Unique and Valuable before God

THE ST MARK'S NEWS

20th November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Although children have been working hard and completing assessments throughout the week, we are pleased that this did not prevent us from continuing with our exciting curriculum of trips, welcoming visitors into the school and providing the children with opportunities to participate in competitive sport. This week was also our Anti-bullying week and we are pleased that so many children have contributed a piece of work for the anti-bullying competition. This will not just be a theme for this week, but a focus for the year.

School Collective Worship theme:

'The School's Core Values'

Wk 3– Accountability/Anti-bullying

So in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.

Matthew 7:12

Anti-Bullying Week

Across the school we have focussed on key messages relating to bullying-what it is? Why it happens? and how to respond. Reverend Steven promoted a strong anti-bullying message through the story of Joseph and his brothers from the book of Genesis in the Bible.

WW1 Soldier Visit

On Thursday children enjoyed a visit from a World War 1 soldier. It followed on from Remembrance last week and further helped the children understand more of what it was like to be a soldier in World War 1.

Feedback Please

As you know a number of changes have taken place across the school and there are a number of plans that we have for the future, as we look to help our pupils make as much all-round progress as possible. Please help us move the school from strength to strength by providing feedback on the changes that have taken place so far and your thoughts on what we could do better in the future.

Changes in the area of Personal development, behaviour and welfare

- The establishment of many positions of responsibility for children across the school
- The creation of a whole school pastoral system, helping to remove barriers to learning
- Lunchtime games clubs
- Introduction of a whole school positive behaviour system
- Raising of expectations on attendance and punctuality
- The securing of the school building and the school site

Changes in the area of Pupil Outcomes

- **We have made further developments in assessing children's progress without using levels and will be reporting to you shortly. We have conducted a new baseline assessment for all Reception children to be sure of their starting points and to help target our provision.**

Changes in the area of safeguarding

- **Children in Year 2 or below to be supervised at the beginning of the school day by a parent or adult**
- **Children under ten to be collected by a parent , adult or sibling over the age of 14 at the end of the school day.**

Promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

- **We have adopted whole school Christian values**
- **We have adopted a new vision and mission statement for the school**

Changes in the area of Teaching and learning

- **We have adopted a text based approach to teaching English across the school which exposes children to high quality literature and links in with class topics**
- **We have introduce an inspirational and engaging new curriculum that covers National Curriculum requirements**

Plans for the near future

- Investment in computer hardware (laptops) and teaching regular computing lessons
- To run more parent workshops
- Order new play equipment
- Develop our school website
- To provide children with regular opportunities to participate in competitive sport
- To achieve Healthy School status
- To establish a breakfast club
- To establish a parent/teacher association (PTA)
- To further develop our outdoor area in the Early Years
- To increased opportunities for outdoor learning across the school

What do you think? What else could we do? Let us know– leave a message in the office, write a note, come in and speak to myself, Mrs Sims or a member of the senior leader team or send an email to :

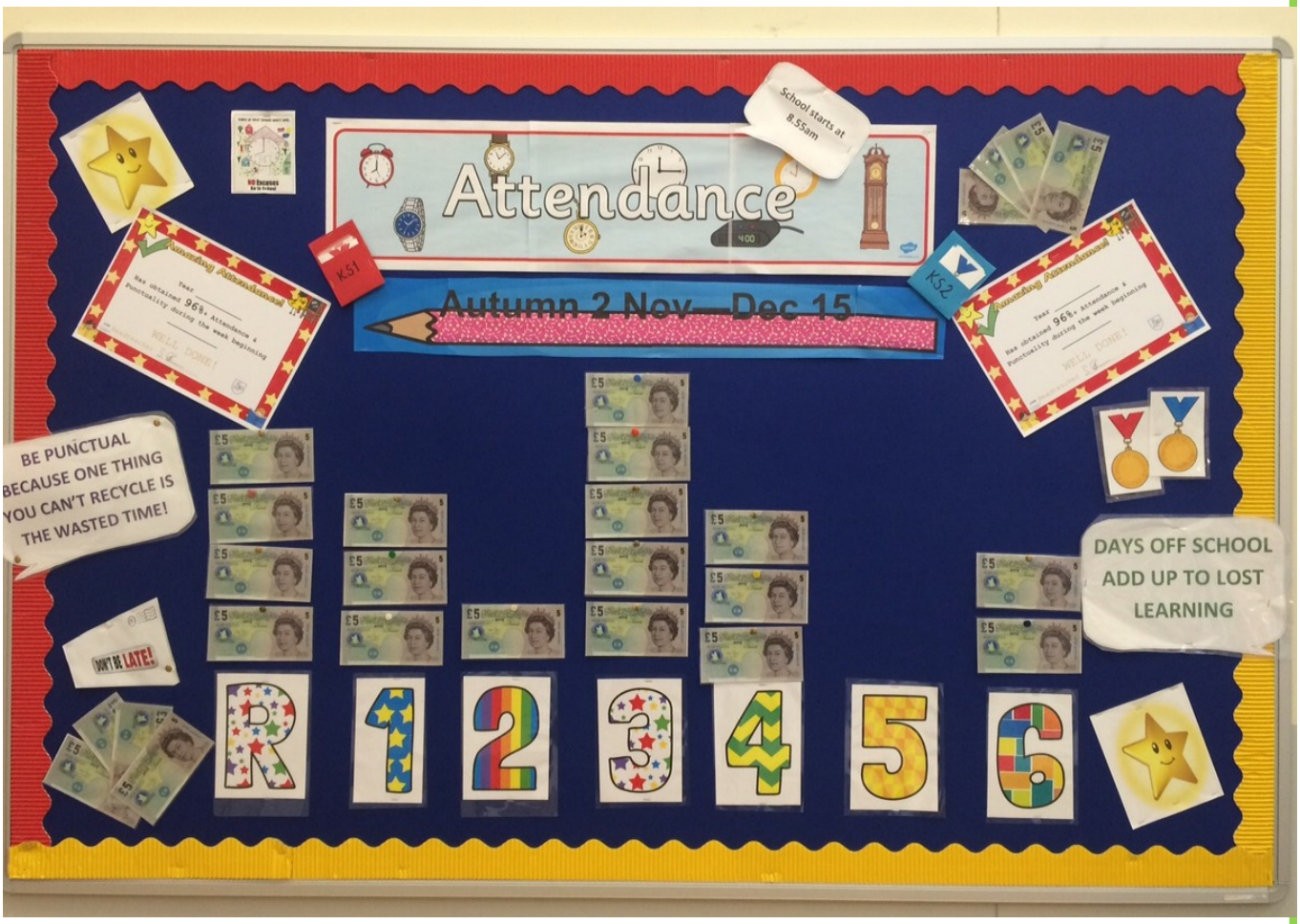
headteacher@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk

Key Diary Dates

25th November	**Open Morning for children starting Reception in September 2016– 9.15 am**
26th November	**Open Morning for children starting Reception in September 2016– 9.15 am**
26th November	**Year 5 visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum**
27th November	**Open Morning for children starting Reception in September 2016-9.15am**
1st December	**School Journey Meeting for Year 6 Parents -6.00 pm**
2nd December	**Year 5/6 Athletics Tournament**
8th December	**Year 5 and 6 visiting Southwark Cathedral**
9th December	**Reception Nativity- 2.30 pm**
15th December	**Christmas lunch**
16th December	**Key Stage 1 Nativity- 2.30 pm**
16th December	**Choir performing at Christmas service at St Mark's Church-7.00 pm**
17th December	**Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert at St Mark's Church—6.00 pm**
18th December	**Christmas Market—8.30-9.30 am**
18th December	**End of Term 2 School Finishes at 1.30 pm**

Attendance and Punctuality

There were high attendance and punctuality rates across the school this week but our three winning classes are Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6, whose attendance was 98%, 98% and 97%. Year 1 and Reception had the best punctuality across the school this week too.



The first of many!

Today, children from Year 5 represented the school in the first tournament of the year– A year 5/6 tag rugby tournament at Kennington Park. Without the support of the Year 6 children, who were on a trip, they worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We look forward to many more opportunities to participate in competitive sports with neighbouring schools.