Unique and Valuable before God

The St Mark's News

27th November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Inspiring Writing

We apologise if you were alarmed when you first entered on Monday morning. Our 'Aliens Week' was planned to inspire children's writing across the school and has done just that. Children have written excellent newspaper reports, character descriptions, police reports and produced alien fact files and pictures. Many thanks to Mr Harrowell who arranged this exciting week and all staff who supported him.

Social Media Safety

If you can, please make time to attend a very important parent workshop on social media safety. With so many of our children being active online and often unsupervised, this workshop will provide helpful information for all of us as parents. Please see the back page for more details .

School Collective Worship theme:

'The School's Core Values'

Wk 4– Hard Work

***In all hard work there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty*- Proverbs 14.23**

Volunteer Readers from Archbishop Tenison's Sixth Form will be reading with our pupils each week

Shoebox Appeal

Many thanks for supporting the Samaritan Purse shoebox appeal this Year. We are very pleased to announce that we have collected over 60 shoeboxes that will be sent overseas to children less fortunate than ourselves. The boxes will be collected on Tuesday 1st December.

Hard Work

Our core value of hard work was launched at the beginning of the week by Mrs Sims who not only informed us about famous people who overcome failures through working hard, but shared some of her own challenges on her way to becoming an Executive Headteacher.

Another busy week at St Mark's that has seen some unexpected happenings!

1. Monday 7.00 am. An unidentified metallic object was found in the arena.

2. Monday 8.30am Staff dressed in protective clothing, took observations and looked for clues. They found some unusual eggs.

3. Monday 9.20 am. Year 2 were very brave and managed to get a closer look.

4. Wednesday 8.45am. Out of the smoke emerged three, green alien-like creatures! They looked scary but were actually quite friendly.

5. Wednesday 2.00pm. After visiting classrooms, they paid a visit to Mr Ingram's office with Mr Harrowell.

Solange and Maja in Year 1 came to my office to share their excellent recounts of Alien Week.

In addition to the excitement of Alien Week, Year 5 visited the V & A Museum and now have expert knowledge on all things related to the Victorians. Year 6 learnt lots of important information relating to safe travel through a helpful presentation by transport for London.

St Mark's Christmas Carol Concert on Thursday 17th December 2015 at St Mark's Church

Auditions will be held next week Tuesday 1st December and Thursday 3rd December during lunchtime

We are looking for groups or individuals to sing, dance or play a musical instrument. If you would like to take part, please prepare something and come along to the auditions. Please try to make your act Christmas themed. Not all acts will make it through to the concert and if acts are not selected, there will still be an opportunity to perform to your class.

The school choir, recorder group and guitar group will also be performing at the Carol Concert.

Key Diary Dates (additions in red)

1st December	School Journey Meeting for Year 6 Parents 6.00 pm
1st December	Parents coffee morning and internet safety workshop 9-9.45am
2nd December	Year 5/6 Athletics Tournament (postponed until January)
8th December	Year 5 and 6 visiting Southwark Cathedral
9th December	Reception Nativity- 2.30 pm
10th December	Year 2 Visit to Southwark Cathedral
11th December	Year 1 Theatre visit to see the Nutcracker
15th December	Christmas lunch
16th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity- 2.30 pm
16th December	Recorder group performing at Christmas service at St Mark's Church-7.00 pm
17th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert at St Mark's Church—6.00 pm
18th December	Christmas Market—8.30-9.30 am
18th December	End of Term 2 School Finishes at 1.30 pm

Social Media Safety

coffee morning in the school hall

Tuesday December 1st 2015, [9.00 am – 9:45am]

We understand how difficult it can be to ensure your children are using the internet safely, especially when they are often using the internet outside of the home or the school. From the age of eight, most young people start experimenting with social media usage – whether it's browsing YouTube videos, creating SnapChat and Facebook accounts or following celebrities on Twitter.

We would therefore like to give parents at St Mark's School the opportunity to attend a social media safety morning on Tuesday December 1st from [9.00 am-9:45am]. A Lambeth Authority E-safety expert will talk you through:

- What the most popular social networks are and how they work
- How children aged 8-12 are using the Internet
- What the dangers are for you to be aware of
- What steps you can take to protect your children

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance winners for this week are Year 2 and Year 5 with 97% and 98%. Year 4 had the best punctuality across the school. Well done!