Unique and
Valued by God

The St Mark's News
24th March 2016
Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This has been a week in which the children have excelled on the stage again and again. I have been proud to see their hard work, practise and commitment all pay off as they have joyfully participated in a range of events throughout the week. Well done to all of the children and their teachers who have helped to prepare them for their performances.

Junior Choir at Lambeth Music Festival, Royal Festival Hall

On the front row with 900 children behind them, our junior choir made up of mainly Year 5 children, along with some from Years 3 and 4, performed superbly throughout The Music Festival on Tuesday evening. Look at the gallery section of the website to see photos of the event.

Year 4 Easter Performance at St Mark's Church, Kennington

A big well done to children in Year 4 who led this year's Easter Service and helped us to understand the true meaning of Easter. It was lovely to see so many parents present to support the event and see children take to the stage.

Infant Choir at Lambeth Music Festival, Royal Festival Hall

Our Year 2 children performed exceptionally well during Tuesday's Infant Choir. They knew all of the words and actions and demonstrated superb confidence on the stage.

Opportunities that children have to perform before an audience at St Mark's

Reception—Nativity
Year 1– KS1 Nativity
Year 2—KS1 Nativity and Lambeth Music Festival
Year 3– Music Concert in Summer Term and opportunities to play in Collective Worship
Year 4– Easter Service
Year 5– Lambeth Music Festival
Year 6—End of Year Production

In addition to this:

- **All KS2 children had the opportunity to take part in the Christmas Carol Concert**
- **The recorder group helped to lead the music in collective worship each term and take part in a range of performances**
- **A music concert will be held towards the end of the Summer Term to celebrate our music**
- **Classes will be leading Collective Worship to parents in the Summer Term**

Reception Class visit Southwark Cathedral

What to do over Easter

Do you have plans for your children over the Easter period? Please look on our website for a range of low cost or free events and activities for the family. For more details, look in the community section under the headings: 'Low Cost and Free Events for the Family' and Enrichment Events and Activities.

Diary Dates

Monday 11th April

School begins at 8.55am

Tuesday 12th April

General Meeting for the forming of a Parent and Staff Association

School Hall at 9.00am. Please come to support and help to elect officers

Attendance and Punctuality

We are pleased to announce that the school's attendance and punctuality data has risen with far more children attending school regularly and fewer holidays being taken during term time.
Our 100% winners for this term are:

Aisha Ince in Reception

Keziah, Maja, Kelvin, Faith, Ayman, Tomiwa, Neriah and Ethen in Year 1
Bethel, Alicia, Ziva, Sami, Selim and Anna in Year 2
Juanita, Sara– Amanee, Elisa, Jacob, Maria-Clara, Ayham, Jasmine and Filipa in Year 3
D'Andra May, Yasmin, Sheldon, Serena, Pierreice, Romona and Saied in Year 4
Jayden, Marcela, Ku-Yu, Thaisa, Nia, Rebecca, Maria, Joao, Tsion In Year 5

Special Recognition for key learners in Term 4

Stars of the Term

At the end of each term, teachers select 3 children who have demonstrated excellent achievement ,excellent effort and excellent collaboration in the way they have worked with others. So many children across the school demonstrate these qualities but the children below have been chose by their teachers for Term 4:

Reception	Karmani	Oreoluwa	Aiden
Year 1	Kelvin	Carlos	Vivien
Year 2	Anna	Kassia	Sami
Year 3	Gracie	Nazzerah	David
Year 4	Kachine	Senay	Saied
Year 5	Marcela	Steven	Maria
Year 6	Cristian	Niat	Othniel

Reflections on Easter

During the past few weeks Caroline (our church worker from St Mark's and the Prayer Monitors who she works with each week,) created an Easter Egg hunt. Each child received an Easter egg, but more importantly, time was provided for children in all classes across the school to think more deeply on some of the themes relating to the Easter story.

Year 5 at the Globe Theatre

An Easter Message

The Easter celebration marks the end of Holy Week, in which Christians commemorate the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus had his last meal with his disciples on the evening of a Thursday (commemorated as Holy Thursday), He was arrested during the night, tried Friday morning (Good Friday), condemned, crucified, and died before sundown on Friday. And, according to the Gospel accounts, he was bodily raised from the dead on the third day — Sunday, the day of Easter.

Belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the belief on which every other Christian belief rests. It's how we know that Jesus was not just a preacher, but actually the Son of God. He rose from the dead.

But Christians celebrate Easter not just for historical reasons. They believe that Jesus' triumph over death on Easter wasn't just his triumph — it was theirs, too.

Christians believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus changed the world not just at a historical level — which it clearly did — but also at a supernatural level. By willingly going to the cross and then rising from the dead, Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Son of God, took the payment and punishment for the sin of those who trust in him.

Christians will readily admit that sin and death seem to be as powerful as ever, but through the sacrifice of Jesus, sin and death have been revealed to be things we can overcome. After the 40 days of spiritual preparation, by which some Christians prepare for this holiday, Easter and Christ's resurrection, demonstrates that we can be resurrected as well. Because Jesus Christ defeated sin and death, we can be free from its dominance and power in this life; and in the next, we will have eternal life with God.

If the crucifixion was about everything that is bad about the world, Easter is about how we can be free from everything bad. For Christians, Easter commemorates the fact that, supernaturally, the resurrection of Jesus Christ changed something fundamental about the world and about humanity.

In the end, the meaning of Easter is as simple as it seems: it says that life triumphs over death.

Some Family Events on over Easter. See our website for more details

Horniman Museum

FREE (All ages with specific events for Ages 14-19 years)

100 London Road, SE23 3PQ / 020 8699 1872 / www.horniman.ac.uk

Buses: 176, 185, 312, P4, 63, 122, P13

Easter Fair - Sat 26th & Sun 27th Mar, 10.30am-4.30pm. Take part in a weekend eggstravaganza which includes an Easter Egg Hunt, egg decorating workshops, the chance to browse and buy at art and craft stalls, and a Bandstand Bunny Hop dance – not to mention the chance to meet the Easter Bunny!

Easter Art Fun - Everyday Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri of the holidays, 11am-2.45pm. It's time to get crafty and have some fun, depending on which day you attend (or you could attend all!) you could decorate an egg complete with a baby dinosaur inside, design and decorate a brilliant dinosaur mask, make a Springtime mobile or create your own British garden bird complete with flapping wings. Before visiting, check the website for details of the day's activities. Entry is banded every 45 minutes.

Big Wednesdays: Each day is jam packed full of fun activities including arts, crafts, music, storytelling & more! **Easter Eggstravaganza** – Wed 30th Mar, 11am-3.30pm. A day of fun activities about eggs & egg-laying animals. **Spring Rites** – Wed 6th Apr, 11am-3.30pm. A day of fun activities inspired by the beginning of Spring.

Community Teachsport: Park Active – Everyday except Sun/Sat from 29th Mar - 8th Apr, 11am-3.30pm - Take part in some healthy drop in activities run by fully qualified sports tutors. There will be suitable activities for tiny tots, while older participants can have a go at sports of all kinds from around the world. Tutors can also give advice on a number of issues including; healthy living, child obesity prevention and physical play in the home.

Brixton Easter Fete - Pop Brixton

FREE (All Ages)

49 Brixton Station Rd, SW9 8PQ / 020 7274 2903 / www.popbrixton.org

Mon 28th Mar, noon-7pm

Take part in an egg hunt around the Pop containers and open spaces (led by a rather large set of ears!).With a disco for the little ones, family games in the Main Square and live music there's Easter fun for all the family!

Family Workshop - National Portrait Gallery

FREE (All Ages)

St Martins Place, Westminster City, WC2H 0HE / 020 7306 0055 / www.npg.org.uk

Nearest tube: Leicester Square

Performance for Families: A Golden Age – Mon 28th Mar, 2pm -3pm (All ages). Join dancers from the London school of Russian Ballet to for a performance inspired by the great writers and composers featured in *Russia and the Arts*.

Drop-in: Fabulous Decorated Eggs – Tue 29th & Fri 1st Apr, 11.30am-1pm & 2.30pm-4pm (Drop-in, Ages 5+). Design a fabulous egg inspired by *Russia and the Arts*.

Family: Folk Tales – Wed 30th Mar (BSL) and Thu 31st Mar, 11.30am-1pm & 2.30pm-4pm (Ages 5+). Hep create a collaborative stop motion animation inspired by Russian folk tales.

Skate Workshop - Royal Festival Hall

FREE (Ages 4-10yrs)

Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall, Belvedere Rd, South Bank, SE1 8XX / 0844 847 9910 / www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Nearest Tube: Waterloo

Sat 2nd Apr, 10am-1pm

Learn the basics of skateboarding with skilful tricks to impress. Boards, ramps and pads provided.