Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

16th May 2025

'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,

It has been s short but intense term, which has seen a number of trips, events and important meetings across the school. We thank you for your involvement in these activities and for working with us to support the children at St Mark's.

Bagel volunteers

We owe a big thank you to our group of volunteers who give out bagels every morning to the children. Without these volunteers, we will not be able to do this . We are currently short of volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please inform Mrs Roye or Mrs Natasha if you can help.

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Flourishing communities – People who help us!

BIBLE VERSE

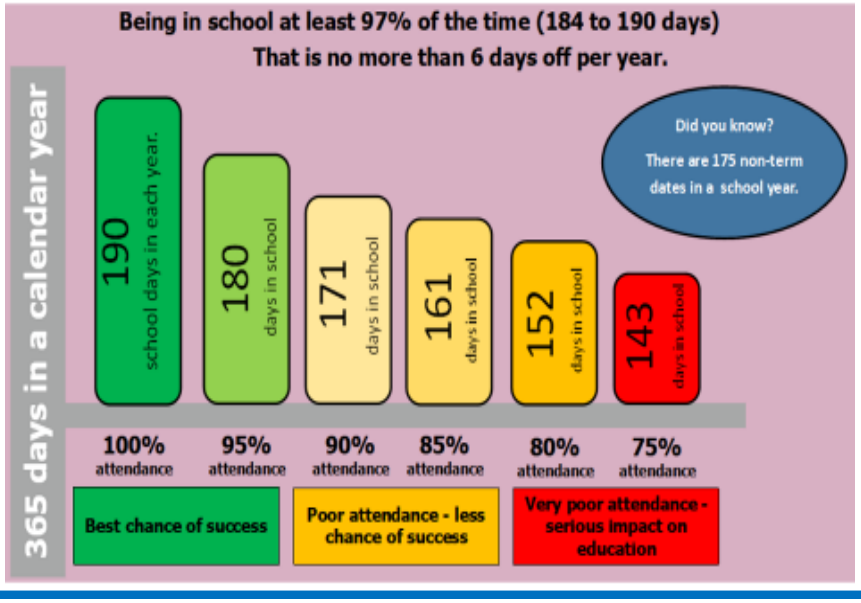
"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble Psalms 46:1."

Psalm 46.1

Next two weeks at St Mark's—Term 5

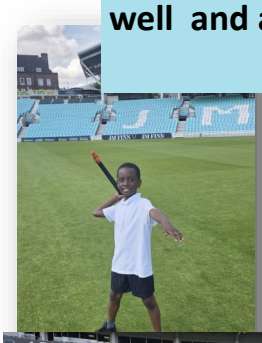
Monday 19th May	• Year 6 Willow Class involved in Cycle Training all week
Wednesday 21st May	• Action Tutoring for Year 5 Pupils. 8.30am. Please be on time
Wednesday 21st May	• Gangs Workshop for Parents 9am -10 am
Wednesday 21st May	• Year 2 – Oak Class trip to Vauxhall City Farm—12.40 pm – 3.00 pm
Wednesday 21st May	• Year 5 – Sycamore Class trip to Science Museum - 10 am to 3 pm
Thursday 22nd May	• Teachers and Parents Football Match 9am—10 am
Thursday 22nd May	• Reception – Ebony Class trip to Fire Station - 1.20 pm to 3.20 pm
Friday 23rd May	• Stars of the term assembly 9.05am. Invite only
Friday 23rd May	• Year 5- Sycamore Class - Victorian day-children dressed up as Victorians
Friday 23rd May	• Last Day of term 5- School finishes usual time
Monday 2nd June	• First Day Term 6—School begins at 8.55 am
Wednesday 4th June	• Action Tutoring for Year 5 Pupils. 8.30am. Please be on time
Thursday 5th June	• Year 5 Maths Master Class—1.30-3.00pm •
Friday 6th June	• EYFS sports Day—9am to 11 am

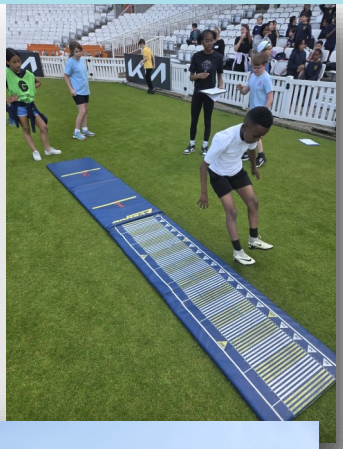
Nursery	91.6
Reception	93.4
Class 1	94.4
Class 2	90.2
Class 3	100.0
Class 4	91.2
Class 5	99.2
Class 6	98.7



Outstanding learning at St Mark's

Yr 5 Athletics competition & Yr 5 and 6 Cricket Tournament. The children did very well and a number of our athletes won medals. Well done to all who took part.



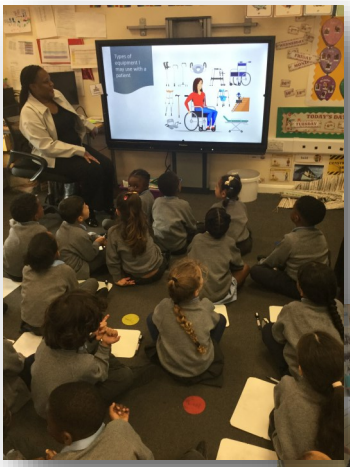


Year 6 SATs

Year 6 are very pleased to have finished SATS! They worked very hard and made themselves proud. Thursday afternoon was spent catching up on Computing and in the garden for their well-being.

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

Reception have been lucky to have more visitors come in to support with their topic 'People who help us'. Kezia's Dad, a train driver for the South Western trains, told us about the special part of the train called a cab. Amelia's mum an Occupational Therapist talked to us about some specialist equipment she uses to help people move around. We also had a visit from a paediatric Nurse, 'Nurse Nelly' , who works at Evelina Children's Hospital' and talked to us about how she looks after babies on the specialist cardiac unit. Reception class would like to say a big thank you to all the visitors who have contributed to their learning.



After school Clubs started last week and children are really enjoying these extra enriched activities. We still have some spaces in some of the clubs. If your child is interested, please speak to the school office.

Fostering in Lambeth

Be the difference.

Could you **foster?**

Children in our community are in need of stable, loving homes to achieve their best future and fulfil their potential.

www.lambeth.gov.uk/foster

Lambeth

Every day in Lambeth a new child comes into our care, and we urgently need more foster carers to give them the love and support they deserve.

Fostering means looking after someone else's child because their birth family are unable to. That can vary from short-term foster care to having a child or young people with you for a long time. As a foster carer, you'll look after children as if they were your own – in a loving home environment. You'll need to be sensitive to the challenges they'll face after separation from their families and any additional trauma they may have been through, such as abuse or neglect.

There are many different types of foster care, and we're sure there's one that works for you. For example, you could provide short-term respite care to children with disabilities to allow their parents a break. Or, if you have the space, you could help us keep a family together by caring for siblings. If you work 9 to 5, you may find it easier to foster older children who are more independent.

When you foster for Lambeth, you get:

- **a rebate of your council tax** if you are actively fostering for us
- **24-7 out-of-hours support** from a dedicated social worker and our team, 365 days of the year
- two weeks' (14 days) paid respite each year
- a **£500 referral bonus** if you refer a friend who becomes an approved, active foster carer for Lambeth
- among the **most competitive fees and allowances** in London
- Fostering Network membership and the opportunity to join our active fostering support group
- **priority** (before a private fostering agency) when a child is looking for a placement
- a thorough induction programme
- your own dedicated supervising social worker (SSW)
- ongoing training and development opportunities throughout the year
- peer mentorship to newly approved carers run by our most experienced foster carers.

Why do we need foster carers like you?

Lambeth is a diverse borough. Our children come from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and ethnic groups. And so we need carers who are diverse too. Your sexuality, marital status, age, religion, disability and whether or not you own your home will not determine your ability to become a foster carer. However, there are a few criteria you must meet.

You need to:

- be over 21 years old
- have a spare bedroom
- be a full-time resident in the UK or have indefinite leave to remain
- have good spoken and written English

We consider applications from people who are working, but you will need to have some flexibility to meet all the needs of any child in your care.

We would love to hear from you!

If you have any questions about fostering, please contact us today for an informal chat and more information:

Call: **020 7926 8710**

Email: **fosteringduty@lambeth.gov.uk**

Find out more: **www.lambeth.gov.uk/foster**

If you would prefer to speak to someone in person, come along to one of our events. See when the next one is at **www.lambeth.gov.uk/fosteringevent**

The fostering **process**

Notices & Events

Online Course

Stronger Relationships

For parents and other adult carers living together or apart

SFSC Stronger Relationships

- Do you want to get some new ideas to help you be an even better parent?
- Would you like to reduce the arguments and disagreements in your family and cope better with stress?
- Would you like to enhance your relationship with your current partner, or improve communication with your ex or the other people helping to raise your children?
- How about learning at a time that suits you?

6 online sessions

6 group discussions

Certificate on completion

What to expect...

- Information on strategies to identify and reduce arguments.
- Hear from other parents and carers.
- Downloadable worksheets and hand-outs.
- Videos, quizzes and interactive activities.
- Do sessions at a time that works for you.
- Weekly support from our course experts.

Topics covered...

- Healthy adult relationships.
- Identifying and managing disagreements.
- Understanding how conflict affects your children.
- Enhancing parent-child relationships.
- Managing stress, anger and emotions.
- Strategies to resolve conflict and create a parenting agreement

Group discussion...

1. Speak to a course expert and get answers to some of the questions you might have
2. Talk about how the strategies are going at home.
3. Address other difficulties relating to your relationships.
4. Hear from others about what works for them.

Find out more or register for the course by scanning the QR code or emailing us at: **sfscparent@racefound.org.uk**

strengthening families strengthening communities

SFSC Stronger Relationships

How to Register

1. Go to: **www.strengthening-families.net/reducing-parental-conflict/**
2. Select a course, either **Parenting Together** or **Parenting Apart**
3. Select a day of the week and time for your **group discussion** from the options available
4. Complete your contact details
5. Answer a short questionnaire
6. Click on 'Your profile' and you can start your course

If you need any help, email us at sfscparent@racefound.org.uk

strengthening families strengthening communities

EDUCATION

Vauxhall City Farm

CAMP GREEN HORIZON

Tuesday 27th - Friday 30th May 2025

Would you like to learn more about the natural world this half term? Would you like to spend time with animals and wildlife?

Join us at The Farm for a jammed pack week of...

Crafts | Games | Gardening | Conservation

FREE
9.30am - 2pm
Ages 8 -14 years

This opportunity is aimed at students from low-income households or who receive benefit-related free-school meals.

For more info and to sign up email: education@vauxhallcityfarm.org

Vauxhall (City) Farm Limited 01524041 Registered Charity No. 28152

Address: 165 Tyers St, London SE11 5HS
Email: Education@vauxhallcityfarm.org
Tel: 020 7582 6204

FAMILY MARTIAL ARTS

JOIN US TODAY!

FREE OF CHARGE!

- Every Wednesday
- 4 PM - 5 PM
- At Black Prince Trust - SE11 6AA

CALL / WHATSAPP US TO SIGN UP:
07770072333

AGES: 7 YEARS AND OVER

NOTICES AND EVENTS

Brixton Chamber Orchestra's Music Trail is coming to Ruskin Park on Sunday 25 May —

This free, family-friendly event transforms the park into a playful, interactive trail of hidden live music.

Here's how it works:

- Pick up a map at the Herne Hill Road entrance
- Follow the trail to discover BCO musicians performing in surprising spots
- Collect clues at each stop to reveal the secret location of the grand orchestral finale

It's a brilliant day out for families, music lovers, and anyone looking for something special in South London.

CYCLE CONFIDENT

Lambeth Council With Cycle Confident are running FREE cycle training for children in the Easter holidays at **Clapham Common.**

There are 2-hour sessions for beginners who'd like to learn to ride or come off stabilisers, as well as 8-hour (over 4 days) courses for the over-nines who are confident riders and would like to learn some on-road skills. Children are encouraged to bring their own bikes but there are also bikes available to borrow. All courses are bookable online here: : https://www.cycleconfident.com/events?area=lambeth&course=child-group and places are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

Please look at the organisations' websites to double check times and arrangements

Goose Green Fair - FREE

A true celebration of local artists and makers, spend a day at the Goose Green Fair. Shop up a storm at their curated market stalls, enjoy international cuisine, and send the kids off to the bouncy castle!
Sunday 18th May 11:00am – 5:00pm. No booking required.
Goose Green Park & Garden, 76 E Dulwich Road, SE22 9AN
https://dulwichfestival.co.uk/event/goose-green-fair/

Sky Garden – FREE

Visit London's highest public garden – a vibrant space with 360-degree views of the city's iconic skyline. Here you can experience London from a spectacular viewpoint. Enjoy lush greenery, exquisitely landscaped gardens, observation decks, and an open-air terrace. Known as the walkie talkie due to its unique shape.
The Fenchurch Building, 1, Sky Garden Walk, EC3M 8 AF
https://tickets.skygarden.london/WebStore/shop/viewitems.aspx?cg=SkyGarden&c=Tickets
0333 772 0020

Play in the Park – Free

Nature-inspired play! The Play in the Park project offers a free play programme of fun, creative activities and events inspired by the Royal Parks' wildlife and open spaces. At Kensington Gardens, Greenwich Park and The Regent's Park for free fun nature-inspired play!
This is a public event for children, young people and families to drop in between 11am – 3pm.
https://www.royalparks.org.uk/whats-on/play-park
helshak@royalparks.org.uk

Mudlarks Family Gallery – From £3.50

Get hands-on in their interactive play area for under-8s.
Mudlarks brings the docks to life through interactive play, which keeps little ones occupied and stimulates their development. Find out what the docks were used for and what life would've been like for sailors many years ago.
There's plenty for kids to get hands-on with. Drive a DLR train in soft play area, move ships along the docks on the water table and help the workers move their cargo using wheelbarrows.
Online booking is recommended!
London Museum Docklands. No 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, E14 4AL
https://www.londonmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/mudlarks-family-gallery/

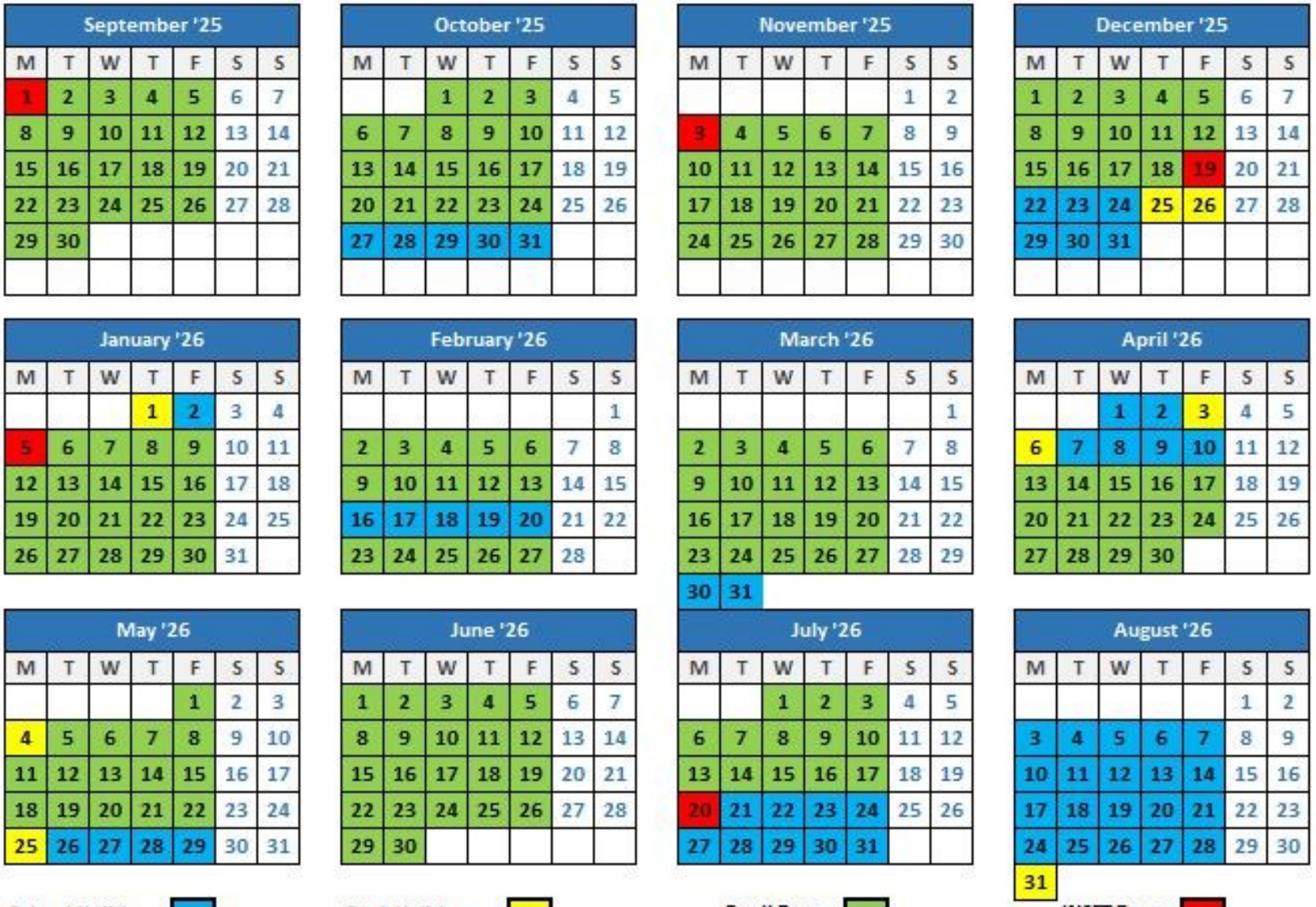
Patricia Henry Christ Church Streatham (p.henry@ccsprimary.org.uk)
Rachel Thomas, Windmill Cluster (rthomas@sudbourne.com)

Windmill Cluster of Schools

OVAL LEARNING

2025-2026

St Marks School Term Dates



September '25						
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December '25						
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January '26						
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February '26						
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April '26						
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May '26						
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June '26						
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July '26						
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August '26						
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31						

School Holidays
Autumn Term 75 days

Bank Holidays
Spring Term 55 days

Pupil Days
Summer Term 65

INSET Days

Total Teaching days: 190+5 insets

Term Dates for 2025-26