Unique and
Valued by God

ST MARK'S NEWS

Tuesday 23rd June 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,

Back in May, the Government announced that schools would be open for children in Reception, Year 1, Year 6, Key Worker children and some SEN children. We are extremely pleased that nearly 50 children from these groups are regularly attending St Mark's. A few weeks ago, the government decided not to open schools up for all year groups but encouraged schools to invited other year groups in if they felt they had the capacity. We are trying our best to do this, as we think that children may find it even more difficult to adjust back to school life in September after six months away from school than they would now. We also want to provide children with the opportunity to finish the year with their teacher, have some high quality face to face teaching and participate in some transition work to prepare them for September 2020.

Our plan to provide children with face to face contact with their teachers is as follows:

Year 5—From Wednesday 24th June (Wednesday and Thursday only)
Year 2—From Monday 29th June (Monday and Tuesday only)

We are also looking at ways in which our Year 3 and 4 children can return to school to have a face to face experience with their teacher. Unfortunately we will not be able to take back our Nursery children until September 2020 due to staffing shortages and space limitations. The link for the booking forms needs to be completed by midday tomorrow if you want children to start school next week.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jwfCGUYvuEu88WHDNy5GXs9Bc9u9QBdPiB8u3vfuXQ1URTg0OFJYWjNIV0VMR0xLNDQ1MVNJUjFIRy4u

Teachers will continue to make phone calls to their classes each fortnight and work will continue to be set on the website for those working from home. Please continue to send three pieces of work through to your child's class teacher.

Bible Verse

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.
2 Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live

Psalm 116:1-2

During the week, children in school have learned about the Windrush generation and the contribution they made to England after the war. One of our collective worship assemblies was based on their resilience and the children also took part in singing 'You can get it if you really want " by Desmond Dekker

Learning Lessons from Lockdown

We have all been through a lot during the past few months and I believe that it is important that we take time to stop, think and reflect on the experiences that we have been through as individuals and as families. By doing so it will help us to learn valuable lessons for the future. Reflections or famous quotes that come to my mind are as follows:

1. **In time of crisis, the wise build bridges, but the foolish build barriers.**

2. **Be nice to people and make friends and not enemies. In time of need you will have people to call upon for support and help**

3. **People are capable of tremendous acts of self sacrifice and we should remember those who have demonstrated this during the pandemic**

4. **There are so many things that we think we need and depend upon, which we can easily live without**

5. **Necessity is the mother of invention. When we need something we can quickly develop a range of skills. We have hidden capabilities within us.**

6. **We need to appreciate the little things and the freedoms that we take for granted—shopping, food, gardens, friends, family, a place of worship, school etc**

7. **We need God in our lives. As humans we are limited beings and so many things are out of our control; therefore it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man (Psalm 118:8)**