Unique and
Valued by God

The St Mark's News
11th November 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.'

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a fantastic week and one which reflects all that we aim to achieve at St Mark's Primary school. In addition to children's rich diet of high quality music and sports provision and regular high quality teaching and learning, many classes have participated in inspirational and enriching tasks throughout the week aimed at helping children to develop a real passion for learning. Reception children had the opportunity to work with their parents in class during a well attended 'Stay and Play' session on Tuesday. Children in Year 2 were out on a trip again, this time to the Science Museum and children in Year 3 worked with the school gardeners again, this time planting herbs, garlic and onion seeds within our pizza garden. Year 4 held a fantastic Ancient China day as part of their focus on inventions and China. This included participating in Chinese Maths, a Taekwondo workshop and using chop sticks to eat noodles. Year 5 have now moved onto using all the chess pieces in their chess lessons and we had our first check mates in a full on chess games. On Friday they held a Victorian Day and became Victorian children for the day. Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum on Monday to support and extend their learning about World War 2 and other world conflicts.

As you can see, the school is working hard to ensure that children leave the school with a love for learning which will continue far beyond St Mark's well into the future. Please continue to support your child's learning by focusing on the targets outlined in the class bulletin sent out this week and pursuing lines of enquiry linked to the topics they are learning about.

Coffee and Cake Morning

Friday 18th November 9-10am

Please come and join us

Value of the week:

REMEMBERANCE

"Remember your creator in the days of your youth"
Ecclesiastes 12:1

KEY DATES

14th Nov **Anti Bullying Week**
14th Nov **RECEPTION Visit to Durning Library**
15th Nov **YEAR 1 visit to Durning Library**
16th Nov **YEAR 5 Visit to Durning Library**
16th Nov **YR 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Kennington Park**
17th Nov **School STOMP Kennington Park**
17th Nov **LAST DAY FOR SHOE BOXES**
17th Nov **Parents' Cake and Coffee Morning**
18th Nov **Posting Shoe Boxes**
18th Nov **School Story Assembly**
25th Nov **SCHOOL INSET DAY school closed)**
8th Dec **Christmas Lunch for Whole School**
9th Dec **YR 4 Visit to RAF Museum all day**
12th Dec **YR 5 Chess Tournament**
14th Dec **Key Stage 1 Nativity**
15th Dec **Key Stage 2 Carol Service**
16th Dec **Greek Banquest**
16th Dec **Christmas Market 8:30—9:30am**

School Council

We would like to introduce you to the new school leaders for 2016/7. Our new school councillors are :

- **Lamide and Josie from Year 6**
- **James and Makeina from Year 5**
- **Dimitri and Gracie from Year 4**
- **Sami and Sara from Year 3**
- **Cameron and Maya from Year 2**

Already they have visited a number of Nurseries to give out leaflets for our Open Days and have analysed the most recent pupil survey to find out what their classmates would like.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: INSET DAY

School is closed Friday 25th Nov

Open Month at St Mark's

Please encourage friends and family to drop in to visit the school any day in November

What has Been Happening at St Mark's?

Year 4 pupils giving a Taekwondo demonstration to the rest of the school during collective worship.

Children 'Dabbing' during our International Evening Celebration on the last day of Term 1.

Year 3 children planting Garlic, Onions and Herbs in the school's Pizza Garden. We are all looking forward to Spring, when we will harvest the herbs, veg and wheat.

Year 5 enjoying their Victorian Day and dressed accordingly. It was very nice to see them rise to their feet each time I entered the classroom!

Year 2 getting ready for their trip to the Science Museum. Children learn so much from outdoor learning! Miss Norridge has already put further visits in the school diary!

Year 5 further developing their chess skills in preparation for a big Chess Tournament against other schools on 12th December. They are now playing with all of the pieces

Wall Tiles Needed

Do you have any spare tiles that you can donate to the school? All colours, especially bright ones are needed. However we don't need white tiles. Please drop any spares off at the school. We are going to use them to create a colourful school mosaic.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We hope you have made your choices (Boy / Girl) when you fill your shoe boxes. Remember to stick to the lists of things to put in

NO FOOD ITEMS and please return by **17th Nov**

Reception Stay and Play

Many thanks for the Reception parents who participated in the 'Stay and Play.' We hope to provide a number of other events and training opportunities for you to further support your child at home and at school.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event in the third **week** in November which aims to raise awareness of **bullying** of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. We will be focusing on this topic next week from **MONDAY 14th November 2016.**

PARTY BAGS NOTICE

When supplying party bags for your child's birthday, please provide **ONLY** the following items:

PIECE OF CAKE, BAG OF CRISPS and a **FRUIT JUICE**

Absolutely nothing else to be included.

PLEASE AVOID ANY ITEMS WITH NUTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER

THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER

Christmas Lunch is on Thursday 8th December. Any children having a packed lunch can have school dinner on that day. Please make a payment of £2.25 to the school office before **Friday 18th November**.

Parental Engagement

We are very grateful for the on-going support and contribution that our parent body makes to the school. Attendance at events and meetings is very high and participation in our new Parent Staff Association (FSM) is fantastic. A number of parents are now volunteering across the school and we would like more of you to consider this. Please continue to play an active role within your child's school.
We would also like to invite you to join us for **cake and coffee at 9.00am on Friday 18th November**. It will also provide you with a lovely opportunity to see the school at work and get to meet other parents.

We would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to our new Reception parents and all other parents who are new to the school. We strongly encourage you to play an active role in all areas of the school, particularly our PSA. More details of events and opportunities to do this will follow in subsequent newsletters.

LIBRARY OPPORTUNITIES

Durning Library are now under new management. I have recently been in contact with the manager, who is very keen to develop links with St Mark's. Pupils will be issued a library card and each term, classes will visit the library so that Children will be able to borrow books. Please take care of these, your library card will also enable you to visit the library outside of school hours with your child. Durning Library is very local and runs a number of interesting events, including a Chess Club every Saturday afternoon at 2.00pm. We look forward to developing our relationship with our local library.

YEAR 6 TUITION

Last week we started a wonderful project with Action Tutoring, which sees 8 volunteer tutors come in and work with 16 pupils from St Mark's every Thursday from 8.00-9.30 over a 22 week period. The aim is to help to support them with preparation for their end of Key Stage 2 SATs. This is a wonderful, free opportunity to further the education of pupils of Year 6 pupils .

Term Dates for 2016/17

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