meaning they bear cones and have evergreen leaves.
- They grow in the Northern hemisphere.
- Some Juniper's are very small bushes and others are very tall trees, growing up to 40 meters high!
- The juniper seeds are often used in cooking.

"And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him arise and eat."
1 Kings 19:5

YouTube is a video sharing site/application that enables you to upload, view, rate, share and comment on a wide variety of videos. Consisting of a huge resource of information, advice and entertainment, YouTube now has 1.9 billion logged-in monthly users who watch a billion hours of video daily. Most of the content on Google-owned YouTube is uploaded by individuals, but organisations and media companies also offer some of their content via this platform.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

What parents need to know about YouTube

SPENDING A PREMIUM

YouTube Premium (formerly YouTube Red) is a new paid streaming subscription service in the UK, offering a three-month free trial to tempt viewers into a £12-per-month plan. This includes the ability to download videos, stream videos with the app in the background, gives exclusive access to original content and a separate music streaming service and gaming app.

DANGEROUS 'CHALLENGE' & VIRAL VIDEOS

On YouTube, 'challenge videos' are shared quickly and can be very dangerous. One person may post a video of themselves doing something unusual like eating a hot chilli or jumping in a river and before you know it, the video goes viral and everyone wants to join in and share their videos. The speed in which challenge videos spread across the internet makes it difficult to keep up with the latest ones.

SHARING VIDEOS

As well as watching videos, many children are keen to share their own videos online, emulating their YouTube heroes, such as Stampy or DanTDM. However, if they post something on YouTube, they may later regret it or feel embarrassed about what they have shared. There is also a risk that they will receive hurtful or negative comments regarding not only their content, but also their appearance. YouTube's comment section is infamous for being one of the most opinionated on the Internet.

IN-APP MESSAGING

When your child is logged into their Google account and browsing the YouTube website, they can share and talk about videos with their friends using the chat bubble. This can be found at the top right of the desktop site or through in-app messaging on their mobile or tablet. When they tap on the 'Friends' icon, they have a list of suggested people from their contacts – which can be any contact they've had on Google or somebody who has sent them an invite link.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE VIDEOS

As YouTube is the biggest video sharing website in the world, there is content available for all ages, meaning that some content will not be appropriate for your child. If you think that content is unsuitable, there is a flagging feature to submit it for review by YouTube staff, but you will need to be aware that just because video is not appropriate for a younger audience, it may not violate YouTube's policies. YouTube has mechanisms in place to automatically remove explicit and harmful content, yet offensive content may still slip through.

National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

TURN ON 'RESTRICTED' MODE

'Restricted Mode' is an optional setting you can use to help screen out potentially mature content you may prefer your child not to see. Restricted Mode works on the browser or device level, so must be turned on for each browser or device your child uses. To do this, follow these steps:

Desktop:
- Go to the bottom of any YouTube page and switch 'Restricted Mode' to 'ON.'
- To make it more difficult for this to be turned off, you will be given the option to lock restricted mode onto your browser.

Mobile:
- Tap the three vertical dots at the top-right on the screen and press 'Settings.'
- Click on 'Restricted mode filtering.'
- Press 'Restrict.'

Please note that you can't 'lock' restricted mode on a phone in the same way that you can on a desktop. You will need to turn this on each time your child uses it.

CREATE A FAMILY GOOGLE ACCOUNT

By having a shared family Google account, checking the history will enable you to see exactly what your child is watching and sharing on YouTube. To see the history on a computer, on the right hand menu under the library section, click 'History.' On mobiles, the viewing history can be found by clicking on the 'Library' tab.

YOUTUBE KIDS - PARENT APPROVED CONTENT

On the YouTube Kids platform, parents can now handpick videos and channels for their children to view, giving parents and guardians full control over what their children view on the app. Simply enable the feature within the account settings and select "approved content only". It's important to note that this feature is only currently available on Android devices.

BLOCKING ACCOUNTS

When using YouTube, there may be instances where your child receives negative comments. If somebody's giving your child a difficult time, here's how to block them and prevent future comments and replies:

- Go to their channel/account by clicking on their name.
- Click on 'About.'
- Tap the dropdown box with an image of a flag on it.
- Press 'Block user.'
- Tap 'Submit.'

MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILD IS WATCHING/POSTING

The only way to truly know what your child may have been watching is to regularly monitor them. You can do this by checking their viewing history. YouTube videos can also be easily downloaded, so it is important that your child understands the associated dangers of content they are uploading and that it could harm their online reputation in the future. Show them how to set their videos to private or choose a small network of YouTubers to share with. To get started, your child can use YouTube Studio which offers learning modules on creating a YouTube channel, however, you should encourage them not to use their real name.

DIGITAL WELLBEING

YouTube has launched a tool called 'Time Watched' that allows you to see how long has been spent on the platform. Once you have discovered how much time has been spent on the app, there is the option to set a time limit. Once the limit is reached, a reminder will pop up on the screen. You can also disable sounds and vibrations to help resist the urge to check for notifications.

OPT FOR A FAMILY PREMIUM PLAN

A YouTube family Premium plan may be a cost-effective option if you have more than one child. For £17.99 a month, it allows you to share a YouTube paid membership with up to five other family members – aged 13 and older – living in the same household. As the account holder, or family manager, you must create a Google family account.

MANAGING IN-APP MESSAGES

If your child is accessing YouTube via your account, bear in mind that they may be contacted by Google contacts who are complete strangers to them. You can remove someone from the suggested contacts list by pressing and holding the person's name and tapping on the red 'x.'

YOUTUBE GAMING

YouTube has created its own destination for gamers, which highlights the top gaming videos from the user's subscriptions, including live streams. There are hundreds of YouTube accounts which show other people playing and commenting on games. These are called 'Let's Play' videos. While YouTube can be a great resource for hints, tips and news for games, it is a good idea for parents to keep a close eye on what YouTuber's are posting. Often, the games they are playing will contain strong language and violence. A few examples of popular YouTube gamers for you to have a look at are:

- Stampy
- Yogscast Lewis & Simon
- PewDiePie
- EthanGamer
- Markiplier
- PopularMMOs
- Captainsparklez
- Jacksepticeye
- LtCorbis
- Dan TDM

SOURCES: https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/6702517/youtube-porn-videos-roblox-sex-games-watch-online/, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFrqnIP96M, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2xuy7hc-hc http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5126833/Terrifying-truth-child-watches-YouTube.html, https://www.todaysparent.com/family/crazy-youtube-challenges-kids-are-doing/, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yek0Jb0sBg https://tocaboca.com/magazine/common-sense-media-youtube/, http://familytech.com/so-your-kid-wants-to-start-their-own-youtube-channel/, https://www.laptopmag.com/articles/block-someone-youtube https://www.youtube.com/intl/en-GB/yt/about/brand-resources/#logos-icons-colors, https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/popular-youtube-gamers-kids-cant-get-enough-ofstamp

© National Online Safety Ltd
This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.