Unique and
Valued by God

ST MARK'S NEWS

Friday 17th July 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,

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you ... Number 6:24-25

We have finally reached the end of the most unusual school year, which has seen many of our children remain at home for almost four months. I would like to thank all our school staff for the role that they have played in ensuring children's learning continued online and also face to face. We have been required to make a lot of major decisions and changes in a very short space of time, but the staff have met the challenges exceptionally well. We have:

- Provided online work for all children and paper copies of work for those that have requested it since the beginning of lockdown
- Made weekly and then fortnightly welfare phone calls to children and families
- Maintained weekly Zoom meetings with children until we were advised otherwise by the local authority
- Co-ordinated the school lunch voucher scheme for families with children on FSM
- Supported additional families in need of help, who didn't qualify for FSM
- Signposted families to where they could find additional help through newsletters and the school website
- Provided face to face teaching for up to 100 children between 1st June and 17th July
- Provided daily PE lessons and weekly outdoor learning lessons for children attending school
- Held a Year 6 leavers' service at St Mark's Church for Year 6 leavers and their families
- Provided parcels of breakfast food for families who responded on four different occasions
- Set up additional food provision for the summer holidays by working with Archbishop Tenison's Secondary School on their 'Chefs in Schools' programme
- Lent out 30 notebooks for children without access to an electronic devise
- Offered additional literacy, speech and language and educational psychologist services for children and parents via Microsoft Teams online platform
- Ensured teachers, senior leaders and admin staff have been accessible by regularly sharing our direct numbers and email details with parents and carers
- Translated important Covid 19 related letters into Spanish and Portuguese and placed them on our website so more families could be kept up to date relating to important news

We would like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for the great work that you have done at home, for your support for the work of the school and for the generous gifts and expressions of thanks that you have given to staff across the school at the end of the year.

We say a special goodbye to our Year 6 children and their families. The children have worked so hard and been an excellent year group. We will miss you all.

WHAT A YEAR!

During the past seven weeks we have continued to do what we do best at St Mark's and that is inspire a love for learning through fun, engaging and inspirational learning activities. We haven't been able to go on the exciting trips that we usually do, but nonetheless, we have made sure that we continue to do our best to promote the pupils' love for learning. Each week, Miss Winter has been leading outdoor learning sessions with all groups that have been in school. They have made crafts, fished for tadpoles and caught frogs, harvested garlic and spring onions from our vegetable beds, toasted marshmallow and cleared the weeds from our fruit and vegetable beds.

We are pleased that we were able to give the Year 6 children a send off that they will never forget. Reverend Steve led a wonderful socially distanced leavers' service for us during which the children received certificates, a Bible and a special leavers' hoodie. Their last day in school will also be fondly remembered due to their Nandos lunch!

News for Parents & Carers

September Return

As we mentioned in last week's newsletter, a number of arrangements will need to change for September, including starting and finishing times. We will be creating our action plan over the summer and will inform you of all that you need to know before the children return to school. Please remember that children return to school on **Thursday 3rd September 2020** and all children are legally required to return to school.

Numbers on School Roll

As well as our Year six children who are leaving, we say goodbye to a small number of children who will be leaving us this year. We look forward to welcoming a number of new children to St Mark's after conducting a number of school tours during the summer term.

Once again our school Nursery is full with a large waiting list and we are almost full in Reception Class for September 2020.

Summer Activities

Most children have been far less active than usual during the summer so please make sure that you sign up to some of the excellent activities that are planned across Lambeth and Southwark during the summer holidays. This information is on our website and has been sent to you with previous emails. Please follow the links below for further details.

www.lambeth.gov.uk/Summer2020

https://www.mayorsfundforlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DBG0177-Kitchen-Social-Design-AW-Digital-Version.pdf use the version on the website if you prefer

Contact with the school

Please continue to use the admin@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk email address if you have any questions and queries during the holidays. Emails will be checked regularly and we will make contact with you in due course.

Summer Holidays Work

Let your children have a break during the summer, but towards the end of August, do prepare them to return to school in September. Your children's new teacher has prepared a pack of work for each child to help to prepare them to their return.to school

School Uniform

If you want your school uniform to arrive in time for the beginning of term, you must order by **3rd August 2020** https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/stmarksceprimaryschoolse115sl