Unique and
Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly News 15th September 17

St Mark's Vision Statement:

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our first newsletter of the 2017/18 school year and a number of new and exciting things have already taken place or are planned for the year ahead.

New Teachers

A big welcome to Miss Annie Winter (Nursery), Miss Stephanie Parkin (Reception) and Miss Jasmine Anigbogu (Year 4) who have joined the St Mark's staff team.

New Parents

A very warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception parents and also to parents who are new to different year groups across the school.

New After School Care

We are very pleased to announce that in response to your requests, we will be starting our own after school care running from 3.30—6.00pm. More details are available on page 3

New Behaviour system

We have made some tweaks to our behaviour system, please see page 2

New school library

The school has been working with Durning Library in order to create a new school library which we hope will further inspire children's love for reading and literature

New Playground Markings

Get ready for new 4 square markings in the playground!

New School Council and School Monitors

Next week we will select our new school council representatives and school monitors. A separate letter went out with the children in Years 3-6 encouraging them to apply for a job.

School Collective Worship theme:

New Beginnings, School Rules

God's rules

Jesus answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself. Luke 10:27

Our new learners in Nursery and Reception during their first collective worship assembly.

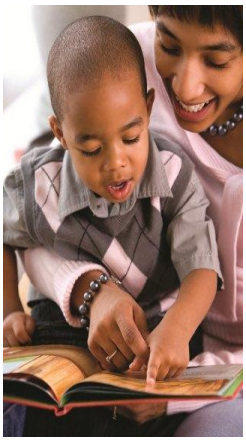
Food Policy

We are currently going through the process of obtaining accreditation for being a healthy school, but in order to achieve this status that most Lambeth schools have, we must prove that we are a healthy school and promote good health and nutrition. I would like to invite parents to join me in a review of the school's food policy that will cover packed lunches, breakfast and after school club food, party bags and snacks given out from the school.

This short meeting which is likely to last for 30 minutes will take place on:

Friday 22nd September at 9.00am

Parent Volunteers



We would like as many parents as possible to come into school on a voluntary basis to read with children, help to set up the school library, accompany us on trips, help with cooking etc. If you would like to volunteer within the school please speak to Mrs Elaine Peters (Office Manager) or Mrs Susan Eade (Deputy Head).

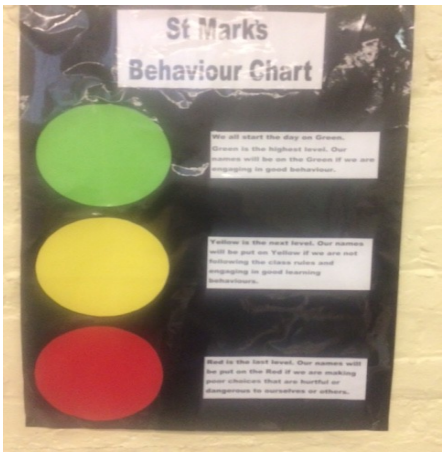
Secondary Transfer meetings

It was good to see a number of Year 5 and 6 parents present at the Secondary School Transfer Meetings on Thursday 14th September. We hope the information shared was beneficial and helpful. Please do your research and read admission criteria carefully. Year 6 parents, please inform the school if you would like to take your child on a school visit so we can give them a register mark. Please do limit these to a maximum of 2-3 so that it does not disrupt the children's Year 6 learning. Remember the deadline for applying is **31st October 2017 apply online: www.lambeth.gov.uk/eadmissions**

Learning Key Skills through Outdoor Education

Next Monday 18th September most of the Year 5 class and some children from Year 6 will be going on a one night school journey to CYE Sailing Centre in Chichester. They will be collected by coach at 7.15am and will begin their activities at 9.30am. They will return on Tuesday 19th at 5.30pm. Below are pictures from last year's visit to the CYE Centre.

Behaviour Policy Update



Our behaviour system for Years 1-6 has slightly changed to a traffic light system. Green now means children are involved in the right learning behaviours and all children begin each lesson on a green circle.

Children's names will be placed on a yellow circle if they are disrupting the learning of the class, not following agreed class rules or involved in persistent low level behaviour.

If behaviour escalates and becomes hurtful or dangerous to others, or stops the whole class from continuing with their learning, children's names will go on the red circle. This means they will spend 10 minutes in another class completing a reflection sheet and will miss a playtime.

There may be times when individual children need to have a more personalised system, which teachers will discuss with individual parents.

Golden Ticket = positive behaviour, for being a committed learner

Blue Super ticket Winner = star of the day

This week at St Mark's

Music at St Mark's

We are pleased to announced that all children in Years 3-6 will be learning an instrument this year. The school will be working with the Lambeth Music Service, which will see music tutors come into school and teach djembe drums and recorder to years 3 and 4 and cello and violin to years 5 and 6. Once children develop their skills, they will be able to access free additional music tuition at Lilan Baly-lis. The school will also provide children with opportunities to achieve music medals and music grades. We wish to congratulate David in Year 5 on obtaining a distinction in his Grade 2 Music exam in July.

Nearly all of our new children have settled so well into life at St Mark's Primary School. They are making new friends and becoming familiar with their new surroundings. It is great to see them happy and full of confidence.

The Year 6 Slime Challenge!

On Thursday children in Year 6 investigated the ingredients required for making a material that was 'proddable' and could also stretch. After thorough research, they got their hands and everything else very messy in an attempt to make slime that met the pre identified requirements. Ask anyone in Year 6 who made the best slime!

After School Care Update

Summary of Key Information

1. **The after school care begins on Wednesday 21st September**
2. **Our policy and booking form is available on our website and from the school office**
3. **There are up to 30 places**
4. **The cost is £10.00 per day or £9.00 per day if you book for the whole week**
5. **Prices include snacks and a light meal**
6. **Mrs Natasha Guy and Mr Emmanuel Okuro-made , our school staff are part of the staffing team**

Today children in Years 5 and 6 celebrated World War 2, where lots of their learning was based around the second world war

Our school mission statement below outlines how we hope parents and the school can work together to achieve our vision for when children leave the school:

By working in close partnership with parents, we will:

1. *Challenge children through high standards of teaching and learning*
2. *Help children to engage and work collaboratively with a wide range of people*
3. *Offer an enriched and inspirational curriculum that ensures pupils actively participate in a broad range of meaningful learning experiences and develop many crucial skills and personal qualities*
4. *Provide a safe, stimulating learning environment in which outstanding learning takes place*
5. *Provide a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.*
6. *Encourage children to think for themselves, develop enquiring minds and become independent, reflective individuals*
7. *Build close partnerships and relationships with local schools and organisation*

Our working together to achieve our goals for your children is crucial

Autumn Term Dates