Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly News
23rd November 2018

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Governors,

PARENTS' EVENING/PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

It was very good to see so many of you during our parents' evenings two week's ago. Your support and contribution to your child's education is very valuable and has an impact on the progress they make whilst at school. Please continue to read with or encourage your child to read every night, to help them to develop reading fluency. Regular reading will also help children to understand what they read and enable them to be imaginative, creative writers.

Percentage of parents seen:

Nursery - 88.00%

Reception — 96.00%

Year 1— 100.00%

Year 2 — 100.00%

Year 3 — 68.00%

Year 4 — 96.20%

Year 5 — 96.00%

Year 6 — 90.00%

Effective Parents, Successful children: Growing and Nurturing resilient, happy children -Wednesday 28th November 9.00am

We do hope that you can join us next Wednesday, when Angela, our school Counsellor, will be delivering her second parenting workshop for St Mark's Parents. There was very positive feedback from last Term's workshop on positive communication, to which over 20 parents attended.

Value of the Week

COMPASSION

BIBLE VERSE

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

Attendance and Punctuality

Nursery— 96.67%

Reception— 88.99%

Year 1 - 99.09%

Year 2— 98.40%

Year 3— 95.71%

Year 4— 94.14%

Year 5— 97.71%

Year 6— 98.00%

Punctuality

Please make sure that you are in the playground and in line at 8.55am. There is an increasing number of children arriving late to school after the register has been taken and learning has started. Help children to be on time and ready for school.

What's been happening at St Marks?...

Shoebox Appeal

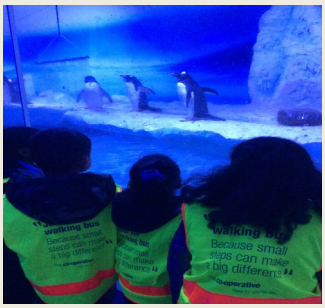
We hope that you will be able to support 'Operation Christmas Child' this year! Details were given to you about how you can make a Shoebox to send to another child in a different part of the world. Last year we sent off over 60 shoeboxes.

Please follow the instructions carefully and return your box before 9.00am on Thursday 29th November

Tag Rugby Competition —13 schools competed in this tournament, the children played 9 games over 2 days. The team achieved an impressive 6 wins, 1 draw and only 2 losses. This run of results got them to the semi-finals and they finished 3rd overall. **Well done to the team!**

Anti-Bullying Week — special workshops and e-safety events have been held during the past two week to help children to stay safe.

National Theatre — Year 5 were out to see the 'War Horse' this week and in preparation they enjoyed a warm-up session of re-enacting the play.



Year 1 had a fantastic trip to the Aquarium at the Southbank today as part of their topic on penguins and polar regions .

Well done to Year 5 who led a fantastic assembly last week on Remembrance.

St Mark's enters the 21st Century!

From January 2019, the front desk will move to becoming a cashless system and you will be able to make online payments for school dinners and school clubs from our school website. Most schools have already adopted this method of payment, providing a more flexible approach for parents and also avoiding large quantities of cash being stored at the school. Further details will follow.

ParentPay Login

Take the Health Check

www.cyphp.org/health-check

We know that these health conditions impact on school attendance and attainment and would like to ensure children with these conditions are supported to achieve optimum health. Please log onto the website for further information on the services provided by the group.

Healthy Pack Lunches and Snacks

Thank you to all Parents that are making a great change by providing healthy packed lunches and healthy snacks. Please remember we have some children that have **NUT ALLERGIES**, so please avoid any ingredients containing nuts e.g. Peanut Butter, Nutella Spreads, Nuts etc. Also please be aware that we are a water only school due to the high level of sugar in juices and artificial chemicals in drinks that say

After School Clubs

We have had an amazing term of After School Clubs and sadly our last week of clubs will be Friday, 30th November 2018.

Do not however despair! We will be returning in the New Year with many more exciting clubs.

Registrations will be taking place in January 2019, so do look out for letters with providing further information.

Growing Against violence

I am sure that many of you are very saddened and concerned about the levels of violence that are currently taking place in our local neighborhoods. It is impacting individuals and families very close to us and many of our children are seeing, hearing and witnessing incidents that we would rather they did not. It was therefore great to have **'Growing Against Violence**' - a group that aim to educate children in primary and secondary school about how protection, prevention and partnership can help to tackle youth violence - visit St Mark's yesterday. They delivered a parent workshop and two class workshops. The parent workshop was very well attended with 30 parents in attendance, which is 15% of our parent population! The pupil workshops were very revealing and showed how children within our school are more aware about what is going on than we may think. Some were able to name a number of local gangs and sadly had experienced incidents within their own families of gang-related violence. Others were familiar with the 'drill' music which promotes gang violence. Rachel, the facilitator hopes to come back to the school soon to run a further session. More details can be obtained from their website: **www. growingagainstviolence.org.uk** Also further details about the facts, signs and reasons for which children join gangs can be found at : **www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/gangs-and-gang-crime-advice-parents**

Parent Faith Group Members

Each Friday lunchtime, an enthusiastic group of children meet with me to establish projects across the school and to pray for the needs of the school community. It is a pleasure and privilege to meet with the prayer monitors.

We are now looking for parents to join us in establishing a faith group. This group will work on helping the school prepare for its Christian Distinctiveness Inspection due to take place later this year.

If you are interested in helping with this, which will involve meeting once or twice each half term, please email Mr Ingram on: **headteacher@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk**

Outstanding Art and DT Opportunities at St Mark's

It is very pleasing to see the high quality Art and DT work that the children have produced during the course of the term. They are rapidly developing into excellent artists and designers. Below: ***Year 3 poppies inspired by 'In Flanders Field ' Poem; Year 4 Clay work based on their topic of the Greeks*** and ***Year 6 collages completed during their Term 1 Topic of 'Freedom'***. During Term 3 we will share some Key Stage 1 Art and Design work for you to see.

Obtaining recognition for our excellent work across the curriculum

So much exciting, inspirational learning is taking place across the school. We have increased the number of tournaments the children are able to participate in; most classes go out on school trips and events every half term; we have regular visitors and workshops for the children to participate in and the children are producing excellent work. We now want to receive recognition for the work we do across the school. During the academic Year of 2018-19 we hope to receive accreditation for: **Healthy Schools, Eco Schools, Arts Mark, Inclusion Quality Mark and Forest School**. Please support us in our efforts to obtain these accreditations

Term Dates for 2018/19

Date	Event	Details
Friday 23rd November 2018	Year 1 out to London Aquarium	
Wednesday 28th November 2018	Workshop - Effective Parents, Successful Children: Growing and Nurturing Resilient, Happy Children	Parent Workshop at 9.00am
Wednesday 5th December 2018	Reception out to Peckham Theatre – Robin Hood	Parent volunteers needed
Monday 10th December 2018	Year 5 and 6 Chess Tournament	30 children at Earls Court
Wednesday 12th December 2018	EYFS Nativity	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Thursday 13th December 2018	Drama Club Presentations to Parents	
Friday 14th December 2018	**Christmas Craft Market**	**3.30-4.15pm**
Tuesday 18th December 2018	Pantomime	2.15pm in School Hall
Wednesday 19th December 2018	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Thursday 20th December 2018	St Mark's Carol Service 9.30am Held at St Mark's Church	Led by Key Stage 2
Thursday 20th December 2018	Class Parties	1:15 onwards in Classrooms
Friday 21st December 2018	**End of Term 2**	**School finishes at 1.30 pm**
Monday 7th January 2019	**Inset Day for Staff**	
Tuesday 8th January 2019	**Term 3 - Children return to school**	**8.55am**
Tuesday 8th January 2019	Maths and Art Week	
Friday 18th January 2019	Years 2 & 5 Fire Brigade Education	
Monday 28th January 2019	Years 5 and 6 trip to Houses of Parliament	All Day
Wednesday 30th January 2019	Multi- Sports Festival for Year 1	St Martins in the Field 9.30-3.00pm
Wed 6th and Thurs 7th Feb 2019	Parents' Evening	
Friday 15th February 2019	St Mark's Day	
Friday 15th February 2019	Valentine's Event	
Friday 15th February 2019	**Last Day of Term 3**	
Monday 25th February 2019	**Term 4 - Children return to school**	
Wednesday 27th February 2019	Year 5 and 6 Girls football tournament	9-1pm at Kennington Park
w/c Monday 4th March 2019	Reading and Writing Week	All week
Wednesday 6th March 2019	Year 5 and 6 Girls football tournament	9-1pm at Kennington Park
Thursday 7th March 2019	World Book Day	
w/c Monday 18th - 22nd March 2019	Lambeth Music Festival	TBC
Thursday 21st March 2019	School Council visit to Houses of Parliament	
Friday 29th March 2019	Mother's Day Breakfast	
Monday 1st April 2019	RE Week	
Wednesday 3rd April 2019	Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball Tournament	9.30-1.30 at Elm Green school
Friday 5th April 2019	**End of Term 4**	