Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

10th December 2021

'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.'

Dear Parents, Carers, Children, Staff and Governors,

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given…and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

We come to the end of a very busy term and we are grateful and thankful to God for the ways in which he has helped and supported all of us at St Mark's so far this year. I am also thankful to children and staff for their ongoing effort and hard work during what has been a challenging term. I would also like to thank parents for their ongoing support for the school and we look forward to your continued involvement in 2022. We still have lots of things going on across the school during the coming week and we ask for continued care and vigilance as Covid cases continue to rise in the local community and particularly in primary schools.

Updated School Website

Have you seen the new and amazing pictures on our school website? Look in Outdoor Learning, Curriculum, New Nursery & Christian Distinctiveness

https://www.stmarkscofeprimarylambeth.co.uk/

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Listening to and responding to advice

BIBLE VERSE

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future."

Proverbs 19.20

Attendance and Punctuality

N—90.71%	
R—91.51%	
1 – 93.2%	
2 –96.17%	
3—95.77%	
4—94.7%	
5—97.35%	
6 – 93.57%	

A big well done for all your efforts with attendance this half term. We know at this time of year there are many coughs/colds going around, However we are nearly there.

Unfortunately, there has been a large number of children arriving late to school. Please make an effort to arrive by 8.45am for a 8.55am start as some children are regularly late.

What has been happening at St Mark's?

Parental Support

It was great to see so many parents present at the most recent Early Years Stay and Play. Our next stay and play event is scheduled to be January 2022 and we hope that many of you can join us on this occasion. It is also extremely helpful to have parents accompany us on school trips and attend our school workshops. Thank you for all you are doing to support the school and your children.

EYFS Nativity

Well done to all our angels, shepherds, the 'star', kings and all who participated in this amazing Nativity play. Thank you to all parents that came and supported the children in their performance.

& SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The £1 donation made by the children was to raise money for Save the Children Charity. If child didn't bring £1 to school today, please donate online https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/cjd210002542

Oak Class visit the Unicorn Theatre

On Wednesday, Oak Class enjoyed a fantastic class trip to the Unicorn Theatre to see a Christmas performance. For some children it was their first trip to the theatre.

What has been happening at St Mark's?

Juniper Class trip to LONDON EYE!

The children in Juniper Class visited the London Eye as part of their Geography learning this term. They have been researching about the different landmarks in London. On the trip ,the children created sketches of the London Eye and then had the chance to go all the way to the very top just like the children did in our literacy text 'Katie in London.'

Years 5 & 6 MUSIC CONCERTS

Thank you to all the parents that attended the Years 5 & 6 music concert. Each year group performed three pieces; Jingle Bells, a Jewish wedding song and Tropical Island were some of them. Well done! Thank you also to all who attended the Year 3 and Year 4 music concert. Your children are making good progress after a long period of not playing instruments.

What has been happening at St Mark's?

OLIVE CLASS

Olive Class has been very busy this week making

Christmas wreaths and practising Christmas carols for next week's carol concert.

PALM CLASS

Children in Palm Class have been using a range of art materials to develop effective sunsets as part of their art work this week.

Pupil workshops on social media and friends

Last Friday, children in Year 5 and 6 received workshops about the dangers of social media and how to develop real friendships and avoid friends that may pose a danger to them, from an organisation called Growing Against Violence. They always deliver excellent sessions that make children think about their actions and how they behave online, which helps them to prepare for the future.

Dear Parents and Carers,

If your child has a mobile phone, please monitor how they use it, as during the past few weeks we have been required to speak to children and parents about upsetting comments and remarks that some children have made towards others whilst using platforms such as WhatsApp. Please make sure that children avoid negative comments and making remarks that others would find offensive. Please also speak to your child about the fact that these platforms contain records of their comments which can be used as evidence of their online behaviour in the future

St Mark's C of E Primary School

Our school

St Mark's C of E Primary School is located on the Oval/Kennington borders (just behind the Oval cricket ground).

We are a friendly, family-based school that provides our pupils with a rigorous, yet inspirational, all-round education. We aim to challenge and engage all pupils during their learning journeys at St Mark's and prepare them for their lives beyond the school.

Our size, alongside our strong Christian ethos, also enables us to place an equal emphasis on nurturing each individual child's growth, development and character.

If you are interested in a Nursery or Reception Class place for September 2022 or to find out more about the school, please contact us to arrange an informal tour of the school.

Phone: 020 7735 1467
Email: admin@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk
Web: www.stmarkscofeprimarylambeth.co.uk
Twitter: @StMarks_Lambeth
Address: Harleyford Road, Oval, London, SE115SL

Join the St. Mark's family

Attention Nursery Parents!

Even though your child is in Nursery, they won't automatically move into the St Mark's Reception Class. You will need to apply through the LA following this link Home | eAdmissions .The deadline to apply for a Reception place is **15th January 2022**. The LA Lambeth booklet will be handed to the parents of nursery children on Monday.

STAFF UPDATE

We are very sad to be losing both Miss Lauren Brockwell and Miss Stephanie Parkin at the end of this term. Miss Brockwell will be moving to a school nearer her home and Miss Parkin will go on to her next challenge. Both teachers have had a big impact on children's all-round education across the school and we thank them for their work at St Mark's and wish them well for the future.

We are pleased to inform you that Mrs Natasha Guy is now the new St Mark's 'Home School Liaison Officer.' In additional to her office and attendance duties, her role is to work closely with and provide pastoral and family support to pupils and parents across the school.

Term 2 Diary Dates

Friday 10th December 2021	Christmas Jumper Day	£1 from each child which will be given to Save the Children
Friday 10th December 2021	School Christmas lunch	Please order by 6th Dec and make payment on parentpay
Tuesday 14th December 2021	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Tuesday 14th December 2021	St Mark's singing carols at Oval Station	8.50 – 9.30am. Money goes to Robes homeless charity
Wednesday 15th December 2021	YR 3 and 5 attending Pantomime at Oval House	1 – 2 pm
Thursday 16th December 2021	St Mark's Carol Service 9.20am Held at St Mark's Church	Led by Key Stage 2
Thursday 16th December 2021	Last day of Autumn Term	School finishes at the usual time 3.20/3.25pm
Wednesday 5th January 2022	**Children return to school**	

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite: the link, however, can also be distributed to people you *don't* know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time: this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's 'maturity rating'. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.

CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.

SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.

SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.

CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: www.help.netflix.com | www.about.netflix.com | www.ofcom.org.uk

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