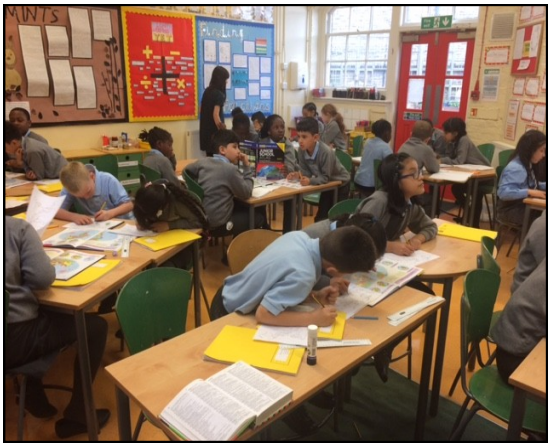
Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly News
28th April 2017

'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 Parents/Carers, Children and Governors



Year 4 children using maps to identify countries where cocoa beans are grown, as part of their new topic on chocolate

We have come to the end of our first full week of the Summer Term. This is a crucial period for each class across the school, as we are not only trying to get children ready for the challenges of the year ahead, but all children, especially those in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 will take part in end of Year assessments and tests. Please do all that you can to help to prepare your child for this. Information about how you can support your child at home has been shared with you throughout the year and is contained within the child's class Termly bulletin, which you should have received this week. Please speak to your child's class teacher for more information. In light of this, please ensure children are on time for school and all attempts are made to avoid unnecessary absences. A further opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher will be available for you on **Thursday 8th June 2017**. During this time you will able to view your child's English and Maths books, find out about how well they are achieving and gain further information regarding their next steps in learning.

Please also take note of the important dates for the **Summer Term** and **the term dates for 2017/18**.

Please can you also have in mind **8th July–** the date of our **School Summer Fair**. Please do all that you can to support us in raising money for the children at St Mark's. A productive **PSA** planning meeting took place yesterday and another one will be held on **Thursday 4th May**, to gather more ideas. Further details will follow next week about how you can help and contribute to making this event even bigger and better than last year.

Collective worship theme of the term:

Unique and Valued by God–
Diverse Yet Equal

Weekly Focus: Different Abilities

Bible Verse: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me . Philippians 4:13

Attendance and Punctuality

Reception	95%
Year 1	91.6%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	96.42%
Year 4	94.33%
Year 5	96.33%
Year 6	97.58%

Let's continue to work hard at making sure all children are in school at 8.55am and attend as regularly as possible.

School Payments

Like other schools, we will soon be moving with the digital age by allowing you to make school related payment using an online payment system. It is a far more efficient and convenient way to make school payments and will support us with the administration of breakfast club, after-school care, school dinners and other school related payments. Further guidance will be given and facilities will be made available for those of you who do not have online access at home.

More details will follow.

School Photos

School photographs will take place next week on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th May.

Parents and younger siblings may come into school on 5th May from 8.00am—8.45am to take a family group photo.

Please ensure that children are in full uniform.

After School Clubs

We are again grateful to Belinda Toussaint our Clerical Officer who does a great job in co-ordinating after school clubs across the school. We have a good range of clubs across Key Stages 1 and 2 for our learners to participate in. Please note that after school clubs are very heavily subsidised by the school to assist parents and children. We also do our best to accommodate all parent and children, which is not easy when demand exceeds places. Please provide us with feedback about how we can continue to excel in our after school clubs provision.

Nursery Update

Over the past week or so we have received lots of interest for our new school Nursery Unit. Many thanks if you have recommended us to friends and neighbours. In your child's book bag you will find a leaflet outlining how free 30-hour Nursery provision for working parents will work and how you can obtain this benefit if you have children who are three years old. Please pass this on.

Children in Reception working hard across many areas of the curriculum this week and loving their new jungle area as part of their new theme on habitats.

Social Media Usage

For the past year the school has had a Twitter account which is used to update followers with information and photos about our work across the school. Parents were given the option to opt out if they didn't want their children to appear on Twitter. The school has recently created a facebook account to promote ourselves to a wide audience across the internet. If you do not want your child to appear on either facebook or on Twitter please inform the office by **Friday 5th May 2017**.

School Parking

Please avoid parking on the yellow zig- zag lines outside the school gates. Parked cars makes crossing the roads more dangerous and difficult for our children. Also in recent days a parking attendant has been lurking in the area waiting to issue tickets for cars parked on these lines

Vacancy for a Parent Governor

Could you be part of the school leadership team to help to move St. Mark's from Good to Outstanding?

- Do you have the ability to think strategically, identify areas of improvement and both support and challenge school leaders to provide the best possible education for the pupils of St Mark's?
- Are you able to attend approximately 6-8 meetings per year to contribute to discussions and plans on school improvement?

Please email Mr Ingram with an expression of interest and to obtain further information at: headteacher@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk

An update on School Funding

As a Governor at St Mark's I recently attended an Open Forum at Sunny Hill Primary School in Streatham, organised by a South London group of parents. The purpose of the meeting was to explain what Fair Funding for All Schools means, to talk about the impact on Lambeth Schools and to seek the help of parents.

Fair Funding for All Schools is a national parent-led campaign, working to stop the cuts to school funding through parent and people-power. It supports the Government's proposal to make the allocation of funding fairer than it is at the moment, but not by taking money away from some councils and giving it to others. As things stand, Lambeth will be the fifth worst affected borough in the country. The proposed cuts will have a direct impact on every school in Lambeth and Governors and Head Teachers will have to make hard choices between larger class sizes, fewer teachers and reduced facilities for children.

The Fair Funding for All School organisers want to have local representatives in as many schools as possible to raise awareness and involve local parents. If you feel this is something you'd be interested in, please speak to Mr Ingram. You can find out more about the campaign at www.fairfundingforallschools.org, join the local Facebook group (Fair Funding for All Schools Lambeth), or follow the group on Twitter (@FairFund Lambeth).

Helen Niven (Chair of Achievement Committee)

PROVISIONAL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES – ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

Autumn Term 2017

	Friday 1st September – **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
	Monday 4th September – **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
Start:	**Tuesday 5th September** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Friday 20th October**
Half Term:	Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October
Start:	**Monday 30th October** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Thursday 21st December**
Christmas Holiday:	Friday 22nd December - Monday 8th January

Spring Term 2018	Monday 8th January – **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
Start:	**Tuesday 9th January** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Friday 9th February**
Half Term:	Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February
Start:	**Monday 19th February** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Thursday 29tht March**
Easter Break:	Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April

Summer Term 2018

Start:	**Monday 16th April** – All pupils return to school
	Monday 7th May (Bank Holiday school closed)
Finish:	**Friday 25th May**
Half Term:	Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June
Start:	**Monday 4th June** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Friday 20th July**

In addition to this, the school staff will be working 4 twilight sessions for staff training

BANK HOLIDAYS 2017 / 2018

Monday 25 December 2017 (Christmas Day)

Tuesday 26 December 2017 (Boxing Day)

Monday 1 January 2018 (New Year's Day)

Friday 30th March 2018 (Good Friday)

Monday 2nd April 2018 (Easter Monday)

Monday 7 May 2018 (May Day)

Monday 28 May 2018 (Spring Bank Holiday)

Monday 27 August 2018 (Summer Bank Holiday)

Permission will not be given for pupils to be taken out of school during term time for family holidays, as this is very disruptive to their education and is not in keeping with Government guidelines.

Low Cost No Cost

Please look at organisations' websites to double check times and arrangements

Canalway Cavalcade 2017

FREE

Sat 29th Apr – Mon 1st May, 10am-6pm (5pm on Mon)

Sunday 30th April 9:00pm - 10:30pm for the procession of illuminated boats

Little Venice, between Blomfield Rd, Warwick Ave & Warwick Cres, W9 2PB / www.waterways.org.uk

Nearest Tube: Warwick Ave

Canalway Cavalcade is London's biggest, brightest and best waterways festival. There will be activities for all the family with a boaters' gathering, a pageant of boats, trade shows and stalls, live music, kids' activities, competitions, Morris Dancers, a real ale bar, a wide variety of snacks and food.

The Modern Movement: Brockwell Lido

FREE

Sat 29th & Sun 30th April, 10am – 4.30pm

Brockwell Lido – Dulwich Rd SE24 0PA / 07958673703

Brockwell Lido hosts The Modern Movement, a festival of 20th Century design. Back for its 10th year, The Modern Movement, is south London's prestigious, free festival featuring classic vintage furniture, jewelry and beautiful things.

Digital workshop - British Museum

FREE (Age 7+)

Sat 29th Apr, 11am-4pm

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

Nearest tube: Holborn/Russell Square

Connect to the Museum in exciting, new ways using wearable technology. Work together to solve a digital puzzle trail, find missing jigsaw pieces and put them back where they come from in the galleries.

Last admission to borrow a device 3.15pm. *A passport, national ID or driver's licence is required as a deposit.*

Family workshops - Museum of London Docklands

FREE (Ages 5+)

Sat 29th & Sun 30th April

Hertsmere Road, West India, E14 4AL / 020 7001 9844 / www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Nearest tube: Canary Wharf / DLR: Westferry

Sat 29th April, 12.00pm & 2.30pm: Something's fishy –make a Bobbin hat as worn by fish porters in Billingsgate market

Sun 30th April, 1.45pm: Story Seekers - search for the stories and people behind our collections in this interactive family tour. Learn about life in London as you hear, see, feel and smell the past in this multi-sensory sessions.

Pop up performance for families - V&A Museum

FREE (All Ages)

Saturday 29th April, 11am, 1pm & 3pm

Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL / 020 7942 2000/ www.vam.ac.uk

Nearest tube: South Kensington

Clara Button and the Magical Hat Journey: Choose a hat to wear and join Clara Button and her brother Ollie on a magical journey around the museum.

Location: Level 1, Islamic Middle East, Rm 42. This is a promenade performance with level access. It begins in Islamic Middle East, Rm 42 and moves to South Asia, Room 41 then Fashion, Rm 40, finishing in South Asia, Rm 41

Diary Dates