Unique and Valuable before God

The St Mark's News
12th February 2016
Weekly Newsletter

Reminding the community of our progress

Members of the **school council show off our** new banners that you may have seen on the school gates. We want to remind the local community of our recent 'Good' Ofsted outcome and the progress we have recently made towards achieving outstanding outcomes.

Nursery Plans

We are working very hard to ensure that we establish a Nursery provision within the school for September 2016/17. Earlier in the week, Mrs Sims and I met with the school surveyor to discuss plans around the start of a Nursery class and Mrs Sims is currently busy liaising with the local authority. After the half-term break we would like to find out further details of how many of you as St Mark's parents and carers have Nursery school aged children and would be interested in a Nursery place at the school

Diary Dates for Term 4

Thurs 25th Feb –Reception parents' evening 3.50-6.00

Friday 26th Feb Reception Parents' Evening 3.50-5.30 and Year 5 netball tournament

Monday 29th Feb –Reception and Year 6 height and weight being measured

Thursday 3rd March –World Book Day– Dress up as a book character; Year 3 visiting Southwark Cathedral

Friday 4th March– Year 4 visiting Southwark Cathedral; Poetry Day

Monday 7th March– Friday 11th March– Year 6 School Journey to Carroty Wood, Tonbridge

Tuesday 8th March— Year 1 visiting the Natural History Museum

Friday 11th March—Maths Workshop for Parent 9-10am

w/c 14th March– Year 5 involved in Cycle Confidence Training all week

Tuesday 15th March- the school recorder group performing at the Royal Festival Hall

Thursday 17th March—children from Walhampton School visiting St Mark's for two days

Friday 18th March Sport Relief Day– Dress in red and white

w/c 21st March RE/Wonder Week

Tues 22nd March Reception Class visiting Southwark Cathedral

Tuesday 22nd March

Year 2, the school choir and some members of Year 5 taking part in the Lambeth Music Festival

Wednesday 23rd Year 4 Easter Production at St Mark's Church 9.30 start—All are welcome

Thursday 24th March— Term Ends at 1.30pm

St Mark's compete in Lambeth Year 3/4 Gymnastics Competition

On Thursday a small team of gymnasts took part in a gymnastics competition against a number of other Lambeth schools. Alicia, Nakai and Kachine from Year 4 and Joshua, Ifedayo and Dimitri had to complete a floor exercise and vaults. We will find out the outcome in Term 4.

A very busy final week at St Mark's which has seen exciting learning opportunities take place across the school and also some important meetings happen behind the scenes. We have met about the establishment of a school Nursery and the development of further opportunities for outdoor learning for all children.

Naughty Bus causes trouble at St Mark's Primary School

Reception class were very upset earlier in the week to find that their classroom had been messed up by 'Naught Bus' a mischievous bus from the story written by Jan Oke. After receiving a talking to about his behaviour by Mr Ingram, Naughty Bus changed his behaviour and some children in Reception Class were able to take him on a tour around school.

Attendance and Punctuality

A fabulous week for attendance across the school, with Reception, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 all achieving attendance levels of over 96%. Year 4 also had 100% punctuality, with everybody in the class being on time for the whole week.

Punctuality across the school has slipped this week, with too many children arriving to school after the learning has already started. Please ensure children are in the playground at 8.55 pm when the bell rings.

Thanks

School Tours for Parents

During the past week, 15 parents took the opportunity to visit our fantastic classrooms, see the children at work and find out about the plans for the future of the school. It was great to see so many children and classes fully focused on their learning by 9.00am in the morning.

Plans for outdoor learning

Plans are currently underway to make greater use of the garden and pond area at the back of the school to further engage children in opportunities for growing food and exploring wildlife. In addition to this, Year 6 will be going on their school journey in March, Current Year 5 will be involved in an overnight camping trip in June and a booking has been made for the current Year 4 to take part in an overnight field trip in September. More details to follow soon.

E-Safety Messages from St Mark's

We regularly access the internet through phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles. It is a useful part of our every day lives, but we all need to be aware of the risks associated to internet access. Throughout the past week, children across the school have considered key E-Safety messages aimed at trying to keep them safe whilst online.

Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday, Mr Harrowell led a special assembly on the theme of 'play your part for a better internet.' He reminded us all about how easy it is for people to send and receive unkind and hurtful things whilst online and informed us about what we can do to avoid getting involved in this ourselves . He also gave us good advice about what we should do if we are ever sent a negative comment or message whilst online.

Children's E-Safety workshops

During the week, Mrs Belinda Toussaint who works in the front office and runs our after school coding club, taught short sessions in Years 1-6, giving the children reminders about how to keep safe whilst online. The sessions proved very insightful into the way in which our children use the internet at home. Children seemed very familiar with social media applications and admitted to having accounts that parents were unaware of, so parents please be vigilant.

15 parents were present at the parent's E-Safety discussion earlier today to find out about how they can keep their child safe whilst on the internet. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and information between parents.

Parents' Evening Meetings

We are pleased to announce that 96% of parents in Years 1-6 have managed to meet with their child's class teacher to obtain an update on their progress in class. After meetings scheduled for today have taken place, this will go up to 98%. Many thanks for this fantastic support and please continue to liaise with your child's class teacher to ensure that we work closely together in supporting your child's education. Reception parents' evenings will take place on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th February 2016.

Valentine's Disco

Thank you for your support Yesterday evening during the Valentine's Disco. Due to Health and Safety restrictions, we have to limit events in the hall to 100 people. Apologies to those of you who didn't manage to obtain tickets, but we hope to run an outdoor evening in the summer, which everyone will be able to attend. Special thanks must go to Ms Johnson, who helped to co-ordinate the event and to the large group of parent helpers, who helped with the organisation and set up and contributed food for the evening.

Maintenance Fund

In September a letter was sent out from school asking parents to pay towards our School Maintenance Fund. The original letter is attached to the back of this newsletter and it explains the reason and process for why parents of Church of England School pay towards this fund.

Please can we urge you to pay your contribution as soon as possible. This will be very important for the school as we are actively and currently in the planning process to improve and make changes to our school building.

What do you want?

Earlier in the week, a letter was sent to you from school asking you to inform us of which parent/ family workshops you would be interested in attending. The options are:

-Digital Animation (photography,

-Maths -Literacy

-English as a second language

-Computing skills -Fun in London

Please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make booking and preparations for you in the summer term.

School Collective Worship theme:

'The School Values'

Wk 6– Lent/Overcoming temptation

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrew 4:15

Stars of the Term

At the end of each term, teachers select 3 children who have demonstrated excellent achievement in learning, excellent effort in their commitment in their work and excellent collaboration in the way they have worked with others. So many children across the school demonstrate these qualities on an ongoing basis but are stars of Term 3 are:

Reception	Josiah,	Anna	Maria Victoria
Year 1	Ethan	Amirah	Keziah
Year 2	Kimberly	Stephanie	Ayla
Year 3	Natalie	Elisha	Thalia
Year 4	Chrisean	Genesis	Alicia
Year 5	Adrian	Josie	Ku Yu
Year 6	Carla	Eugena	Kyron

Dear Parents & Carers

School Maintenance Fund 2015/2016

As Vicar of St. Mark's Church Kennington and Chair of the Governors of St. Mark's School, I am pleased to welcome you all at the start of this new academic year.

The Governors are delighted to have welcomed to St. Mark's Mrs. Sims and Mr. Ingram as our new School leaders, and we are very excited about the future.

I am writing to remind you about the importance of paying the 2015/2016 School Maintenance Fund. The amount is £24 per child and this covers one academic year from September 2015 – July 2016.

All Church of England Schools are required to contribute 10% towards the cost of any refurbishment or building works over £2000. As an old Victorian school building, regular work needs to be carried out to ensure that the building remains in good condition all of the time. You will have seen the extensive work carried out to improve the roof and windows throughout the School, and this is the essential type of maintenance work project that your contribution goes towards funding.

As long as we keep on contributing to the maintenance fund, work can be done when needed and we can benefit from additional special grants.

It would help us greatly if you could contribute the amount requested as soon as possible via the school office. Cheques should to be made payable to "St Marks Governors Account".

Thank you so much for your continued support and co-operation.

Revd Stephen Coulson

Chair of Governors

Governors Maintenance Fund – Payment Slip

2015/2016

Name/s of child/ren . …… Class……..

……Class……..

. …… Class……..

I enclose payment of £24.00 PER CHILD **Total enclosed £_____**

Come to our Book Fair

What: St Mark's is hosting a children's Book Fair from Travelling Books.

A great selection of books suitable for primary school children!

Every child will receive a £1 book token. Books tokens will be given to children on Monday 22nd February 2016.

When: Tuesday 23th February to Monday 29th February from 3:30 – 4:15pm

Where: Portacabin in St Mark's Playground

Please come along and support us as every book you buy helps us buy new books for the school.

Many thanks for your support,

Susan Eade

Deputy Head