Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

18th December 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 All,

Despite a number of exciting Christmas events taking place during the past two week, the children have remained calm, focused and have continued to work very hard across all areas of the curriculum.

Their fundraising efforts for the school and for charities this term has been amazing and they should be proud of themselves. On page 6 you will see a thank you letter written from Robes, (the homeless charity we support) to the 25 members of the school choir who sang at the Oval Tube Station on Wednesday 17th December.

ATTENDANCE %	
Nursery	91.56
Reception Class	87.5
Class 1	96.98
Class 2	93.46
Class 3	96.93
Class 4	97.32
Class 5	88.04
Class 6	92.17
Whole School	92.5

Diary Dates at St Mark's

Tuesday 6th January 2026	**First day of Spring Term 3**
Tuesday 6th January	School Art therapist resumes
Tuesday 6th January	Year 5 begin attending the Kia Oval for Computing and Cricket Coaching
Tuesday 6th January	Literacy Lab Phonics Intervention resumes Reading Lab service resumes
Tuesday 6th January	Year 5 Sycamore Class attending the Kia Oval for computing and cricket coaching
Wednesday 7th January	School Counsellor resumes
Thursday 8th January	School Gardeners resume Story Lab resumes. Parent session at 9.00am
Thursday 8th January	Y3 & 4 Lambeth LM Strings Music resumes Year 5 and 6 resume Steel Pans Chess Class Resumes
Friday 9th January	Parent Well-being session III. Gospel Singing Workshop 9-10am
Friday 9th January	Speech and Language Therapist resumes EYFS and KS 1 Music resumes
Monday 12th January	Fire Safety Workshops for Years 2 and 5 am
Monday 12th January	Year 4 Palm Class begin Swimming at Brixton Recreation Centre
Tuesday 13th January	Year 5 visiting the Globe Theatre
Wednesday 14th January	EYFS Stay and Play 9.00-9.45am
Wednesday 14th January	Year 5 involved in Action Breaks Silence for their PSHE session
Thursday 15th January	**Deadline for Reception Admission**

STARTING PRIMARY IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Please be aware that even though you have a child in Nursery, they do not automatically gain entrance into Reception, you still need to apply using this link https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/

Make sure you apply before 15th January 2026 and put us as the top priority to guarantee a Reception place. If you attend church, please also complete the church supplementary form.

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

KS1 Nativity Play

A big well done to children in Key Stage 1! They learned their lines, spoke with confidence and sang beautifully during their Nativity performance. It was great to see so many family members in attendance.

Reception Class have been busy making Christingles. They learned what the parts of the Christingle represent. The orange represents the world and the four sticks represent the seasons. The sweets represent the fruits of the earth. The red ribbon represents the blood of Jesus. The candle represents Jesus being the light of the world. Enjoy your Christingles Reception Class!

Ebony Class

Christmas at St Mark's

A big well done and thank you to staff and classes for their fantastic creativity in preparing items to sell for the Christmas Market. There were cakes, gingerbread men, Christmas decorations and Christmas Crackers amongst a number of other things on offer. Thanks also to our families for being prepared to spend your money at the fair. We raised £700.

The children finished the term with a Christmas Pantomine by simply Smiley Productions. For a number of years now they have put on a great show for us and this year's show was called Twelve Days of Christmas.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas at St Mark's

Christmas SERVICE

The children had a very special guest who visited their classes on the last day of term. The children were very pleased to see him and gave him a warm welcome. In return he distributed gifts.

VISIT FROM SANTA

ST MARK'S CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

£500 raised by the school choir for Robes Homeless Charity

DONATE NOW

£700 raised from the Winter Fair

£120 Raised for Save the Children from Christmas Jumper Day

Over 20 gifts donated for children in the school

robes.admin@robes.org.uk
Tel: 0207 407 5623

www.robes.org.uk

18/12/2025

To the carollers of St Mark's CofE,

Re: a huge thank you

This is a letter to thank all the wonderful young people who sung carol's to help raise funds for Robes at Oval station yesterday. It was so nice to meet you and see you in action.

Your voices brought warmth, joy, and a real sense of community to everyone who listened. The time you gave, the effort you put into practising, and the confidence you showed while performing made a huge difference and did not go unnoticed. Some of the members of the public said that they thought you were professionals until she saw you and realised you were children.

Through your singing, you helped spread the true spirit of the season — kindness, generosity, and togetherness. Each song lifted spirits and reminded us how powerful it can be when young people come together to help others. Many people stopped to listen because of your enthusiasm and cheerful energy, and your performances encouraged them to support the cause.

The funds you helped raise will have a meaningful impact on those experiencing homelessness, helping Robes to provide warmth, safety, shelter and food to people that need it.

You should all be incredibly proud of what you achieved. Thank you once again for sharing your talent, your time, and your kindness. You truly made the season brighter for everyone involved.

With best wishes for a lovely Christmas,

Lisa Moodie

Lisa Moodie
Chief Executive

Reading Lab success!

THE CHILDREN'S LITERACY CHARITY

This term Mrs Hunt (our Reading Lab tutor) has been working with 15 of our Year 6 children.

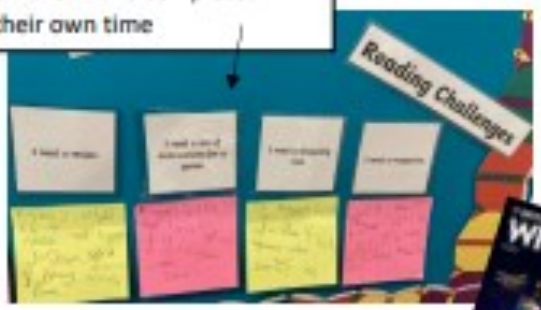
Each week the children focus on reading extracts from a different text. They discuss the **vocabulary**, practise their reading **fluency** and work on their **comprehension** and understanding of each story.

Mrs Hunt has been extremely impressed with the enthusiasm the children bring to their Reading Lab sessions twice a week.

"It has been a pleasure to work with many of the Year 6 children this term. They have worked incredibly hard and focused well in our sessions. We have added impressive vocabulary to our word wall and held many excellent discussions about each text. The children have honed a variety of skills: predicting, explaining, retrieving, inferring and sequencing'. I look forward to working with a new group of children from a different year group next term." Mrs Hunt

New vocabulary

Reading Challenges that the children have completed in their own time



Each child will receive a magazine and certificate from the charity when the programme is completed in December

Spring Term 2025-26 (Part 1)		
Monday 5th January 2026	**School Inset Day**	**No school for pupils**
Tuesday 6th January 2026	**First day of Spring Term 3**	**In the line at five to nine!**
Tuesday 6th January 2026	School Art therapist resumes	
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Year 5 begin attending the Kia Oval for Computing and Cricket Coaching	1.15-3.00pm
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Literacy Lab Phonics Intervention resumes	
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Reading Lab reading intervention starts for Year 4 pupils	
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Wendy Art Therapist resumes	
Wednesday 7th January 2026	Lucy - School Counsellor resumes	
Thursday 8th January 2026	School Gardeners resume	
Thursday 8th January 2025	Lambeth Music resumes for Year 3 and 4	
Thursday 8th January 2025	Year 5 and 6 resume Steel Pans	
Thursday 8th January 2025	Chess Class Resumes	
Friday 9th January 2026	Parent Well-being session III Chill. Sing. Relax. Meet Parents.	Gospel singing Workshop based in the Studio
Friday 9th January 2026	Speech and Language Therapist resumes	
Friday 9th January 2026	EYFS and KS 1 Music resumes	
Monday 12th January 2026	Fire Safety Workshops for Years 2 and 5 am	
Monday 12th January 2026	Year 4 Palm Class begin Swimming at Brixton Recreation Centre	9.00 am
Tuesday 13th January 2026	Year 5 visiting the Globe Theatre	
Wednesday 14th January 2026	EYFS Stay and Play 9.00-9.45am	
Wednesday 14th January 2026	Year 5 involved in Action Breaks Silence for their PSHE session	
Thursday 15th January 2026	**Deadline for Reception Admission**	Nursery parents, please ensure you have submitted your application form/s
w/c Monday 19th January 2026	After School Clubs commence	
Thursday 22rd January 2026	Year 6 trip to Imperial War Museum	
Friday 23rd January 2026	Toddler Play group 9-10am	All under 3s welcome
Monday 26th January 2026	Year 4 Palm visiting the British Museum	Leaving at 9.30am
Friday 30st January 2026	Year 1 involved in the Cricket Skills Festival at the Kia Oval	10-12pm
Tuesday 3rd February 2026	Nursery – Cedar Class going to Vauxhall City Farm	1.15 pm to 3.00 pm
Friday 6th February 2026	NSPCC Number Day –	Parent Maths Workshop at 9.00am with coffee and Tea
w/c 10th February 2026	Internet Safety Week	
Tuesday 10th February 2026	Individual School Photographs	Full School Uniform to be worn bring PE kits in bags today
Wednesday 11th February 2026	Year 4 Ancient Greece Day	Children to dress up as Ancient Greeks
Thursday 12th February 2026	Staff and Parent Football	9.00-10.00am
Friday 13th February 2026	Year 3 Olive Class Ancient China Day	
Friday 13th February 2026	Stars of the Term Assembly	9.05am for invited parents only
Friday 13th February 2026	Last Day of Term 3	

Spring Term 2025-26 (part 2)		
Monday 23rd February 2026	Term 4 Begins	
w/c Monday 23rd February 2026	Fab Science Day Workshops across the school	
Thursday 26th February 2026	Maths Master Class 6 Year 5 children visiting King's Maths School	1.30-3.00pm
Thursday 26th February 2026	Gang Awareness Workshop for Parents	9-10am
Monday 2nd March 2026	Secondary School offer day	
Wednesday 4th March 2026	EYFS Stay and Play session 9.00-9.45am	
Wednesday 4th March 2026	Year 5 Sycamore involved in Into-University	
Wednesday 4th March 2026	Yr 1 Juniper Class visiting Vauxhall City Farm	
Thursday 5th March 2026	World Book Day	Children to dress up as a book character
Thursday 5rd March 2026	Maths Master Class 6 Year 5 children visiting King's Maths School	1.30-3.00pm
Thursday 5rd March 2026	Year 3 and 4 Music Concert	2.50pm in the school Hall
Wednesday 11th March 2026	Parents Evening 3.00-5.30pm	
Thursday 12th March 2026	Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm	
Friday 13th March 2026	Mothers Day Breakfast	8.15-8.55am
Thursday 19th March 2026	Maths Master Class 6 Year 5 children visiting King's Maths School	
Thursday 19th March 2026	Year 3 and 4 Music concert for parents And Year 5 and 6 Steel Pans	Starting at 2.40pm
Wednesday 18th March 2026	Staff and parents' football	9-10am meet at the school gate
Thursday 19th March 2026	Reception Ebony Class visiting the Garden Museum	tbc
Friday 20st March 2026	Year 5 and 6 Netball Competition	9.30-2.30pm
Friday 20st March 2026	Red Nose Day– Charity event	Children can wear red to school for £1
Monday 23rd March 2026	Last Swimming session for Year 4 Sycamore Class	
Monday 23rd March 2026	RE Week – Reflecting on the significance of Easter	Whole school focusing on Easter
Tuesday 24th March 2026	KS 1 singing in the Lambeth Music Festival	Children leaving at 9.00am 1.30pm at the Southbank Centre
Thursday 26th March 2026	Easter Service at St Mark's Church led by YEAR 4	9.30 am – start. All are welcome
Thursday 26th March 2026	Year 3 and 4 Music concert for parents And Year 5 and 6 Steel Pans	Starting at 2.40pm
Thursday 26th March 2026	Final day of after school clubs	
Friday 27th March 2026	Easter Egg challenge after school Fundraiser	3.30-4.15pm
Friday 27th March 2026	Stars of the Term Celebration Assembly	9.05am
Friday 27th March 2026	Last day of term 4	School finishes 3.25 pm

PUNCTUALITY

Unique and Valued by God
St. Mark's Church of England Primary School

5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY
Adds up to 3 days lost school time!

10 minutes = 6.5 school days per year

15 minutes = 10 days lost per school year

20 minutes = 13 lost school days per year

30 minutes = 19 lost school days per year

GOSPEL
SINGING
Workshop
FOR PARENTS
Get your vocal chords ready for some soulful fun
FRI
09
JAN
9-10AM
SESSION TIME
VENUE
ST MARKS SCHOOL HALL
REGISTRATION:
PLEASE SPEAK TO MRS NATASHA AT
THE SCHOOL GATE

NOTICES & EVENTS

Lambeth Autism Advisory Service
Parent Workshop – How To Write A Social Story

One Lambeth
CONNECTED BY PURPOSE

Topic: How To Write A Social Story

When: Monday 12th January

Time: 10:00am – 11:30am

Where: Reay Primary School, Hackford Road, London, SW9 0EN

With: Kasia Leszkiewicz from the Lambeth Autism Advisory Service

The workshop will cover the following areas:

- **What are social Stories?**
- **Why are they useful for autistic people?**
- **How do you write a social story?**
- **How to use a social story effectively.**
- **Having a go yourselves.**

• Sign-up details on the next page.

1 of 2

Lambeth Autism Advisory Service
Sign-up For Our Parent Workshop

One Lambeth
CONNECTED BY PURPOSE

Scan the QR Code

or

Click here

- You can use the above links to sign-up for all our Parent workshops.
- If you have any questions, please email Noel Gardner on ngardner@lambeth.gov.uk

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Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

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

Festive Family Day – FREE
Brixton House Theatre, Coldharbour Lane SW9 8GL
Sunday 21st December – 2:00pm – 6:00pm
What's on:

Family storytelling sessions read by Tonderai Munyevu
Family arts and crafts activities
Special performances from the Brixton House Community Choir
Hands-on candle-making workshop (18+)
A festive gift-wrapping station available for all
A DJ playing all your favourite hits!

This event is completely free, including refreshments and a pop-up Free Books Store, courtesy of Free Books Campaign. To register for your free tickets via https://brixtonhouse.co.uk/shows/a-brixton-christmas/

Brixton Chamber Orchestra - FREE
Christmas Estates Tour 2025
Sunday 21st December

They're back with a seasonal setlist packed with something for everyone – From classical and grime to disco, pop, jazz, and, of course everyone festive favourites. The Orchestra is thrilled to be taking Christmas Estates Tour across Lambeth, and this year they will play at Streatham Hill Theatre, a magnificent space first opened in the 1920s as one of London's largest and most revered venues outside of the West End.

Join them as they celebrate the season with music and plenty of Christmas cheer – right on your doorstep!

Wyvill / Mawbey / Victoria Estates – Friday 19th December at 2:30pm
Wheatsheaf Hall, Wheatsheaf Lane, SW8 2UP

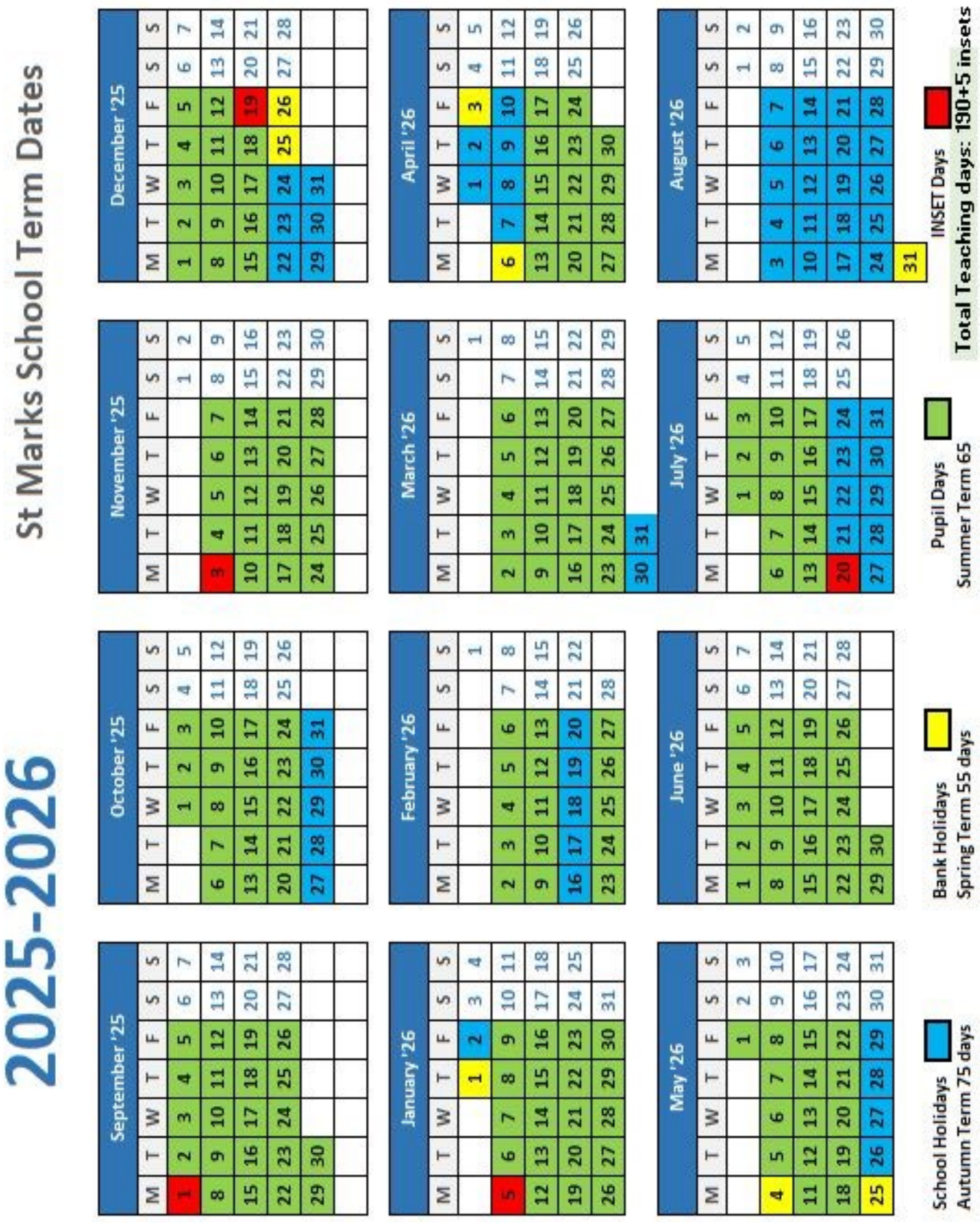
Streatham Hill Theatre – Friday 19th December at 7:00pm
110 Streatham Hill, SW2 4RD

Brandon Estate – Saturday 20th December at 3:00pm
Jack Hobbs Club Hall, Maddock Way, SE17 3NH

China Walk Estate – Saturday 20th December at 7:00pm
Chandler Hall, 15 Lambeth Walk, SE11 6DU

Myatts Fields Estates – Sunday 21st December at 3:00pm
Longfield Hall, 50 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY

CLICK HERE FOR THE WHOLE DOCUMENT WITH MANY MORE ACTIVITIES

Term Dates for 2025-26

Please find the term dates for the academic year. Please avoid taking holidays during term time as it can impact on children's progress.