Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's News

10th October 2016

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

PARENTS EVENING

We will be holding our first parents' evening meetings on **Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th October .** This is a time for you to get an update on how your child has settled into their new class, speak to your child's class teacher about their progress and obtain their targets for this term. Please return your letter to book in a preferred time to see your child's class teacher. Please note that the second parents' evening meeting for Year 2 parents is on **Thursday 13th October.**

GARDEN PROJECT

On Saturday 1st October, nearly 40 people braved the elements and took part in a community gardening day at the school. Local residents, school staff, staff from the Kia Oval and Oval tube Station, friends, parents and children, teamed up with Stephen Lawlor, the Heritage Manager from Kennington Park and played their part in preparing 19 flowerbeds for planting and clearing out the wildlife garden.

This is all in preparation for greater use of the outdoor areas to support children's learning across the school. The school plans to develop a pizza garden, an orchard and a wildlife garden. **If you have any skills or interest in gardening, please support us in making our outdoor area outstanding**

KEY DATES

11th Oct	Parents Evening
12th Oct	Parents Evening
13th Oct	Yr2 Parents Eve
12th Oct	Yr1 Transport Museum
12th Oct	Digital Stories
18th Oct	Walhampton Teachers visiting St Marks
18th Oct	Yr2 Thames Clipper
18th Oct	Yr4 visit to London Bridge
18th Oct	Christmas Child Shoe box
20th Oct	Yr4 Trip to Museum

INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Every year we hold our International Evening in celebration of Culture and Countries around the World. Come and celebrate with us and help to support the fund raising efforts for the school

On Friday 21st October

Letters will be sent out on Tuesday

Value of the week:

Hard work

Bible Verse : *In hard work there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.*

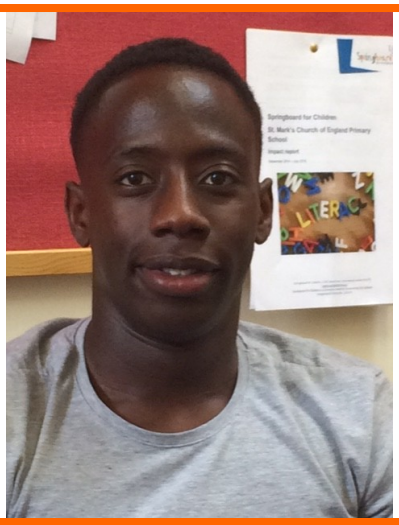
Proverbs 14:23

MAINTENANCE FUND

Attached to the Maintenance Fund letter this week was a Fair Processing Notice which gives parents government required information about the data that this school holds on your child, why the data is held and with whom it may be shared. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to Mrs Peters in the school office.

What has Been Happening at St Mark's?

We had a fantastic turn out to help with the Gardens in St Mark's



Mr Emmanuel

Many of you will know Mr Emmanuel who has led PE lessons and run after school clubs for a number of Years at the school. We are pleased that he will now be extending his remit and taking on pastoral work across the school. He will drop in to work with individuals and take small groups out to provide pastoral support and help children to develop their skills. If you think your child would benefit from this additional support, please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team.

Pupil Prayer Monitors

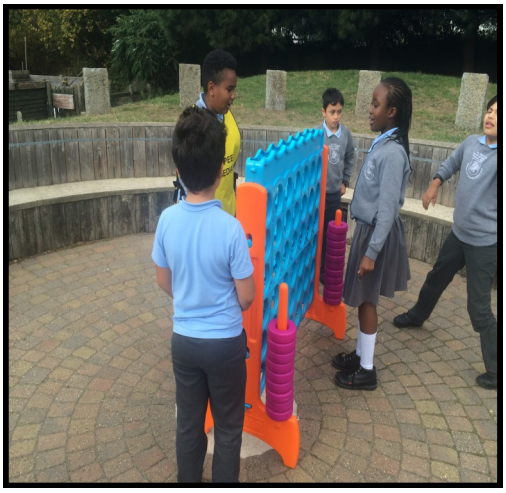
We are pleased that once a week Caroline, the children's worker, from St Mark's Church, comes in to work with the Prayer Monitors. Last year they achieved so much. They led assemblies, created a Easter trail, established interactive displays for the whole school and set up this attractive stall which advertises our school in St Mark's Church.

Magic Bus PE Project

Children in St Mark's will begin an exciting new project next week with a company called Magic Bus. The company currently works in a number of local schools and uses sport to develop life skills, resilience, self confidence and self esteem. **Every Monday, Year 5 are invited to a pre-school sports session from 8-9 and Year 4 will work with the coach at lunch time. Along with Mr Emmanuel, the coach will lead a PE session for both classes every Monday afternoon. Please support this great opportunity by making sure your child has their full PE kits and can attend if they are in Year 5 they attend the Pre- breakfast club.**

Transforming our Playground and our playtimes

In response to pupil and parental feedback, we are slowly transforming children's playtimes through providing a range of fun and exciting activities they can participate in throughout the week. Children will have the opportunity to participate in: large, outdoor games; an indoor games club, table tennis and table football and different sports within the ball court. In addition to all of this, we will soon have some new playground markings that will provide additional playtime activities. Also, during the course of the year, children will have opportunities to participate in a lunchtime gardening club.



Parental Feeback

Many thanks to all of our parents who participated in the survey at the end of last year. You have provided the school with valuable feedback, which we are committed to responding to in order to further improve and develop the school. Below is a summary of the feedback that we received back from the parent surveys in July 2016. Percentages are based upon agree or strongly agree.

78 families completed the survey.

Survey Question	Percentage who strongly agreed or agreed
My child enjoys school	100%
The school informs me about me child's progress	100 %
My child is making enough progress at this school	96%
The teaching is good at this school	100%
I feel that my child is safe and well cared for at school	97%
Behaviour in school is good	95%
The school encourages my child to attend regularly and punctually	100%
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	90%
The staff do not tolerate bullying and deal with it effectively	92%
The school takes account of children's views	94%
The schools asks for my views and takes account of suggestions and concerns	88%
The school helps me to support my children's learning	96%
The school teaches my child to respect people from different backgrounds, races and religions	100%
The school teaches my child how to deal with risk and behave safely	97%
The school is led and managed effectively	96%
Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school	97%