Unique and Valued by God

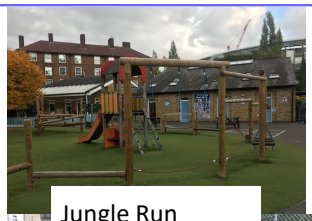
# The St Mark's Newsletter

## 22nd October 2020

'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

It has been a term like no other, with many challenges for us all. Many adjustments needed to be made within school and the children had to get back into the routine of school after being away for such a long time. Children new to the school were required to begin under very different conditions to normal and we have not had the opportunity to interact with one another as we usually do. Despite all of this, excellent progress has been made across the school and children have settled back very well. We are still providing the children with plenty of time outdoors through breaks, two weekly PE sessions and weekly outdoor learning sessions in our Edible Playground and Peace Garden. The children also get to use the 'Fitness Zone' and the 'Jungle Run' - the new names for the gym and play equipment. Mrs Moses hopes to have a new sensory room completed after half term, which will be another supportive area for children . We will send you pictures in the next newsletter. Please continue to support us by keeping your distance at the gate, wearing a face covering on site, arriving to school at the correct time and not waiting within our school playground or holding up the flow of movement on the premises or near the gate.



Jungle Run

Fitness Zone

## Parents Evening

We hope that you have received the information for Parents Evening that will take place on Wednesday 4th November and Thursday 5th November. Before the end of the week, your time slot will be confirmed with you via text message. We will do our best to provide an interpreter for those of you who need one.

Please note school will finish at 3.00pm for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and 3.10pm for children in Years 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 on both days

## Attendance

We are very pleased that our school attendance has improved from 90% to 95% since the first few weeks back at school. We would like it to be 96%. Please continue to make sure that children attend school regularly. We are aware that some children have been isolating and others have been genuinely unwell. However there are a small number of children with very low attendance, which impacts their ability to progress. Lambeth Council will begin to monitor the attendance of pupils within schools.

**VALUE OF THE WEEK**

Developing Social Skills

**BIBLE VERSE**

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry-James 1:19

**Attendance Update**

Nursery— 96.44%
Reception — 92.74%
Year 1— 97.44%
Year 2— 90.4%
Year 3— 92.59%
Year 4— 94.59%
Year 5— 95.29%
Year 6— 93.28%

**WELL DONE!**

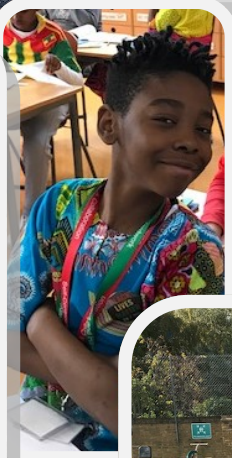
Well done Nursery & Year 1!

Keep it up! Remember that poor attendance not only has an impact on your child's learning, it affects the whole school.

# School News

## Cultural Dress Day 2020

It was great to see so many colourful outfits and items of clothing last week during our cultural dress day. It is such a shame, because usually on this day our school PSA co-ordinates a whole school event where families can socialise and have the opportunity to sample food from around the world. Let's hope that we will soon be able to hold whole school events again at St Mark's.



# Tuesday 3rd November is ...

Forest School

**We are going to further develop our whole school ethos and identity by naming all of the classes and rooms in the schools after trees. Most of the trees are found in the Bible. We have chosen trees for the following reasons:**

## Why Trees?

**1.Trees are mentioned numerous times in the Bible: Jesus is the true vine; many major events in the Bible mention trees; the Bible itself is described as a tree of life and those who trust the Lord are described as fruitful trees**

**2. Many Bible characters are associated with trees: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Zacchaeus; the disciples of Jesus etc**

**3. Jesus is associated with trees: He grew up like a small plant then died on the cross so we could be forgiven**

**4. Like Jesus, trees give so much: They give life, beauty, rest, shade, food protection, medicine, shelter and clean the air.**

**The new class names are below:**

**Nursery**

**Cedar Class**

**Reception**

**Ebony Class**

**Year 1**

**Juniper Class**

**Year 2**

**Oak Class**

**Year 3**

**Olive Class**

**Year 4**

**Palm Class**

**Year 5**

**Sycamore Class**

**Year 6**

**Willow Class**

**During our Forest School day we will be involved in forest school activities in our Peace Garden, Edible Playground and learn more about our new class names.**

**Children can wear one item of green clothing on this day if they wish.**

**School Updates**

# Operation Christmas Child

Each year we support Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal when we send shoeboxes containing Christmas girts to less fortunate children throughout the world. We were in two minds about whether to support it this year due to the current pandemic, but we felt that in times such as these we need to continue to think about those less fortunate than ourselves and provide hope and support to others. This is a lovely family activity to do over the half term. Your child will have been given an information leaflet with details about filling a shoebox. Ideas for what can be included in the shoebox are below. Please do not spend too much and make sure boxes are returned to the school office by **Friday 6th November 2020**

### Toys

- Doll
- Stuffed animal or toy
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or recorder)
- Small foam football or tennis ball
- Finger puppets
- Slinky
- Etch A Sketch
- Skipping rope
- Play-doh (you could add plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils to use with it)
- Small puzzles
- Costume items to play dress-up, such as crowns and costume jewellery
- Plastic toys and toy figures
- Yo-yo
- Small Frisbee
- Small kite

### School Supplies

- Pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Coloured pencils
- Pencil Case
- Crayons
- Felt Pens
- Colouring pads
- Colouring books
- Picture book
- Notebooks
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue)
- Small adhesive tape
- Watercolour paint set (Finger paint palette, paint brushes, paper)
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Geometry set
- Pre-inked Stampers

### Hygiene Items

- Comb
- Hairbrush
- Toothbrush
- Flannel
- Bar soap (packaged and/or in a container)
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (Consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or flannel to make use of the space)

### Other

- Hat/scarf/mittens
- Sunglasses
- Small bag/purse
- Hair bows or clips
- Friendship bracelets (woven with yarn or embroidery thread)
- Make-it-yourself craft items or kit
- Binoculars
- A personal note and photo

**Visit https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ For more details**

# School Updates

## COVID measures

**As London has entered into Tier 2 of COVID measures, we will be updating our risk assessments to make sure that there are increased precautions across the school. Please can you wear a face covering at all times when you enter the school premises? Thank you**

## PARENT SURVEY

**Please complete our survey to help us support you and your child/children during this time**

**CLICK HERE**

## Flu Immunisations

Your child's school Flu immunisation will take place on **Monday 30th November 2020**. If you have not returned a signed consent form, we will **NOT** be immunising your child. However, should you still wish for your child to be immunised please contact the school office to request another form.

Depending on the government guidance, we hope to resume our After School Clubs from January 2021. Further details and booking information will be sent out in the next term.

## KEY SCHOOL DATES

| DATE | DETAILS |
|---|---|
| Thu 22nd Oct 2020 | Launch of Operation Christmas Child—shoebox appeal |
| Fri 23rd Oct 2020 | Last day of Term 1 |
| Mon 26th—Fri 30th Oct 2020 | Half Term Break |
| Mon 2nd Nov 2020 | Children return to school |
| Tue 3rd Nov 2020 | Forest Day! A day of special learning when we unveil the new names of our classrooms and additional rooms across the school. They will be named after trees, mainly from the Bible. More details on the front |
| Wed 4th Nov 2020 | Parents Evening—Nursery to Year 2 |
| Thu 5th Nov 2020 | Parents Evening—Year 3 to Year 6 |
| Fri 6th Nov 2020 | Last day for all shoeboxes to be returned to school for Operation Christmas Child |
| Wed 11th Nov 2020 | Remembrance Day |
| Fri 27th Nov 2020 | Inset Day—School closed for Pupils |
| Mon 30th Nov 2020 | Flu Vaccinations |
| Wed 2nd Dec 2020 | EYFS Nativity –tbc |
| Wed 9th Dec 2020 | YR1 & YR2 Nativity –tbc |
| Thu 17th Dec 2020 | St Mark's Carol Service—St Marks Church—tbc |
| Thu 17th Dec 2020 | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL |
| Mon 4th Jan 2021 | Inset Day—School closed for Pupils |
| Tue 5th Jan 2021 | Children return to school |