Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

13th December 2019

'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 Pupils, Parents, Carers and Governors,

It has been a very busy lead up to Christmas here at St Mark's, which has seen children across the school involved in a number of inspirational and exciting enrichment and learning opportunities. During the past two weeks: children in Years 3-6 have participated in a Lambeth cooking project within school; children across Years 4-6 participated in a national chess competition; children in he Early Years and KS 1 performed their nativity plays, children in Years 3-6 performed music concerts to parents; Year 6 visited the Horniman Museum; Year 4 and 6 watched a ballet performance and the school choir sang carols for residents at St Peter's care home in Vauxhall.

We would like to thank all parents for their fantastic support across the school. All performances and concerts were very well supported, which encouraged the children involved.

Last week of Term

Please see the school notices page at the back of the newsletter to be reminded of events that will be taking place during our final week of term. School finishes on Friday 20th December at 1.30pm. Please make sure that children are collected on time.

Punctuality

Thank you for the response of many of you in improving punctuality during the latter part of the week . It is really important that as a school community that we do not get into the habit of being late for school. It has a poor impact on pupils, classes and it gets children into bad habits for the future. Please continue to arrive on time and be in line at 5 to 9!

School Lanyards

Children across the school are working hard to achieve their lanyards for demonstrating the school values.

A very big congratulations to the children who have received 10 lanyards and achieved their bronze badge.

Value of the Week

Listening to advice and instruction

BIBLE VERSE

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

Proverbs 19.20

Attendance and Punctuality

Nursery— 93.64%
Reception— 92.14%
Year 1— 85.5%
Year 2— 93.85%
Year 3— 94.74%
Year 4— 91.33%
Year 5— 95.86%
Year 6— 93.57%

Remember that poor attendance not only has an impact on your child's learning, it affects the whole school attendance rate.

Guidance for Parents on Gang involvement

Why do young people join gangs?

Young people join gangs for reasons which make sense to them, if not to adults. Some reasons why young people may join a gang are:

- Respect and status
- To gain friends
- A sense of belonging
- Excitement
- To find a substitute family
- Power
- Protection
- Money
- Peer pressure

Signs to look out for

Gangs often leave signs of their presence and your child might adopt some of these signs; either as a member or as an associate of a gang. Any sudden changes in your child's lifestyle should be discussed. Signs may include:

- Specific dress style
- Poor behaviour
- Talking differently – new slang or language with an aggressive tone
- Poor school results or skipping school
- Carrying weapons
- Unexplained injuries or sums of money/possessions
- Staying out unusually late
- Graffiti style tags on possessions Interest in music which glorifies weapons/gang culture
- Gangs will often have profiles on social or networking websites like Facebook or Twitter

What can you do?

There are things you can do to help stop your child from being involved in gangs.

- Talk to your child and listen
- Encourage them to get involved in positive activities and to think about their future employment
- Get involved in your child's school activities
- Know your child's friends and their families
- Always know where your child is and who they are with
- Help them to cope with pressure and how to deal with conflict without use of violence
- Speak to them about the serious consequences that occur from violent or illegal behaviour.
- Help them to understand the dangers of being in a gang and find constructive, alternative ways to use their time
- Keep lines of communication open
- Be aware of what your child is doing on the internet
- Look for ways of disciplining children that do not involve harshness, anger or violence
- Work with other parents and schools to watch their behaviour
- Contact local voluntary organisations that provide mentoring and other support for young people Talk about your child's behaviour with their school and other parents

Further details https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-gangs

What is happening at St Mark's

Times Tables Rockstars

We have relaunched Times Tables Rockstars as a school! Every child from year 2 up to year 6 has an account with Times Tables Rockstars, where they can login to practise their times tables. If you play in the "Garage" section, you will be given questions based on your ability; this is a tailored programme designed to support each child individually.

Your username is the first 3 letters of your first name and the first 3 letters of your last name, and your password is mark.

E.g Name: Kevin Smith
TTRS Username: kevsmi
TTRS Password: mark

If you have trouble logging on, speak to Miss Hankins. Remember, the class with the highest percent of pupils practicing each week wins pebbles in their jar!

Miss Hankins
Year 2 Teacher and Maths Leader

EARLY YEARS AND KS 1 NATIVITIES

Tuesday last week, Nursery and Reception wonderfully performed the Nativity play, re minding us one more year the message of Christmas: that a Saviour has been born!

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

During the Years 3 and 4 concert to parents, children played recorders, drums, xylo-phones and sang a number of songs. During the Year 5 and 6 violin and cello concert, children demonstrated how quickly they have learnt a number of pieces and songs.

The school invests heavily in music for pupils. All pupils in key Stage 2 learn an instrument and those in Early Years and Key Stage 1 are taught by a music tutor.

What is happening at St Mark's

CHESS TOURNAMENT

A group of 10 students from KS2 participated in The London Chess Classic Tournament on Monday 2nd Dec 2019. The children were Josiah from Year 4; Bryan, Vivian, Ethen, Kadeem, Kelvin and Neriah from Year 5; and Tolu, Francisco and Rania from Year 6. Miss Mittelholzer (Year 5 teacher) and Ade (school governor) escorted the children travelling by train to the Olympic conference centre in Kensington. There were over 350 students from a variety of schools. The children spent the morning practicing and being reminded of, or developing new strategies. Neriah (Y5) and Josiah (Y4) were chosen to play chess on the stage, in front of all the other schools, whilst their games were being analysed, videoed and commentated upon by two grandmasters of chess. In the afternoon all the children competed within their year groups against other schools. St Marks did really well and thoroughly enjoyed the day. To top it all off, we came back to school with a gold medal which was won by Josiah! A very special congratulations to Josiah but well done to all of our Chess Champions!

ST PETER'S CARE HOME CAROL SINGING

The children in the KS2 choir sang at St. Peter's care home in Vauxhall. The children then chatted with the residents and wished them a Merry Christmas. One lady was celebrating her 94th birthday so the children sang happy birthday for their grand finale.

COOKING AT ST MARK'S

As part of our drive to promote healthy eating choices, the Key Stage 2 children have had the opportunity to participate in cooking lessons. The classes were led by food educator and award-winning children's cookbook author Amanda Grant. Ms Grant is one of the country's leading food educators and the founder of Cook School. A team of volunteers from Lambeth spent the day at school cooking with the children along with Ms Grant. The children had a lot of fun and learned to prepare a simple but healthy meal.

Encouraging Healthy Eating

The cookery project that the children were involved in last week was aimed at encouraging children across the school to eat vegetables by showing them that they can be cooked in different ways to make them tasty. Below are other ways of promoting healthy eating and avoiding excess sugar intake which affects dental health and increases childhood obesity. See https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts for further information.

Breakfast swap from:

frosted flakes
honey crunch cereal
chocolate cereal

Breakfast swap to:

wheat biscuit cereal
shredded wholegrain cereal
porridge
no added sugar muesli

Drink swap from:

cola
juice drinks
milkshakes
fizzy drinks

Drink swap to:

water
lower-fat milks
sugar-free drinks
no added sugar drinks

Snack swap from:

chocolate bars
biscuits
doughnuts
muffins
other sugary snacks

Snack swap to:

a slice of malt loaf
a scotch pancake
a crumpet
crackers and lower-fat cheese
plain rice cakes
fresh or tinned fruit salad
chopped veg and lower-fat humus

a lower-fat, lower-sugar yoghurt
sugar-free jelly
bread or toast

Notices

NOTICES & DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- NO CLUBS NEXT WEEK
- **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER. SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1.30 pm**
- SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE—9.20 am St Mark's church
- SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER—CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME AT ST MARK'S CHURCH— 12 PM
- CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 21st December 2019 to 6th January 2020
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - 7th January 2020**
- FIRST WEEK OF CLUBS— W/C 13th January 2020

December 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				13	14	15
16 NO CLUBS	17 NO CLUBS	18 NO CLUBS	19 SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE	20 SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1.30 pm	21 Christmas Pantomime	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 BACK TO SCHOOL	8 CLUBS PAYMENT DEADLINE	9	10	11	12
13 FIRST WEEK OF CLUBS	14 FIRST WEEK OF CLUBS	15 FIRST WEEK OF CLUBS	16 FIRST WEEK OF CLUBS	17 FIRST WEEK OF CLUBS	18	19

After School Clubs

SPRING TERM 2020

w/c 13th January to w/e 27th March

Book on Parent Pay from

13th December to 8th January

Christmas offer (Years 2 to 6)

Book 4 after school clubs and get the 5th free!

(Taekwondo not included)

New clubs added!

Book early to avoid disappointment!