Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

15th October 2020

'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.'

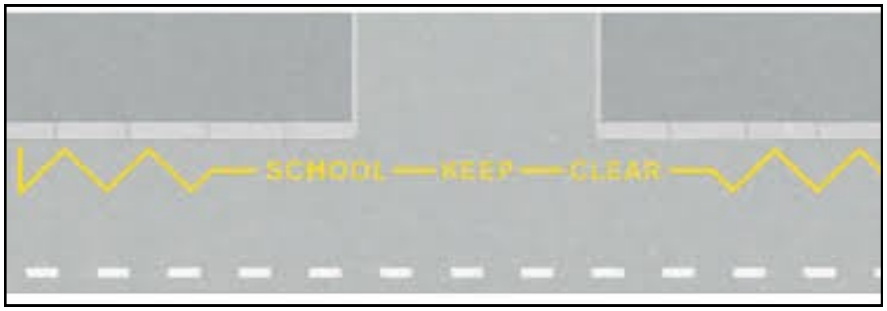
Dear Parents, Carers, Children, Staff and Governors,

Cultural Dress Day- Friday 16th October

Each Year we celebrate our backgrounds and different cultures by coming to school in our cultural clothing from our different countries or by wearing the colours that represent our national flags. The pictures below are from last year.

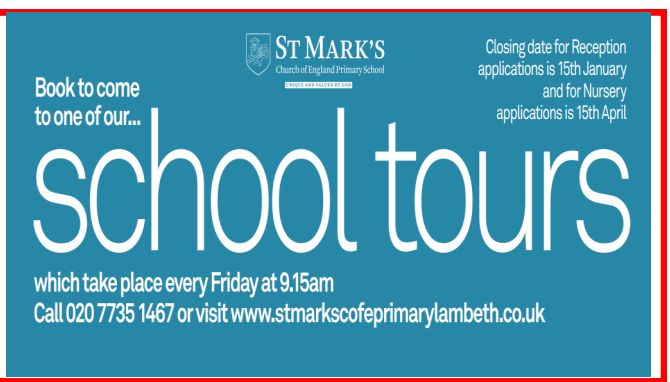
Please help to keep our children safe

Please do not park on our yellow zig zag lines outside the school. They are there to ensure that children can cross the road safely and clearly see the traffic on the road.



School Tours

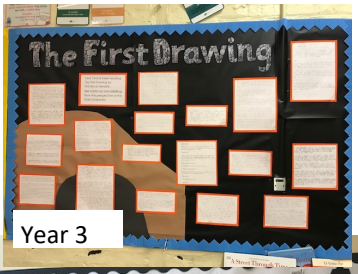
Spread the word and if you have a child who will be 3 years old by 1st September 2021, please obtain a Nursery application form as soon as possible.



School News

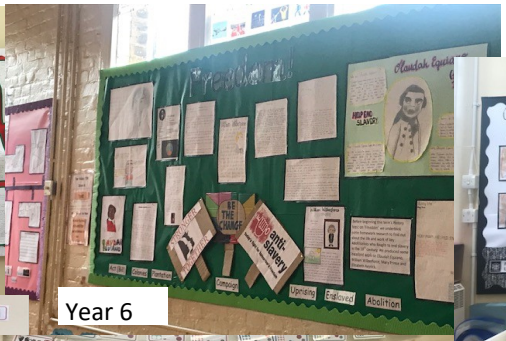
Our Outstanding Learning Environments

Our staff and your children have been working exceptionally hard. If we could invite you into our classrooms to see the amazing work on the displays around the school, we would. Unfortunately we can't, so the next best option is to share a sample of them here.



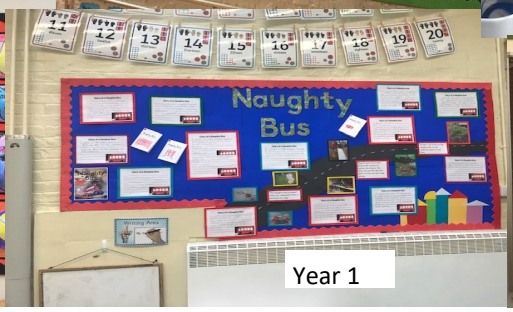
Year 3

Year 5

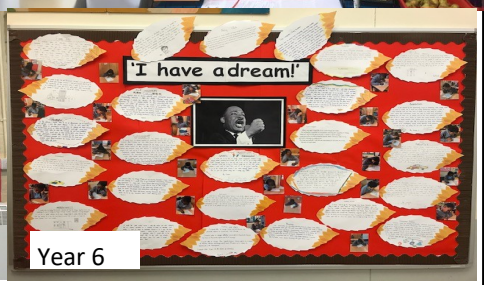

Year 6

Year 2

Year 4



Year 1



Year 6

Our Outstanding Curriculum

This week Year 5 invited Florence Eshalomi, MP for Vauxhall, into St Mark's to speak to them as part of their work this term on Parliament. She was inspirational and talked to the children about the importance of values; Black Lives Matter; Education and a number of other topics. Also this week, Year 1 and 2 visited St Mark's Church as part of their work on RE and last week Year 6 participated in a week long project in school with staff from IntoUniversity. Earlier in the term Years 3 and 4 went on a walk to the River Thames. After half term our Early Years pupils will take part in an Autumn Walk in a local park. We are continuing to provide inspirational learning opportunities for the pupils

Florence Eshalomi speaking to Year 5

Important Dates

Friday 16th October -Cultural Dress Day

Thursday 22nd October—Launch of Operation Christmas Child—shoebox appeal

Friday 23rd October—Last day of Term 1

Monday 26 – Friday 30th Half Term Break

Monday 2nd November—Children return to school

Tuesday 2nd November - Forest Day! A day of special learning when we unveil the new names of our classrooms and additional rooms across the school. They will be named after trees, mainly from the Bible. More details to follow soon.

Wednesday 4th November and Thursday 5th November—Parents' Evening—more details to follow next week

Friday 6th November—last day for all shoeboxes to be returned to school for operation Christmas Child

Friday 27th November—School Inset Day. No school today for children

Attendance Message from Lambeth Council

Earlier this week we were informed by Lambeth Council that from November they will begin to give out fixed term fines for poor attendance and restart calling parents to tribunal meetings and court hearings for persistently poor attendance. Whilst our whole school attendance has improved since September, we are still below our target of 96% and a number of children are significantly below the local authority 90% threshold. We have been made aware of genuine bouts of illness which we thank you for, but please see the messages below:

- Please inform the office if your child is self isolating due to Covid related symptoms, as a special code will be given on the register
- Medical evidence is required for all absences for those children who already have an attendance rate below 90%
- An unauthorised absence will be given to you if you fail to inform the school about your child's absence or our office cannot make contact with you
- Please inform us if you are self-isolating due to covid symptoms and do not come onto the school site. Your child's class teacher will send work through for your child to complete in these instances
- Remember that there is a direct link between poor attendance and the progress that pupils make at school. The worse their attendance, the lower they will achieve and the less progress they will make.

VALUE OF THE WEEK -Skills to succeed -Teamwork

Bible Verse : **Go to the ant, you lazy person, consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest**. Proverbs 6:16