Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly News
29th September 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 Pupils, Parents, Carers and Governors,

Our Outstanding Curriculum

So many things have taken place across the past two weeks, which demonstrates the outstanding curriculum that we offer to our children, enabling them to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally through real, meaningful learning experiences. Children in **Years 5 and 6** participated in a one night school journey to CYE Sailing Centre in Chichester; children in **Year 6** made pizza at Pizza Express in Kennington; children in **Years 3 and 4** dressed as Anglo-Saxons and worked with a 'real life' Anglo-Saxon for the day; **Year 2** visited Brockwell Park Greenhouses and **Year 1** visited Vauxhall City Farm. During my learning walk yesterday afternoon, I witnessed outstanding: music provision in **Year 3** from Musictrax; science teaching in **Year 6**; outdoor learning across the early years and in **Year 2** and performance poetry in **Year 5**– see pictures below

Becoming a healthier school

On **page 3** of the newsletter we have summarised some changes that we will make to packed lunches and birthday food in order to help the school to achieve healthy school status. For further details, please see our full draft food policy and packed lunch policy available on the school website or from the school office.

Value of the Week

Friendship

Greater love has no one than This, than to lay down one's Life for his friends.

John 15:13

Attendance and Punctuality

Nursery— 89.22%
Reception— 95.31%
Year 1 - 95.17%
Year 2— 97.24%
Year 3— 91.13%
Year 4— 94.66%
Year 5—98.47%
Year 6—97.78%

Well done to Years 2, 5 and 6. Please continue to make sure that your children are on time and attend regularly.

Late collection

Please ensure that children are collected on time at the end of the school day. **Late children will now be placed within our After school Care provision & parents will be charged £12 per day per child**

Harvest Festival

Please give children dry & tinned food to bring to school next week, so we can give it to charity as part of our Harvest Festival . A special service will take place at St Mark's Church on

Tuesday 3rd Oct 10.25am.

Please feel free to join us

St Mark's After School Care from 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Where have the weeks gone? Well, all I can say it certainly goes fast when you are having fun. We are now into week 2 & in a good routine.

The children & (me too) are having lots of fun, they are making new friends, playing lots of Games / Lego, Arts and Crafts

At **4.30pm** every day we have a light meal. The favourite is pizza and beans on toast.

Places are available, If you would like further information or an application form, please come and speak to Natasha in the school office.

Nursery Gate and Pathway

We are pleased to announce that our Nursery Gate will be accessible very soon. Workmen have finished laying the path and we are just waiting for a further fence to be built around the gate to help to safeguard our early years children. More details will follow next week.

Free School Meal Status

To all parents from Nursery to Year 6

If you feel that your child is entitled to **Free School Meals**, please come to the school office so we can check your eligibility as soon as possible.

To be eligible you will need to be in receipt of one of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)**
- **Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit**
- **Universal Credit**

Special Menu on Thursday 5th October

Jerk Chicken and Fragrant Rice

Mixed bean and Quorn Jollof Rice

Sweetcorn and Peas Mix

Cupcakes

Cinnamon and Raisin Bread

Spaces in After School Clubs 3.30—4.30pm

We have had an exciting start to our After School Clubs this term.

We still have available spaces in the following clubs:

FOOTBALL Yr3 & Yr4

CHOIR

FOOD SCIENCE (Cookery)

FOOTBALL Yr5 & Yr6

See Miss Bee for more information

Helping St Mark's to achieve Healthy School Status

The school is well on its way to gathering evidence in its aim to achieving Healthy School Status. 85% of Lambeth Schools already have this award and as a school we need to demonstrate that we have and promote healthy food, fitness and lifestyle practices at St Mark's School.

It is therefore necessary to update our current food and packed lunch practices to raise the expectations in relation to healthy eating. After consulting parents and children we have formulated new food and lunch time policies which will come into operation from the week commencing **Monday 9th October 2017.**
From this time onwards:

Packed Lunches

Packed lunches can include:

- a sandwich with a healthy savoury filling or equivalent main meal (eg. pasta, noodles, rice, cous cous, potato, soup, falafel, curry etc.)
- a portion of fresh or dried fruit without added sugar (eg. apple, mango, grapes, raisins) **AND** a portion of vegetables (eg. carrot sticks, mini tomatoes, cucumber, celery etc.)
- yoghurt, fromage frais, cheese or similar dairy item or other non-dairy protein item (eg. tofu, seeds, salami).
- Water (only)
- **ONE TREAT ITEM -** choose from a small cake OR a biscuit OR a cereal bar OR a small packet of crisps or snacks. (Please be aware that **these items often have high fat, sugar and salt levels**)

Please DO NOT INCLUDE:

- chocolate, chocolate covered biscuits or chocolate spread
- jam
- sweets
- fizzy drinks such as cola, Lucozade, and lemonade
- fruit drinks (eg. Ribena, Fruit Shoots), flavoured water, 'sports' drinks, squash or cordials

As these items contain high amounts of sugar or artificial sweeteners

Birthdays

If parents and carers wish to celebrate their child's birthday with food (eg fruit, cake etc) the food will be distributed at the end of the school day when individual parents and carers can decide if they want their children to eat the food. **We ask that cake or fruit ONLY be given out. Crisps and fruit drinks will no longer be given out if they are put in bags. Please make sure that cake is pre-sliced and ready to hand out.**

School Council for 2017-18

A big welcome to our new school council representatives who were democratically elected by their classmates after they gave a speech to their classes to explain why they felt they should be the school council leaders. Our new team are: **Lacara** and **Tiago** in **Year 2**; **Vivian** and **Norris** in **Year 3**; **Jaden-Lee** and **Anna** in **Year 4**; **Jacob** and **Norrissa** in **Year 5** and **Jeremy** and **Pierreice** in **Year 6**.

School Leaders of 2017-18

I am thrilled that nearly 70 children in **Years 3-6** have applied for jobs to be school monitors this term. Children will be given leadership opportunities and responsibility to lead as Star Monitors, Collective Worship Monitors, Library Monitors, Garden Monitors; Playground Monitors; Prayer Monitors, Eco Monitors, Play Buddies, PE Monitors, Newsletter Editors and ICT Monitors.

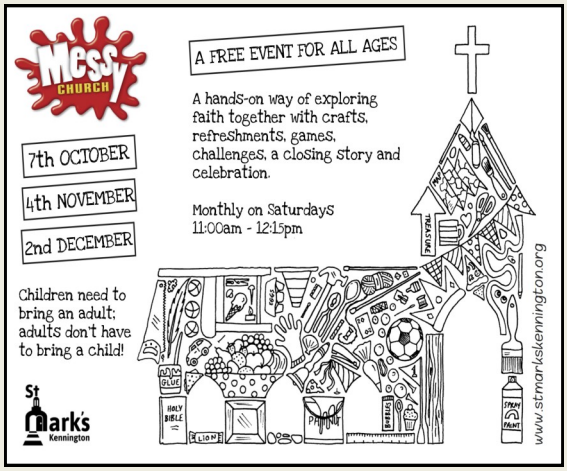
What has been going on at St Mark's ...

Year 5 have started to receive weekly chess tuition

Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a great school journey to CYE sailing Centre last week

Reverend Steve sat next to our Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday when England played the West Indies at the Oval and she sent her best wishes to all at St Mark's.

Messy Church at St Mark's Church



Year 5 and 6 began their violin and cello lessons

Early Years Vacancies

We are virtually full for Nursery in 2017, but still have some vacancies for Reception Class. If you know of anyone who is looking for a place, please tell them to contact the school!

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

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

NFL American Football Regent Street 2017

FREE

Saturday 30th September midday to 6pm

www.nfluk.com/events/regent-street

The award-winning NFL on Regent Street, presented by Visit Mexico, returns on Saturday, September 30 as London's busiest shopping street becomes a day-long celebration of American football.

On the eve of the Wembley contest between the New Orleans Saints and Miami Dolphins, the length of Regent Street from Piccadilly Circus to Oxford Circus will become a colourful festival of football between 12 noon and 6:00 p.m., featuring interactive games, on-stage performances and appearances, merchandise and much more.

Brixton Library - Make a Mess in the Library!

Brixton Library, Brixton Oval, SW2 1JQ

020 7926 1058

Saturday 30th September 3 – 4pm FREE

Kids weekly arts and crafts sessions.

National Gallery – Magic Carpet Storytelling

The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

Sunday 1st October 10:30 – 11am; 11:30 – 12pm FREE

Fly away on the magic carpet, which comes to land in front of a different painting every Sunday. Enjoy stories inspired by pictures in the National Gallery.

Suitable for children aged 2 – 5years; Places are limited and allocated on arrival. Arrive early to avoid disappointment. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

National Gallery – Pots a plenty

Sunday 1st October 11am – 1pm; 2 – 4pm FREE

Shop for vegetables in Beuckelaer's bountiful market stalls and transport your purchases into miniature clay vegetable pots.

Suitable for children aged 5 – 11; places are limited and allocated on arrival. Children must be accompanied by an adult.