Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

18th September 2026

'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, staff, children and governors,

During the past two weeks a number of meetings have take place aimed at providing parents with information about this year and how best they can support their child.

During the next few weeks classes will be going out and participating in activities and events, so please keep your eye on the school diary dates.

By now you should have received your child's class bulletin, so please supplement any of the school based learning at home.

For your diary

Tuesday 22nd September	Reading Lab begins with Year 6
Wednesday 23rd September	Coffee and Cake Welcome Morning 9-10am come along to meet other parents in the school
Wednesday 30th September	TfL SEN Bus trip in Streatham – 8 year 5 and 6 children
Monday 5th October	Autumn walk Reception Class
Monday 5th October	Year 4 visit to the Science Museum
Wednesday 7th October	Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Tournament
Thursday 8th October	Year 5 and 6 Boys Football Tournament
Friday 9th October	Year 3 Olive Class Roman Banquet

ATTENDANCE %	
Whole school	93.59
Cedar—Nursery	91.98
Ebony—Reception	93.73
Juniper—Year 1	88.76
Oak—Year 2	97.88
Olive—Year 3	91.91
Palm– Year 4	97.12
Sycamore—Year 5	96.05
Willow—Year 6	91.56

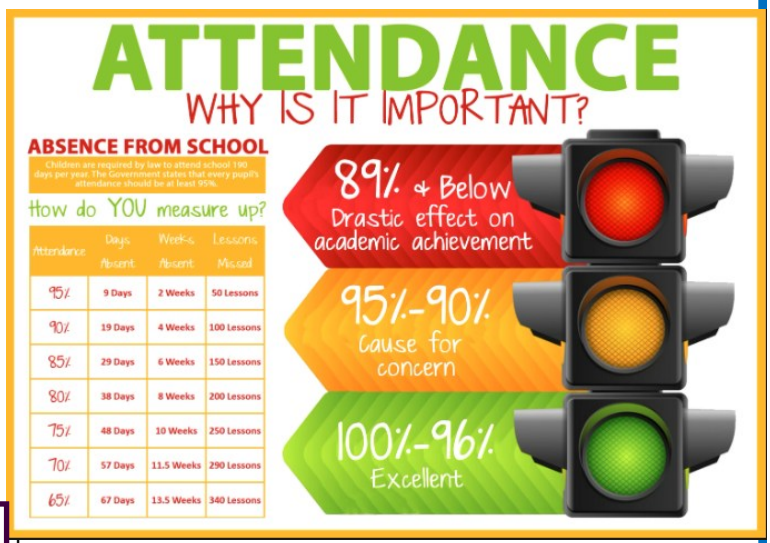
Well done Years 2, Year 4 and Year 5

VALUE OF THE WEEK

HARD WORK

BIBLE VERSE

'Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.'
Colossians 3:23-24



Outstanding learning at St Mark's

Meet the teacher meeting

It was good to see a number of you at our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings and we hope that the meeting and the packs of information given to you gave parents an insight into what the children will be learning this year in their new year group. Remember that teachers are available for you to speak to every morning in the playground if you have any questions or queries, and also after school.

Please can you encourage your continued involvement and support for the school this year. If you can help us with any of the following, please either speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Natasha or Mrs Roye.

- **Volunteer readers—hearing children read for a short amount of time each week**
- **Preparing breakfast bagels 8.30-8.55am. Even if it is one morning per week**
- **Supporting on class trips when they come up**
- **Attending our parent events and workshops—there were 30 parental events last year and many of them were well attended**
- **Joining us for the prayer meeting on Friday mornings 9.00-9.30am**
- **Supporting the curriculum– reading a story, talking about your job etc**

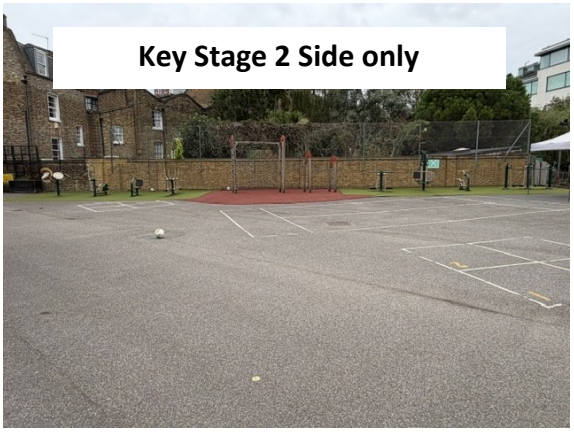
YEAR 5 & 6 FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The boys showed real spirit across six tough games, picking up a win, grinding out two hard earned draws, and battling till the end in the other three. The results don't tell the whole story. The effort and teamwork were the real positives.

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

Before and After School Arrangements

1. Early Years and Key Stage 1 children are to remain on the right hand side of the playground—near the play equipment. Key Stage 2 children are to remain on the the left hand side.



2. No playing football before or after school

3. Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) are to be supervised by a parent or adult until the bell rings and they join their class line. Please do not leave children on their own in the playground

4. Once children are collected after school, they are to remain with their parents. Please then make your way off the school premises for safeguarding purposes.

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

Sycamore Class at CYE

The Year 5 class enjoyed their annual residential trip to CYE Sailing Centre, taking part in a mix of outdoor adventure, teamwork challenges, and water based activities. Over the 2 days, pupils developed confidence, resilience, and collaboration skills while trying sailing, kayaking, , and tunnelling sessions under expert supervision. Evenings were filled with group games and reflection time, helping children bond and build independence. Staff praised the enthusiasm and behaviour of all pupils, who represented the school brilliantly. This much loved trip continues to be a highlight of the Year 5 calendar, offering unforgettable experiences and personal growth.

Office Notices

Reminders!

Free School Meals Eligibility Check – Action Required

Dear Parents and Carers,

You should have received an email informing about the new requirement from the **Department of Education** that schools are required to **recheck the eligibility of all pupils for Free School Meals**.

This check must be completed for every pupil, regardless of whether they have previously been eligible, are currently eligible, or have previously been told that they are not eligible for Free School Meals.

If not done yet, please complete the Google Form below and provide the requested information. Please ensure that the contact details provided match those shown on any benefit letters or other official correspondence.
https://forms.gle/qsGFkEqs3oEnLpGE6

Please complete the form ASAP or not later than Tuesday 22nd September 2026.
It is important that **every family completes the form**, even if your circumstances have not changed or you do not believe your child is eligible. This will enable the school to carry out the required checks for all pupils and ensure that our records are up to date.

Any information provided will be handled appropriately and confidentially and used for the purpose of completing the eligibility check.
Thank you for your continued support.
Kind regards,

St Mark's Primary School

Up To Date Pupil Records

In order to adhere to our safeguarding duty, please update your child's details on our Pupil Records Form

https://forms.gle/Q686uruH9dF2iRzz6

We request for this form to be completed at the start of each year to ensure we have your latest details on file to contact you for regular and emergency situations. We also require your child's updated medical details and the details of the adults you permit to collect your child/ren so we can make sure they

After School Club

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS START NEXT WEEK!

Clubs are closed now. If you want to book a club, please contact school office to check availability .

Spaces still available in

Bible Club - £1 per term

St Mark's C of E Primary School Term Dates for Autumn Term 2026/27

Date	Event	Details
Tuesday 22nd September	Reading Lab begins with Year 6	
Wednesday 23rd September 2026	Coffee and Cake Welcome Morning	9.00 am – School Hall Led by Natasha
w/c Monday 29th September 2025	Harvest Festival Week	Collection of food to donate to local food banks
Wednesday 30th September 2026	TfL SEN Bus trip in Streatham – 8 year 5 and 6 children	Leave 9.15, back 11am
Monday 5th October 2026	Autumn walk Reception Class	9.15 am
Friday 9th October 2026	Year 3 Olive Class Roman Banquet	Dress as Romans for the day
Friday 10th October 2025	Year 4 visit to the Science Museum	
Thursday 22nd October 2026	Parent and Staff Football	9.00 am in school playground
Friday 23rd October 2026	Culture Day Culture Day Children to wear cultural clothing or the national flag colours.	After school event involving food and music from around the world
w/c 27th October – 31st October 2025	Half Term	
Tuesday 3rd November 2025	Term 2 Begins	
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November	Parents' evening	Form to go out electronically

School Days

Breakfast club
8.00 am to 8.50 am

After School clubs
3.30 pm to 4.25 pm

School Starts / End:

School gates open: 8:45 am

EYFS & KS1: 8:55am - 3:20pm (Monday to Friday) KS 1 Parents are to remain with children until the bell sounds

KS2 : 8:55 - 3:25 pm (Monday to Friday) Please be on time!

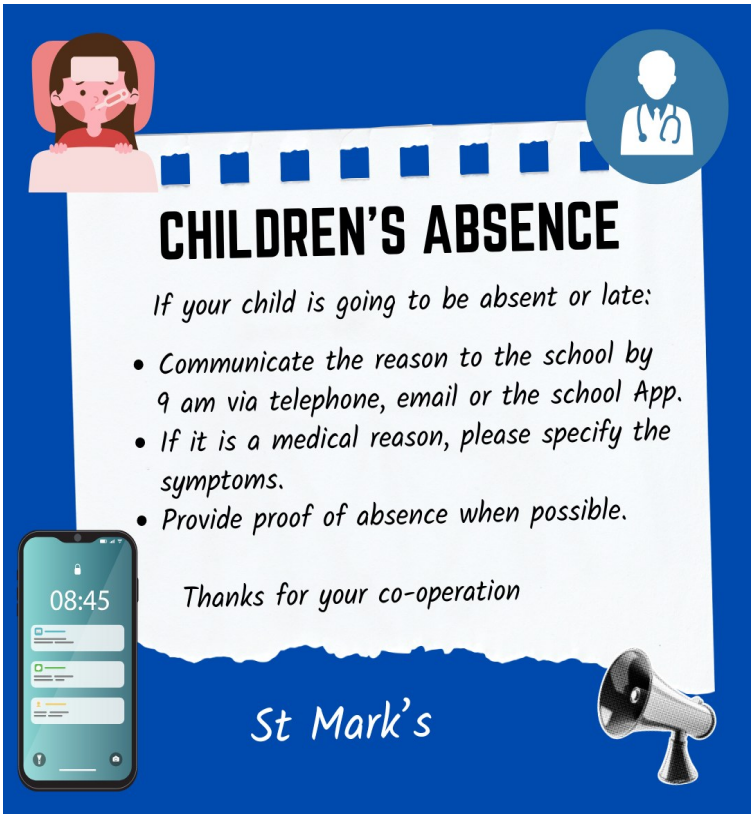
Health & Safety requirement:

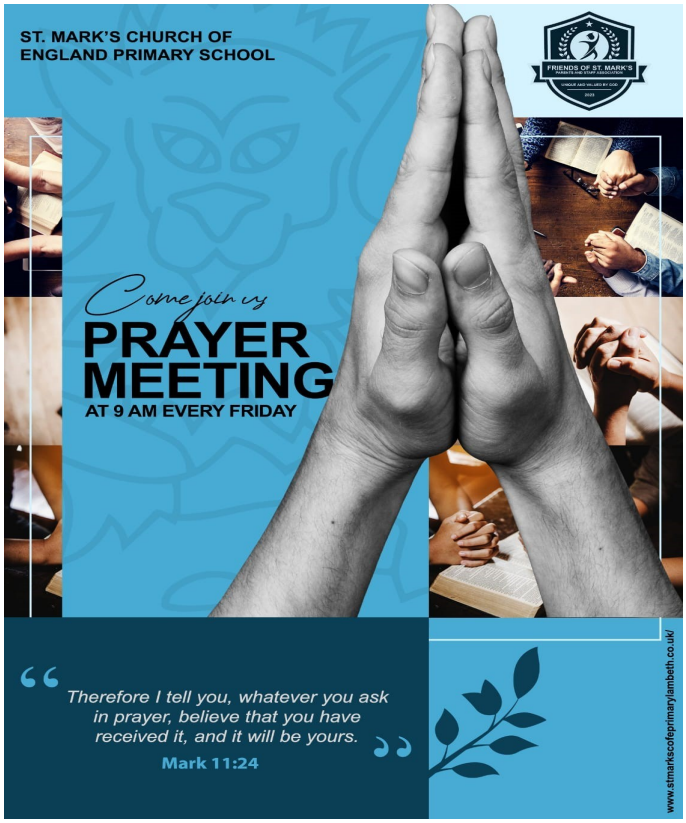
When dropping off and collecting your child, please do not stop at any time by the entrance gates, keep moving, as it is blocking the way to others and it is against H&S, which we all have to adhere to.

Absences & Sickness:

If your child is unwell, please notify the school via phone or email and state the reason for the child's absence.

NOTICES– Pupil absence and parents prayer meeting





2026-2027 St Marks School Term Dates

September '26						
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27	28	29	30			

October '26						
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November '26						
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29	30					

December '26						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January '27						
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31						

February '27						
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28						

March '27						
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28	29	30	31			

April '27						
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May '27						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '27						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July '27						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August '27						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Pupil School Days — Autumn Term 74 days

School Holidays — Spring Term 54 days

INSET Days — Summer Term 67 days

Bank Holidays — Total Teaching days: 190+5 insets

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

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

Thames Festival – throughout September – FREE

https://thamesfestivaltrust.org/

Annual riverside festival with many free events and workshops throughout September including this weekend: Kids Choir performance on Saturday 19th Sept 1.15 – 2.00pm on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral and art installation of disabled young performers projected onto Blackfriars Railway Bridge columns.

Crossing Borders Festival at Horniman Museum – FREE

100 London Road, Forest Hill, SE23 3PQ

Saturday 19th September, 11am – 4pm

Join us for a free celebration featuring a vibrant programme of activities, workshops and performances led by refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Activities for everyone includes: Pan Intercultural Arts with podcast for 8-16 yr olds, cupcake decoration, art exhibition, dance and costume from Honduras, Afghan kite making, Ukrainian music

https://www.horniman.ac.uk/event/crossing-borders/

Science Museum – FREE admission to Museum

Exhibition Road, South Kensington, SW7 7DD

Bubbles Explorers, new Family show, every Saturday & Sunday during term time for young children and their families: duration 30 mins, cost £4.50 per person, recommended 7yrs and under (2 yrs and under are free)

https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/bubble-explorers

Open House 2026 – FREE

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th September

Various locations open and free to visit, including drop-in combined tour of Guildhall Art Gallery and London's Roman Amphitheatre all weekend 10am to 5pm (last admission at 4.45pm) https://open-city.org.uk/open-house-festival

Autumn Equinox: Community Heritage Day – FREE

Brixton Windmill,100 Blenheim Gardens SW2 5DA

Sunday 20th September, 12.00 – 6.00pm

Part of Community Heritage Day – a family-friendly day of learning that centres global majority families to explore migration, food and community heritage though art, music and shared learning. Free but register in advance

https://www.outsavvy.com/event/38897/autumn-equinox-community-heritage-day

Southbank Centre – Weekly Art Club – FREE

Southbank Centre, SE1 8XX

Weekly Arts Club is a free, youth-led creative space at Southbank Centre for young people ages 11-15 who live in Lambeth or Southwark, beginning on Tuesday 22nd September. For more info and to register:

https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/create-learn/arts-wellbeing/weekly-arts-club/?utm_source=southwarkpresents&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=CE_2608_WeeklyArtsClub

High Trees Community Centre Courses - FREE

Autumn term courses – many FREE - running from September to December, including ESOL, English, Maths Digital Skills, Family Learning, Wellbeing and employability courses. The friendly High Trees team can help identify which course and level is right for you. Sign up or more info:

Online: www.high-trees.org, **Email:** courses@high-trees.org, **Call or text:** 07305 080 995

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