Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Newsletter

1st February 2021

'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,

I would like to say a really big thank you to all parents and carers. You are doing so well in juggling your own commitments and work with supporting your child/ren with their remote learning. We appreciate all that you are doing and believe that it will help to reduce the learning gaps of the children when they return to school. It is probably fair to say that while some children have flourished during this time of remote learning, others have found it very difficult to focus, be motivated and complete their work. All you can do at this time is continue to do your best and look forward to the time when schools resume. This week is children's mental health week and teachers will be sharing some activities with their classes to support them. Please contact us if you require support in this area.

We are currently contacting parents of children who have not engaged in daily activities on a daily basis. We have been informed by the local authority that we need to refer children to the Educational Welfare Team if we haven't seen them engaged with their work for 4 consecutive days.

Recent government update

Last week, Boris Johnson announced that the earliest that schools are likely to return is 8th March 2020. He also added that this date was conditional, based on hospital admissions and the Covid transmission rate. We look forward to the time when we can safely welcome all of the children back to school again. In the meantime, our staff are undertaking weekly a-symptomatic Covid tests to make sure we are not carrying the virus. Due to this, there is a possibility that some of the bubbles could be closed at short notice, if results return positive and staff are required to isolate.

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Flourishing Digitally — Avoid temptation online

BIBLE VERSE

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"
Matthew 6:13

Highest level of work completion last week

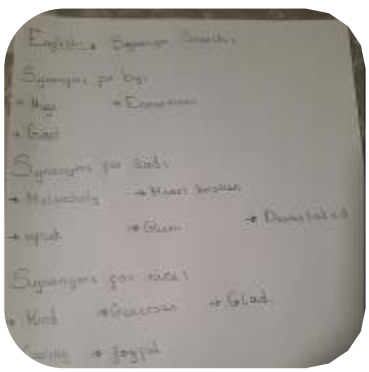
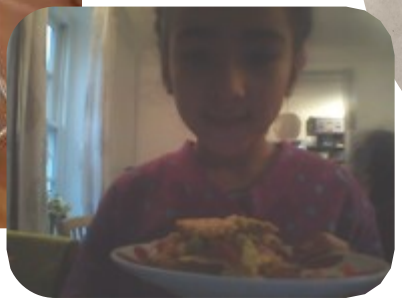
Juniper Class — 60%
Oak Class — 67%
Olive Class — 78%
Palm Class — 88%
Sycamore Class — 68%
Willow Class — 80%

WELL DONE!

Another very big well done for the excellent engagement of pupils across the school. Willow, Palm and Olive Classes, you are completing so much of your work and nearly all of you are engaged in your online work. Keep up the good work.

Non Screen Day Activities

I am sure that many parents are concerned about the amount of time that their children are spending on screens at the moment. We will attempt to incorporate more non-screen days whilst children are off school. We are so pleased that many children participated in different non-screen activities last Friday during our non-screen day, which included writing, cooking, science experiments, reading, art, bird watching and outdoor learning. Well done to all of you!

Non-Screen Day Activities

Message for EYFS Parents (Nursery & Reception)

Dear Parents/Carers,
We hope you are all well and staying safe!
As many of you may be aware, we have been holding virtual calls using ***Google Meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings****. The link for each Google Meet call will be posted on* ***Tapestry*** *on the morning of the call and you simply need to click on the link to join in or copy and paste the link into Google Chrome. We would really love for you all to join as it will be a great opportunity for your children to see their friends and teachers and also showcase any work that they are proud of. Please do make it to at least one of the calls within the week.*

Mrs Eade will be holding a ***Celebration Assembly via Google Meet for Early Years at 9:30am on a Friday morning****, starting this Friday 5th February 2021. The* ***Google Meet*** *link will be posted on Tapestry on a Friday morning. We look forward to seeing you there.*

Nursery: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am
Reception: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.45am

Nursery and Reception Celebration Assembly: Friday 9:30am

Please continue to engage in the activities set on Tapestry to maintain a routine similar to one they would have had in school. Do continue to upload work regularly, write comments or like the posts.
Feel free to email any member of staff if you have any queries or concerns.
Thank you so much for your continued support.
Miss Stewart and Miss Hutchings

Children's Mental Health Week 1st—7th Feb

What is mental health?

Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods. Looking after our mental health is as important as looking after our physical health.

We all have small feelings every day. These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings. These feel strong and overwhelming for a **long time** and can stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

It's important that children understand that emotions are normal. Encouraging children to understand and be open about these feelings can give them the skills to cope with the ups and downs that life will throw at them as they grow up. By helping children express their feelings and respond appropriately it will prevent small problems from snowballing into bigger ones.

The Talking Mental Health animation (link below) aims to give children:

An understanding of what mental health is and the difference between every day small feelings and a big feeling
Consistent and accessible language to talk about mental health
An understanding of how to be a good listener
https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/talking-mental-health-animation-teacher-toolkit/

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

Feedback from the Inclusion Quality Mark Assessment

On Monday 1st February, the school underwent an inclusion quality mark assessment to see how inclusive the school is. The assessor spent the day speaking to senior leaders, teachers, parents, children and governors to find out as much as possible about the inclusive provision of the school. Although the result still needs to be formally confirmed, the verbal feedback is extremely positive and some of the quotes from the verbal feedback are below:

"St Mark's has created a fellowship and a community; " "Parents think that the school has managing the pandemic well and you are on top of things;" "The school knows what its areas of development are;" "The quality of teaching provision is very good;" "Parents feel that their children are being pushed;" There is a positive approach to the management of behaviour;" Strong relationships exist across the school;" The school's unique selling point is its holistic approach to inclusion and community;" "Governors challenge the school leadership in relation to standards;" "Every child is important at St Mark's" "Contact with parents during lockdown has been appreciated;" "The school has responded to parental feedback expressed in surveys;" "Displays and the learning environment are really strong;" St Mark's is the driving force behind lots of things that happen within the Oval Learning Cluster;" Parents have been helped by subject knowledge workshop;" "Online class meetings are helping to keep children engaged and feeling connected;" The school lives out its values;" "Issues that arise are quickly resolved" and "The school looks to provide children with a range of learning opportunities."

KEY SCHOOL DATES FOR SPRING TERM	
DATE	**DETAILS**
w/c 1st Feb 2021	Children's Mental Health Week
Thurs 4th Feb 2021	Parents Workshop for ASD parents— 9.30 to 11.00 am
Tuesday 9th Feb 2021	Safer Internet Day
Weds 10th Feb 2021	'Managing your child's anxiety ' parent workshop with the school's Educational Psychologist and Mrs Moses 4.30 to 5.30 pm
Weds 10th Feb 2021	Year 3 Ancient China Day
Thurs 11th Feb 2021	Virtual Coffee Morning with Mrs Moses 10 to 11 am
Friday 12th Feb 2021	St Mark's Day– Details to follow
Mon 15th Feb 2021—Fri 19th Feb	Half term—School is closed
Weds 24th Feb 2021	Parents' Evening - details to follow
Thursday 25th Feb 2021	Parents' Evening—details to follow

School Updates

Google Classroom guidance for pupils and parents

PUPILS	PARENTS
♦ I will make sure I am appropriately dressed during video calls and will not appear in pyjamas ♦ I will not post comments that others could consider to be rude or disrespectful or unkind ♦ I will Follow my teacher's instructions during live meetings ♦ If I become aware of any meeting links that are open or I can access areas beyond my restricted areas, I will Immediately bring this to the attention of a parent or a member of staff ♦ I will use Google Classroom for educational purposes and not for things that it is not intended for ♦ I will not share my username and password with anyone except my parents or guardians ♦ I will only use activities that a teacher or suitable adult has told or allowed me to use ♦ I will not distract the learning of others by changing my background during live lessons	♦ I will regularly monitor my child's online activity during their remote learning ♦ I will ensure my child has regular breaks and time away from the screen during the day ♦ I will ensure no other family members appear on camera during my child's online lessons ♦ I will ensure nothing inappropriate is displayed or disclosed in the background when my child appears in live lessons

Request a place for Vulnerable and Key Worker Children

We have experienced an increase in the number of requests for places at school for vulnerable children and those of critical key workers. Limited spaces are available to offer over the next few weeks in order to maintain the safety of children and staff. If you are eligible and would like your child to return to school please contact the school office (admin@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk) to request the online form. Places will confirmed to you by the Friday of your request.

Please note—You do not need to reapply for a place if your child is already in school

School Maintenance Fund Contributions 2020-21

As our school is almost 200 years old, regular work needs to be carried out to ensure that the building remains in good condition all of the time. Your annual contributions to the School Maintenance Fund play a crucial part in supporting and ensuring that work can be done when needed and we can benefit from additional special grants.

It would help us greatly if you could contribute an amount of **£24 per child** which covers this academic year from September 2020 – July 2021. A payment option called **School Maintenance Fund 2020/21** is available on ParentPay for the contribution to be paid. Please contact the office if you have any queries.

Remote Learning Engagement

Miss Natasha will be making daily contact with those children who have not submitted work or engaged with lessons each day. The call will be made from a Private Number. Please sure you make every effort to answer the call and use the opportunity to discuss any issues that you may be having so Miss Natasha can help to support you.