Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

13th May 2022

'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, Staff, Governors and Friends of St Mark's,

The term is fast running away from us with only two weeks left. As always, we have been busy, busy, busy, with so many fun and inspirational learning opportunities provided for the children across the school.(pg 2). We would like to draw your attention to the parents ' football that will be taking place on **Friday 27th May 2022**. Please meet at the school gates at 9.00am.

We are pleased to announce that we are almost full for Reception Class in September 2022 and the spaces for Nursery are fast filling up. Please contact the school office if you have not done so, to obtain an application form for Nursery.

Well done to children in Year 6 Willow Class who have worked extremely hard all week in their SATs tests.

Please note next year's term dates on page 6.

Nursery places at St Mark's C of E Primary School

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 please complete an application form here or to find out more about the school, please contact us to arrange an informal tour of the school on 02077351467

VALUE OF THE WEEK

People who can help us

Mental Health Awareness

BIBLE VERSE

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46.1

Attendance and Punctuality

Nur—91.33%
Rec— 88.42%
Year 1– 90.86%
Year 2 - 97.52%
Year 3—89.44%
Year 4—100%
Year 5 –100%
Year 6—99.37%

Another great week as 3 classes have achieved our school target of **96% or above**

Well done to everyone!!

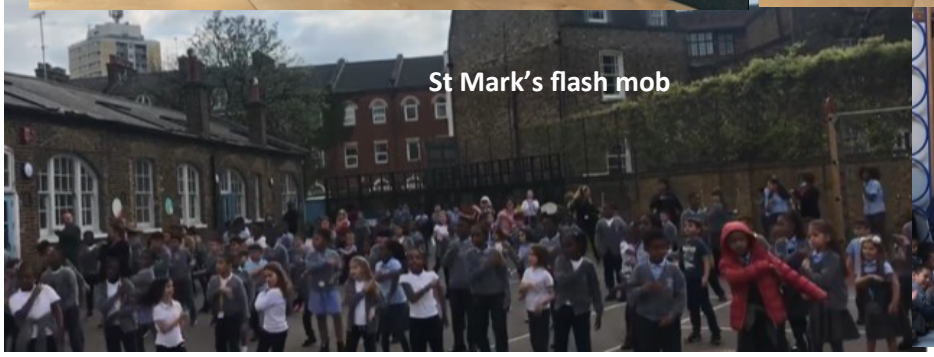
There are still too many children arriving late (after 8.55am). Please ensure you give yourself enough time for traffic. Mrs Natasha

St Mark's Day 25th April

On 25th April we celebrated St Mark's day at the school. We had a talent show which revealed how many talented children we have among us! They played the piano, danced, performed gymnastics, presented a science project, mimed, made us laugh with comedy sketches and at the end the day, the whole school, including all of the adults, participated in a contagious flash mob. St Mark's has certainly got talent! A big congratulations to all those who made the final of the talent show and for our winning performers who were Bradley, Joseph, Kiarah; Aquinna, Shyla, Makayla, Erica and Naliyah and Jastin as our runner up.

Ameera singing and dancing to 'We don't talk about Bruno'

Jastin performing on the piano



St Mark's flash mob

Joseph's great dancing

Inspirational trips and events at St Mark's

Trips to Durham Library

Olive and Palm Classes visited the local library where they were able to borrow a wide range of books. If children have their own accounts, they can borrow up to 20 books.

Juniper Class (Year 1) enjoyed a wonderful visit to Sea Life Aquarium on Friday 28th April.

Willow Class end of SATs treat!

The class have worked so hard that after their sats they were rewarded with a trip to the park, ice creams and popcorn

PC Ho's visit

PC Ho, our school police liaison officer spoke to Key Stage 1 children about being safe online.

Pedestrian Training

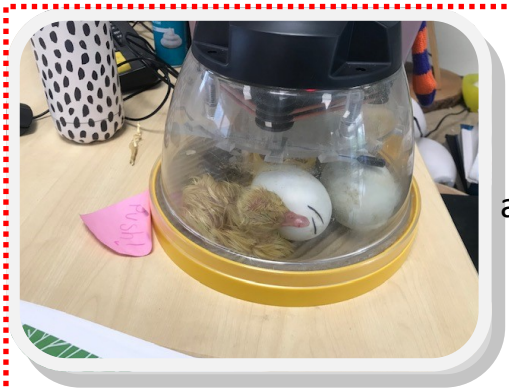
Olive Class enjoyed going on a local walk with facilitators who were teaching them about walking safely in the local area

Free Tuition

Sycamore Class started their early morning tuition this week with Action Tutoring. Well done for being on time

Stay an Play session in Early Years

A big thank you to all parents that came and spent a valuable time with their children in our Stay and Play session on Wednesday 27th April. We hope you had a wonderful time and gained an insight into the life in our Nursery and Reception classes.

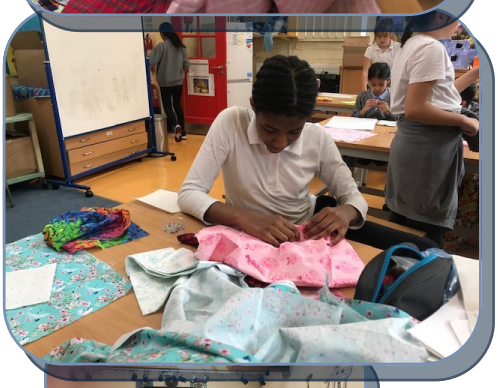


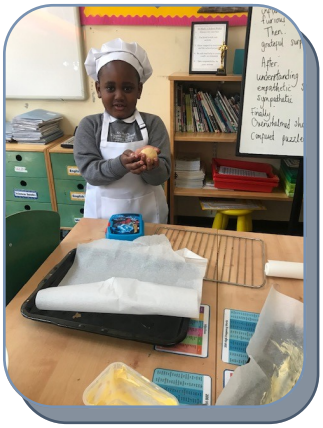
Specials visitors in Cedar Class!

Children in Cedar class were very happy to have some eggs arrive in class this week. After discussing whether they could be dinosaur eggs or chicks, they were mesmerised to watch ducklings finally emerge from the eggs this morning.

After School Clubs

We are delighted to see that more than 100 children are enjoying the additional learning and activities of the after school clubs. Cooking, Art, Dodgeball, Football, and the new Sewing club are some of the wide range of clubs that St Mark's is offering.





Literacy Lab

On 31 March, our twelve amazing Literacy Lab children completed their World Book Day reading challenges. These included reading while standing on one leg, using a silly voice, wearing a hat, reading to a teddy bear and being in an unusual place! We finished the final challenge together, reading a recipe to make Easter nests. Congratulations to each child for completing the challenges and keep reading!

It is important not to worry if your child doesn't want to read and write at home; keep on sharing books and talking together. If you have fun reading stories then chances are they will too! There is no need to insist that they do some writing – more often than not they will choose to do so when they have a real reason to. Younger children can have a short attention span so 'little but often' might be the best way to keep them motivated and enthusiastic.

Top Tips to support your child if they are reluctant to read or write at home

- Read to your child. Show you like the book. Bring stories to life by using loud, soft, scary voices – let yourself go! ☐
- Try reading adventure stories in the dark or under the duvet by torchlight. ☐
- Let them choose what they would like to read – books, comics, catalogues. ☐
- Make up a story together about one of their toys. You write for them, repeating the sentences as you write. They can draw pictures to go with it. ☐
- Compose an email together inviting a friend over to tea. ☐

THE CHILDREN'S LITERACY CHARITY

For more tips and free resources you can visit their website:

www.thechildrensliteracycharity.org.uk

School Diary Dates - Terms 5 & 6

w/c Monday 9th May 2022	KS 2 SATS	Year 6 Tests all week
Monday 9th May 2022	Year 4 begin swimming sessions	
Friday 13th May 2022	PO Ho, our school liaison officer is in to speak to KS 1 about internet safety	
Friday 13th May 2022	Year 3 involved in pedestrian training	AM
Wednesday 18th May 2022	Year 6 involved in action breaks silence	AM
Wednesday 25th May 2022	Year 5 and 6 Strings concert	2.55pm start
Thursday 26th May 2022	Year 3 and 4 recorder concert	2.55pm start
Friday 27th May 2022	YR5/6 String Concert	TBC
Friday 27th May 2022	Year 3 Anglo Saxon Day	
Friday 27th May 2022	Welcome Morning for new EYFS Parents	9.10-10.00 am
w/c 30th May – 3rd June 2022	Half term	
Monday 6th June	First Day of Term 6	
Friday 10th June	EYFS Welcome morning for new par-ents	
Friday 17th June 2022	Fathers' Day Breakfast	
Monday 20th June 2022	Year 4 involved with Into University	
Tuesday 21st June 2022	School photographer in for group photos	
Thursday 23rd June 2022	Sports Day -tbc	
Friday 24th June 2022	Quadkids YR 5/6 Kennington Park	Am/pm sessions TBC
Friday 24th June 2022	EYFS Sports Day	
27th June 2022-29th June 2022	Year 6 School Journey	
Friday 1st July 2022	Badminton Festival YR5/6 London Nautical School	12 – 2.30pm TBC
Friday 1st July 2022	Summer Fair 3.30 – 5.30pm	New date instead of Saturday 25th June
Tuesday 5th July 2022	Visit to St Mark's Church	
Wednesday 6th July 2022	Nursery and Reception Stay and Play	Event for New parents
Friday 8th July 2022	Award Ceremony	
Sunday 10th July 2022	**Year 6 Leavers Service St Mark's Church 10.15am**	Year 6 to be awarded with a prize at this special leavers service
Wednesday 13th July 2022	**End of Year Reports Distributed on Showcase afternoon**	
Tuesday 19th July 2022	Year 6 end of Year production	6pm start
Thursday 21st July 2022	Last day of Summer Term	School finishes at 1.30pm

St Mark's CofE Primary School Term Dates 2022-23

Draft Term Dates for 2022-23

Please find the draft term dates for the next academic year. Dates will be finalised in the next few weeks

Sep-22						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30		

Oct-22						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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Nov-22						
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31	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30				

Dec-22						
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Jan-23						
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30	31					

Feb-23						
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27	28					

Mar-23						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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Apr-23						
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May-23						
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Jun-23						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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Jul-23						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Aug-23						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

School Holidays | Bank Holidays | Pupil Days | INSET Days | Half Day INSET

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 of many apps 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

FACEBOOK MESSENGER

Facebook Messenger is a communication app through which users can exchange messages and send photos, stickers, and video and audio files. Messenger allows both one-to-one and group chats, has a stories feature and – via its latest addition, Rooms – can host a video call with up to 50 people. As of 2021, the app had 35 million users in the UK alone (more than half the population!) among its 1.3 billion users worldwide. Whereas Messenger is integrated into Facebook on desktops and laptops, it has existed as a standalone app for mobile devices since 2011.

AGE RATING 13+

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Messenger's numerous features can encourage children to spend more time on the app – and therefore on their phone, increasing their levels of screen time. It also invokes FOMO (the Fear of Missing out), especially among older children, who will almost certainly have a high proportion of their friends communicating via the app.

OVERSHARING PERSONAL INFO

If the app is given access to their device's photo library or location services, young people can unintentionally share sensitive information (private photos, videos, their number or current whereabouts) with people on Messenger who they don't know. Even among friends, shared photos or videos don't always stay private: the recipient(s) could save and re-share them with others.

LIVE STREAMING

The new Rooms feature lets Messenger users hold video calls with up to 50 people. A young person can join any room they see, but the other people in these rooms don't even necessarily need to be Facebook account holders. This live streaming development heightens risk factors around privacy, security and the possibility of exposure to inappropriate content.

CYBERBULLYING

Like many communication apps, Messenger can be an avenue for cyberbullies or trolls to target children. This might take the form of harassment, abusive messages or being purposely excluded from (or targeted in) group chats. A 2021 Ofcom report revealed that more than half (55%) of 12–15-year-olds had suffered such negative experiences online in the preceding year.

REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

If the Facebook profile which accompanies their Messenger app is set to public, there's a possibility that young people will receive message requests from individuals they don't know. There have previously been reports of grooming attempts on Facebook, with predators using fake profiles to engage children in conversation.

SECRET CONVERSATIONS

The Secret Conversations function lets Messenger users have encrypted exchanges that no-one else can read. Unlike regular chats on the app, these can only be viewed on the device being used at the time. Messages can also be set to delete once read (although screenshots can be taken), so a child could chat privately with someone without any record of that conversation having taken place.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE ADDITIONAL SECURITY

Messenger's App Lock feature uses your child's fingerprint or face ID to ensure that nobody else can access their messages without permission. Messenger has also added a variety of optional tools to increase young people's safety on the app, including two-factor authentication, login alerts and filtered message requests.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

If your child experiences anything negative on Messenger, you can help them report it. Facebook can then take action such as disabling the offender's account, limiting their ability to send messages or blocking them from contacting your child again. If your child doesn't want to display to others that they're online, they can switch off Active Status in the app's settings.

ADJUST PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make your child's Messenger stories visible only to their friends. Avoid adding your child's phone number (so they can't be found by someone using their number to search for them), and not syncing contacts lets your child choose who to add (or not) individually. Via Settings, you can control who appears in your child's chat list, who goes into the message request folder and who can't contact your child at all.

REVIEW THE CHAT LIST

Some parents regularly check their children's Messenger conversations (to see who they're talking to, rather than what they're talking *about*). While this is certainly safe, it *can* seem intrusive. If approached in a sensible, collaborative way, however, it can help parents and carers to keep an eye on exactly who their child is communicating with.

DISCUSS LIVE STREAMING

Talk with your child about safe and secure video calling. When setting up calls on Messenger Rooms, only invite people who your child knows and trusts. Show them how to lock a room if they don't want other people joining – and how to remove anyone they don't want on the call. Remind them about behaving responsibly during a live stream, even if it's with people they know.

ENCOURAGE SAFE SHARING

Ensure your child knows to send pictures and videos *only* to family and trusted friends, and not to publicly share images which compromise their location (showing a landmark near home or clothing with identifiable logos, like a school or local club crest). Encourage them to pause before sharing anything – if there's a chance it could harm their reputation (or someone else's), don't send it.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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