Unique and Valued by God

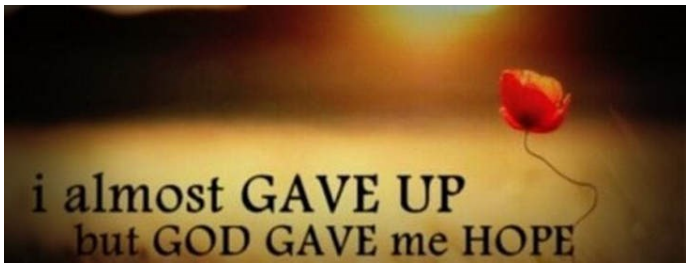
The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

15th March 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,

Collective Worship Focus—Hope and Aspiration



Our theme for the term is **Hope** and **Aspiration**. We are doing all we can to inspire the children to have hope and aspiration for the future and to aim high for what they would like to achieve. As well as having personal hope, throughout the week the children have explored how we can provide hope for others. Year 5 led collective worship on Thursday and reminded the school about the numerous charities and individuals within the local community we have supported as a school during the past year – **Cancer UK, Comic Relief, Robes Project, Evelina Hospital, Vauxhall food bank and Age UK**.

On Friday, Year 6 challenged us to think about what more we could do as a school to tackle the issues that arise and provide hope for those in our locality. They raised the issues of knife crime, pollution and homelessness and challenged members of the school to think about how they could contribute.

It is important that we don't lose hope for ourselves and we are a source of hope to others, but ultimately we need a hope that is greater than ourselves and even those around us and that hope is found in God himself.

Value of the Week

Providing hope for others

BIBLE VERSE

` Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ … who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Attendance and Punctuality

Nursery— 92.9%
Reception— 90%
Year 1 - 92%
Year 2— 97.6%
Year 3— 96.4%
Year 4— 96%
Year 5— 96.3%
Year 6— 98%

WELL DONE!

To the following classes who achieved over 96.%:

Years 2,3,4,5 and 6

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

Promoting and modelling character and positive social behaviour to our children

Sadly many of us have seen and are concerned about the rise in violence and youth violence in our local communities. Many young people only seem to know one way of resolving any form of dispute or disagreement. I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that at St Mark's we place as much emphasis on children's social, moral, emotional and character development as we do on their academic progress. Our staff are very conscious about how we model behaviour and communicate with children within the school so children are able to 'do as we do' and not just 'do as we say.'

It is important that all adults in the school community remember their responsibility to model the right behaviours in and around our school. I believe all incidents or issues that arise are able to be dealt with in a non-aggressive, threatening or intimidating way. If we are unable to do this, what chance do our children have? Any instances of the above behaviours on the school premises may result in the withdrawal of permission to enter the school site and could be escalated further.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Mr Ingram

School Uniform

Please can you remember to label all items of uniform, so if items of clothing get lost, they can be easily identified. Can parents also remember that trainers, black trainers and plimsolls are not school uniform. Please ensure children wear the correct footwear to school.

PE Kit - In order to minimise PE kits being forgotten and items of clothing being lost, children can now wear their PE kits to school on their PE days in Years 1-6. PE kit is navy or black jogging bottoms/Navy school shorts, a white T-shirt and a school jumper.

Friends of St Mark's Update—our school PSA

A big congratulations to our new PSA leadership team

Chair: Shelene (Neiyah Li's mum in Year 4)

Vice Chair: Stephen (Jidcak and Trojit's Dad in Nursery and Reception)

Secretary: Nadia (Ruby's mum in Year 5)

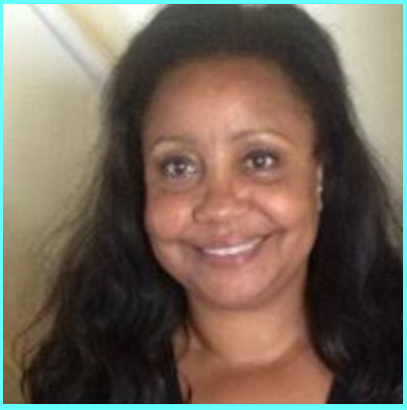
Treasurer: Vivian (Ziva's mum in Year 5)

One of the key aims of the PSA is to raise money for the children of St Mark's—it is a fund raising body. Due to the excellent work of Friends of St Mark's so far, we have purchased a school stage, playground benches and an outdoor stereo. The events and activities that the PSA lead across the year are very much dependent on the voluntary support and help of all our parents, so please be actively involved.

Managing Parental Stress in order to support your child.

Wednesday 20th March 9.00am in the school hall

"Stress is a condition or feeling experienced when a person perceives that the demands exceed the personal and social resources the individual is able to mobilize"
Richard S. Lazarus



We all have stresses in our lives and how we deal with it is what makes a difference. Learn how to recognise stress and learn practical ways to deal with it, with Angela Giuliani our school therapist.

Faith Group Meeting

We have a newly established faith group who will be meeting on **Tuesday 19th March** to help the school to prepare for its up and coming Religious Education inspection and to help to further promote the Christian distinctiveness of the school. If you would like to participate in this small group and feel you can make a contribution, please come along to the office at **9.00am**.

Feedback from our School Improvement advisor visit

On Thursday 14th March our school improvement advisor from Lambeth local authority undertook his Spring Term visit to the school and gave us excellent feedback. He drew attention to:

- **Very strong teaching and learning across the school**
- **Thoroughly planned and thoughtful lessons**
- **A strong spiritual element and whole school values across the school**
- **Excellent teaching across a range of subjects**
- **The pitch of lessons was deemed to be challenging**
- **There were regular entries of work in children's books**
- **Learning environments showcase high quality work and strong curriculum coverage**
- **Pupils are fully engaged and demonstrate positive attitudes to learning**
- **Leadership at all levels was strong and all learning is focus on the same priorities**