Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's News
22nd April 2016
Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

During our collective worship assemblies this week, we have challenged ourselves to develop a passion (a love or a strong enthusiasm) for learning and to be prepared to learn from our mistakes. We also considered the fact that we need to be lifelong learners, because at different phases in our lives, we will need to learn new skills, in order to be equipped and prepared for what lies ahead. During the Summer Term, different classes will be leading collective worship and we would like to invite you to come along to see your children share the message of the week with their class.

Basketball Tickets

If you would like £1 tickets to watch a basketball match at the O2 arena, please collect them from the school office. They will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

Demonstrating a passion for learning

When Lauren's teacher asked her to complete some homework on the Tudors, little did she know that Lauren's passion for learning in this area would produce enough work to fill a whole display board! She has learnt so much through fully immersing herself in this particular subject. Well done.

Nursery and Reception Classes for September 2016

Yesterday a letter was sent out to you asking you to register your interest for a Nursery place at St Mark's for September 2016. The local authority wants to know how much interest there currently is from within the school. If you have a child who is 3+ please register your interest at the school office as soon as possible.

We also have spaces in our Reception Class for September 2016. If you still haven't got a reception place or know of a friend or neighbour who is looking for one, please contact the school office immediately.

Year 3 and 4 Tennis Competition

So far this year, St Mark's has taken parent in 4 competitive sporting competitions against other local schools. They include Tag Rugby, Athletics and Gymnastics. Today it was the turn of our children in Years 3 and 4, who took part in a Tennis Tournament. Romona, Daniela, Andre, Hensi and Pierreice from Year 4 and Jacob in Year 3, thoroughly enjoyed participating in the competition and competing against other schools. We look forward to further opportunities for competitive sport during the Term.

Stay and Play morning for Reception

Tuesday 19th April 2016

It was wonderful to see so many parents at Tuesday's Stay and Play in Reception Class. It was a great opportunity for parents to see how children learn in the Early Years. In total, 16 parents were present at some point during the morning. If you were not able to attend, we hope to provide you with another opportunity to work with your child in class before the end of the Year.

Summer Term Uniform

As the warmer weather approaches, we are looking forward to seeing children wearing the school's summer uniform of polo shirts and cotton dresses.

Please can you ensure the correct footwear is worn: shoes and not boots and definitely no trainers. Can we also ask for hair bands to match our school uniform colours or to be neutral colours. Thank you

Friends of St Mark's

Please come along to our PTA meeting next Friday at 9.00am in the Art room (the end room off the playground). We have some important decisions to make regarding our Summer Fair, so please play an active role in helping to make this summer event a success.

Assessment Time

Throughout the Summer Term, children across the school will participate in assessments or tests in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6, these are set by the government and are reported nationally. We will be meeting with you on 26th May, but in the meantime, please see the class targets in your Term 5 class bulletin, to find out what they are working on and please support them in these areas at home. Speak to your child's class teacher for more specific details.

School Photographs

Tuesday 26th April—Individual and sibling photographs

Wednesday 27th April—Class photographs

Diary Dates for next week

Tuesday 26th April

Year 1 Health Workshop

Friday 29th April

Year 4 visiting the Chocolate Museum in Brixton

Friends of St Mark's Meeting 9am

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

Feast of St George - Trafalgar Square

FREE (All Ages)

Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN / www.chinatownlondon.org

Nearest Tube: Charing Cross

Sat 23rd Apr, noon-6pm

Celebrate St George's Day in Trafalgar Square with a feast of traditional English fare and free fun and activities for the whole family!

Animate Celtic Craft - British Museum

FREE (Age 7+)

44 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG / 020 7323 8000 / www.british museum.org

Nearest tube: Holborn/Russell Square

Sat 23rd Apr, 11am-4pm

Work together with family members to recreate patterns with a variety of material. Make an animation to show their complexity to share with your friends.

Creature Creations - Grant Museum of Zoology

FREE (All Ages)

Rockefeller Building, University College London, University St, WC1E 6DE / 020 3106 2052 / www.ucl.ac.uk

Nearest Tube: Euston/Goodge Street

Sat 23rd Apr, 1.30pm-4pm

Create works of art inspired by some of the weird and wonderful animals that call the Grant Museum home or invent your very own brand new animal, give it a name and add it to the collection.

Please note that there are a number of family events over the weekend and in the local area, to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday Look online to find more details

Special Leave requests

Taking your child out of school during term time for holidays or extended visits not only impacts on a child's achievement in school, but it also has a significant impact on the school's attendance data. Due to the negative effect that this has already had on the school attendance data this year, it is necessary to reiterate the school's policy and activate the council's consequences for unauthorised absences.

Please read the guidance below which outlines the process for obtaining Special Leave.

1. **All applications of Special Leave need to be made to the head of school using the school special leave form two weeks in advance and prior to making arrangements or bookings.**
2. **Decisions about Special Leave will be made with the child in mind and based on your child's attendance history, previous requests and individual circumstances**
3. **Special Leave will be granted on the basis of exceptional circumstances only and this does not include extended holidays.**
4. **Authorised Special Leave cannot go beyond 10 days**
5. **Unauthorised leave could lead to your child losing their school place and you receiving a council penalty fine.**
6. **Please ensure that holidays are taken within the 13 weeks of school holiday**

Our recent inspection says that we need to continue to work together to ensure that all members of the school community understand the full effects of taking holidays during term time and we hope that you will support our efforts to improve this area of the school. The school's admission policy and a special request form can be obtained from the school office. Many thanks, Mr Ingram

Prayer for the school

At the beginning of the year it was so encouraging to see parents gathering together for a short prayer meeting on Monday mornings after drop-off. Unfortunately numbers have since dwindled and we are keen to revive the meeting again. Please join us next Monday for much needed prayer.