Unique and Valuable before God

The St Mark's News
26th February 2016
Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Our first week back after half term has been busy here at St Mark's. We have had university students with their lecturer, school governors, a headteacher from a school in Surrey and senior leadership staff from a local school all come in to visit St Mark's and go around the school and classrooms. All our visitors complemented the work that was going on at St Mark's. The university lecturer Ruth Hunt, who is also one of our school governors, mentioned that her students said that...

"*St Mark's was a warm and welcoming school that looked really well cared for and clearly promoted pupil voice. ..The students were particularly taken with the range of activities promoting pupil voice and pupil independence, including the monitors and regular school council meetings*."

Ruth and her students are going to do some important work in giving us ideas for how we can best develop the outside space in the current Reception area, as we continue to further develop our outdoor learning area and prepare ourselves for Nursery provision. The final page of the newsletter shows how many students from Tenison's are heading to university in the summer.

School Collective Worship theme: Resisting temptation

Our collective worship theme this week has been inspiring yet challenging and thought provoking. It has been focused around the power and the use of the tongue. It can be the source of such beautiful and positive things and yet at the same time it can cause such hurt, damage and destruction. The Bible says:

"With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; From the same mouth come both blessings and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way"

James 3:10

Diary Dates for Term 4

Friday 26th Feb Reception Parents' Evening 3.50-5.30
Monday 29th Feb –Reception and Year 6 height and weight being measured
Monday 29th Feb –St Mark's Book Week-Events throughout the week –see page three of newsletter
Thursday 3rd March –World Book Day– Dress up as a book character– parade at **9.05am**; Year 3 visiting Southwark Cathedral in the afternoon

Friday 4th March– Year 4 visiting Southwark Cathedral; Poetry Day
Monday 7th March– Friday 11th March– Year 6 School Journey to Carroty Wood, Tonbridge
Tuesday 8th March— Year 1 visiting the Natural History Museum
Friday 11th March—Maths Workshop for Parent **9-10am**
w/c 14th March– Year 5 involved in Cycle Confidence Training all week
Tuesday 15th March- the school recorder group performing at the Royal Festival Hall
Thursday 17th March—children from Walhampton School visiting St Mark's for two days
Friday 18th March Sport Relief Day– Dress in red and white, sporting activities during the day
w/c 21st March RE/Wonder Week
Tues 22nd March Reception Class visiting Southwark Cathedral
Tuesday 22nd March
Year 2, the school choir and some members of Year 5 taking part in the Lambeth Music Festival
Wednesday 23rd Year 4 Easter Production at St Mark's Church (time tbc) —All are welcome
Thursday 24th March— Term Ends at 1.30pm

Our fabulous recorder group led the music during collective worship on Thursday. Parents please note they will be performing at the **Lambeth Music Festival 1.00-2.00pm on Tuesday 15th March at the Royal Festival Hall**

Reception Parents' Workshop

(Speech, Language and Communication)

Thursday 3rd March 2016 from 9.05am – 10.00am

In The Hall

- Come along and learn more about developing language and communication.
- Get ideas of how you can support your child's learning at home.

Get your questions by a lead Speech and Language Therapist from Evelina (Guys and St Thomas's).

Kids Speech Matters

Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 who all achieved over 96% for attendance figures this week. Lateness last week improved on the week before half term. Please ensure that children are in their lines at 8.55am

School Uniform

Please see the attached details regarding school uniform. There has been an increase in the amount of high boots and trainers recently. Please revert back to school shoes now we are beyond the winter months.

Supervision of children

This is just to remind you that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 must not be left alone in the playground before school but must be supervised by an adult from 8.35-8.55 am. Children in Years 3 will be overseen by school staff. Thank you.

Book Week

Throughout next week we will be celebrating books across the school, aimed at promoting reading for pleasure and enjoyment. A number of events and activities will take place across the school for all pupils.

Reception reading books

Brand new school reading books that are linked to children's phonics learning will begin to be sent home for children in Reception. Parents be prepared to receive them from this week.

Monday 29th February - Willy Wonka Workshops

Willy Wonka is in school working with all classes from Reception to Year 6.

Wednesday 1st March - School Spelling Bee

A fun spelling test to emphasise the importance of spelling. Teams will be selected from different year groups and a team of three parents are required to take part. Please inform Mr Ingram or Mrs Eade if you are interested in taking part, or if you just want to come and observe come along to the school hall at 10.25am

Thursday 3rd March- World Book Day

Children can come into school dressed as their chosen book characters. This is not a non-school uniform day, so if children don't come dressed as a book character they need to wear their school uniform. Come and join us for a special parade at 9.05am in the hall, where children will show off their costumes and prizes will be awarded for the best book character costumes.

Friday 4th March – Poetry Day

Children will explore and enjoy a focus on poetry during their English lessons during the day.

We hope that you can enjoy the week with us and support us with the fun. Remember that every day is a reading day.

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

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 27th Jan, 1.30pm-4.30pm

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.

Digital Photography Day - British Museum

FREE (Ages 5+)

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

Nearest tube: Holborn/Russell Square

Sat 27th Feb, 11.30am-3.30pm

Use a digital camera to capture the Museum's ancient objects, and follow exciting photography trails through the gallery. Activity takes 30-60 minutes. A passport, national ID or driver's licence is required as a deposit.

Beautiful Butterflies with Up Club – Unicorn Theatre

FREE (Ages 4+)

147 Tooley St, Southwark SE1 2HZ / 020 7645 0560/ www.unicorntheatre.com

Nearest tube: London Bridge

Sat 28th Feb, noon-2pm

Take part in this drop-in craft activity and help create a Butterfly Garden for the Theatre's foyer display.

Tennis2Bee

Lambeth

GET ACTIVE SOUTHWARK

Tennis! Football!
FUN!

Camberwell Leisure Centre
Artichoke Pl, London, SE5 8TS

Start: 7 March 2016
(4-6pm) Cost: £6
(children / beginner adults)
discount available

RSVP:
http://tennis2bee.weebly.com
Email: tennis2bee@hotmail.com
Telephone: 0044 (0) 75278 13079

Growth Mindset for Parents

On Wednesday the teachers at St Mark's attended a growth mindset training session held at a local secondary school. The Growth mindset concept is about us being aware that our brains and skills grow and develop through perseverance, overcoming obstacles, being committed and challenging oneself. Success is not solely about us being naturally 'smart' or 'clever' but intelligence can grow. We will be using different strategies in class to promote this. Below are a few strategies that you as parents can use at home to promote a growth mindset with your children.

How do I Help Promote a Growth Mindset?

According to Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D., author of ***Mindset***, I can do the following:

1. Have daily learning discussions.

Ask… "What mistake did you make that taught you something? Or "What did you try hard at today?" rather than "What did you do today?"

2. Give feedback on process only.

Praise effort**, persistence, strategies, seeking challenges, setting goals, planning, or using creative strategies.**

Don't praise personal abilities like being smart, pretty, or artistic. This kind of praise actually can lead to a loss of confidence since kids won't be smart at everything. They'll doubt their ability to be good at something that is difficult initially.

3. Teach children that their brains can grow.

Explain to kids how the brain can grow stronger and that intelligence can improve throughout your life. **Intelligence is not fixed.** It's changeable.

What's more, learning CHANGES our brains. Kids need to know this is possible.

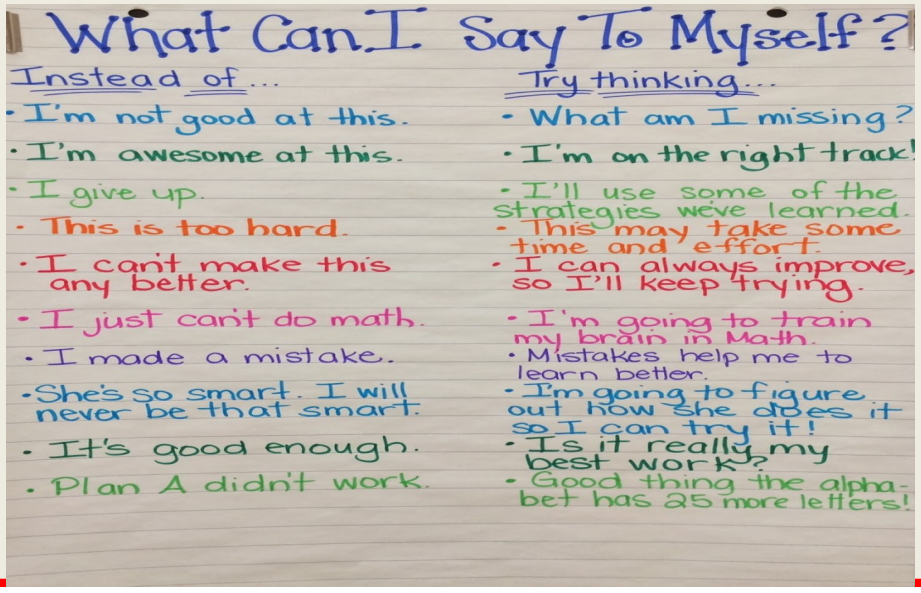
4. Encourage risk, failing, and learning from mistakes.

Now is the time to let our kids risk and fail. **Failure teaches our kids important life lessons. For one, it's how they learn resilience.**

And **when** your child fails, celebrate the lessons in the failure. Tell them about all the famous people who failed and didn't give up.

5. Encourage and model positive self talk.

. Our **self talk** is where it all starts to shift.



Success at the other end

Many Pupils in Year 13 at Archbishop Tenison's are on course to succeed into their next stage of education. Below is a pleasing summary of the different universities that the students have received offers for. Our Year 6 pupils recently participated in a week-long Into University project to inspire them to continue their education beyond secondary school.