Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

5th December 2025

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills and knowledge to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'

Dear Parents, Carers, Children, Governors and Staff,

During the past three weeks, every class has been on a class trip or visit and some children have been on more than one, due to their involvement in tournaments or competitions. I would like to give a big thank you to staff who take time to organise and arrange these educational experiences for the children. I would also like to say a big thank you to all parents, who support us on trips, as without this support, we would not be able to take the children out. Thank you parents for your ongoing support across all areas across the school

Although we have entered the Christmas period and we are taking advantage of exploring the Christmas story and message with the children, we are continuing with all other areas of the curriculum and children will continue to work up until the end of term.

Message for Nursery Parents

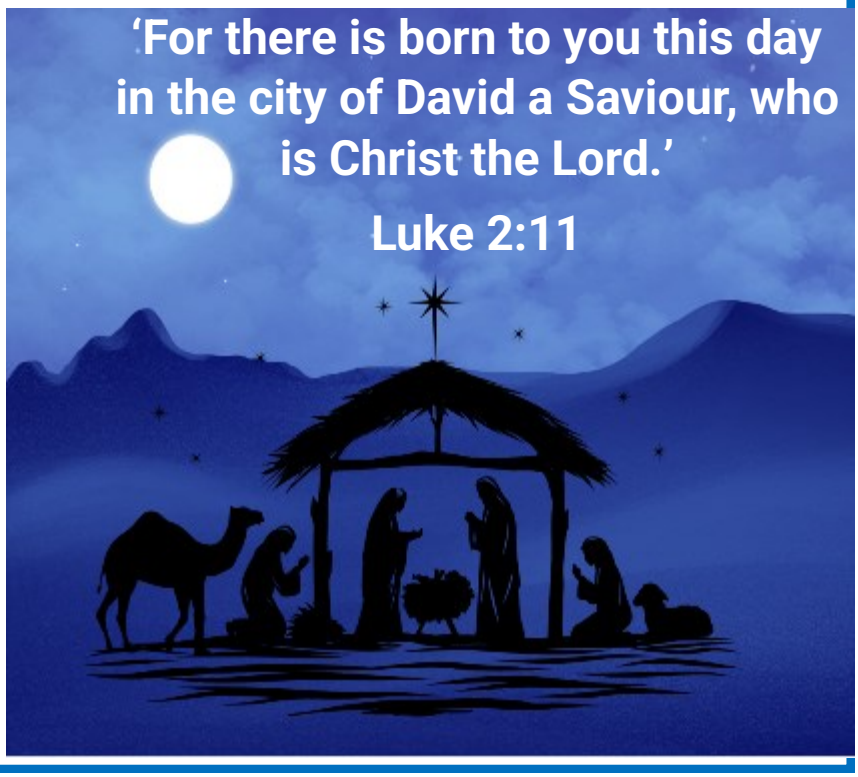
Please be aware that even though you have a child in Nursery, they do not automatically gain entrance into Reception, you still need to apply using this link **https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/**

Make sure you apply before 15th January 2026 and put us as the top priority to guarantee a Reception place. If you attend church, please also complete the church supplementary form

ATTENDANCE %	
Nursery	91.56
Reception Class	87.5
Class 1	96.98
Class 2	93.46
Class 3	96.93
Class 4	97.32
Class 5	88.04
Class 6	92.17
Whole School	92.5

Diary Dates at St Mark's

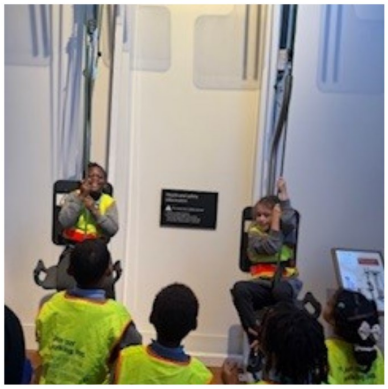
Tuesday 9th December	Reception Vision Screening
Wednesday 10th December	*Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity
Thursday 11th December 2025	**SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE DAY BY LAMBETH COUNCIL SO IT CAN BE USED FOR ELECTIONS**
Friday 12th December	*Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12th December	*School Christmas Lunch
Friday 12th December	St Mark's Christmas Market
Wednesday 17th December	St Mark's singing carols at the Oval Tube station – charity fundraiser for 'Robes' Homeless Charity
Thursday 18th December	Carol Concert at St Mark's Church led by Key Stage 2 children
Thursday 18th December	St Mark's Pantomime
Thursday 18th December	Last day of term
Friday 19th December	**No School – Inset day**

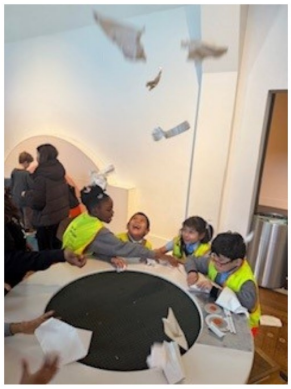


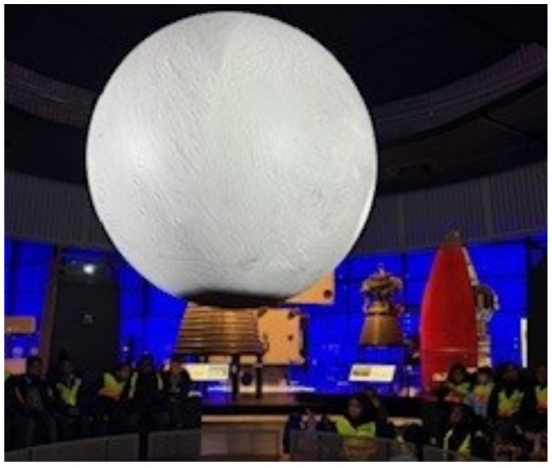
Outstanding learning at St Mark's

SYCAMORE CLASS

Year 5 children visited Longfield Hall to watch a performance of *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. They thoroughly enjoyed the show and had a wonderful time seeing the story brought to life.







Olive Class
Science Museum

On Wednesday **Year 3** attended the Science Museum and visited the Wonderlab. The children interactively engaged in different activities and had the opportunity to slide down different surfaces, feeling the impact of a range of forces.

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

Our Reception and Nursery classes visited the Unicorn Theatre to watch *How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?*. The children loved the festive performance and had a magical time enjoying the story on stage. This experience supported their literacy learning by bringing a story to life and inspired their imagination and discussion.

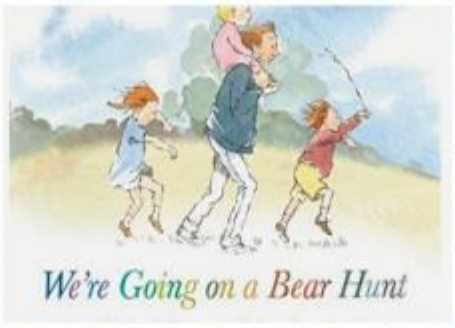
CHESS TOURNAMENT

Today, nearly 30 enthusiastic students from St Mark's represented our school at the Chess Tournament held at the Emirates Stadium. They were joint First Place out of 13 schools!

Well done to all who participated and a big thank you to parents and teachers involved.

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

Ebony Class went on a bear hunt to see if they could find the bear from our key text 'We're going on a bear hunt.' They got their investigation tools and self made hats ready for their hunt.



This Thursday children from Years 3 & 4 put on a fantastic music concert for families. The children played with confidence, showing the progress they've made this term. Thank you to Parents that were able to attend.

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

As part of our Living Things and Their Habitats topic, Oak class visited the Natural History Museum to help us learn more about the amazing animals and environments from around the world. The museum gave us the chance to see real-life examples of creatures, fossils, and habitats that we have been studying in class. During our visit, we explored different galleries that showed how animals survive, where they live, and how they are adapted to their environments. We were able to look closely at living things and how they depend on their habitats to stay alive.

EYFS children delighted everyone this week with two wonderful Nativity performances, one for the school on Tuesday and another for parents and carers on Wednesday afternoon.

The children sparkled and shone on stage as they retold the story of the birth of Jesus with such joy and enthusiasm. Their confidence was clear as they delivered their lines beautifully, performed thoughtful actions, and sang their songs with pride. It was a truly heart-warming celebration of their hard work over the past few weeks.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for their dedication, teamwork, and fantastic showmanship. Well done, EYFS!

Outstanding learning at St Mark's

moving matters

YEAR 3 & 4 MIXED FOOTBALL

Years 3 & 4 Mixed Football Competition

Our Years 3 and 4 team put in a fantastic effort at the recent mixed football competition. They played brilliantly throughout the tournament and made it all the way to the semifinals. After a hard-fought match, the game ended in a penalty shootout, where we narrowly missed out on a place in the final. Well done to all the players for their determination and teamwork! Well done to Yafet, Kingsley, Amaar, Yohannes, Y'Israel, Absalom, Rafael, Genesis, Ahmed and Heirmela.

Spanish Native Science Workshop

Michael, Valentina, Anthony, Isai, Rachel, Laura, Abdiel, Samuel C, Lily and Eric, some of our Spanish speaking students from our school, took part in a special science workshop designed for native speakers. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to explore scientific concepts in their first language, share ideas, and enjoy hands-on activities. Well done to everyone who participated!

Compassionate Christmas gifts

If you would like to donate a Christmas gift to another child or family within the school who are facing financial challenges, please wrap it, give it to Mrs Natasha, our Home School Liaison Officer, and put a label on it stating who it would be suitable for. We would like to put a smile on the faces of those children who are in need and facing a difficult time this Christmas. We will keep everything completely anonymous. Many thanks in advance.

Some gift ideas:

- **0-3 years: Soft toys, bath toys, nursery rhyme CDs**
- **3-5 years: Books, cars, dolls, educational toys, colouring books, pencils/crayons**
- **5-9 years: Dolls, action figures, colouring sets**
- **9-12 years: Games, sports equipment, footballs, hats, gloves, scarves**

NOTICES & EVENTS

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

LAST DAY FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We say goodbye to our After school Clubs for this term until next year! They will resume on Monday 19th January. Information will be sent out on the first week of January 2026.

Parent Wellbeing II

Our recent 'Sip & Paint' coffee morning was our second **Parent Well-being** session and was very well attended. It was wonderful to see parents enjoying the chance to relax, unwind, and connect with one another while creating some stunning artwork.

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT

We are keen to run more workshop sessions and training opportunities but please give us a steer by Completing the parent survey by **Monday 8th December** https://forms.gle/y5TnySqkHghX2KuJ9

Morley College Courses at St Mark's School

St Mark's School hopes to partner with Morley College so that they can run some of their training courses within our school. We are hoping to offer courses free of charge (or for a very small minimal fee).

We need a minimum of **14 parents** signed up to make this viable. Also parents will need to be committed to attending the course for 2 - 3 hours across a 5 - 6 week period. Qualifications and certificates will be awarded for some of the courses.

Please respond by **Monday 8th December** as if there is enough interest, we would like to get this started in the new year.

If you have any questions, please come and speak to me.

Mrs Natasha - Family Liaison Officer

St Mark's C of E Primary School Term Dates for Autumn Term 2 2025/26		
Tuesday 9th December 2025	Reception Vision Screening	9:30 am to 11:00 Reception class
Wednesday 10th December 2025	*Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm followed by tea, coffee and mince pies
Thursday 11th December 2025	**SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE DAY BY LAMBETH COUNCIL SO IT CAN BE USED FOR ELECTIONS**	
Friday 12 th December 2025	*Christmas Jumper Day	£1 donation for Save The Children
Friday 12 th December 2025	*School Christmas Lunch	Menu sent out
Friday 12th December 2025	St Mark's Christmas Market	3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 17th December 2025	St Mark's singing carols at the Oval Tube station – charity fundraiser for 'Robes' Homeless Charity	8.50 – 9.30am
Thursday 18h December 2025	Carol Concert at St Mark's Church led by Key Stage 2 children	9.30am start All are welcome
Thursday 18h December 2025	St Mark's Pantomime	2-3pm Just for children in the school
Thursday 18th December 2025	Last day of term	School finishes at usual time
Friday 19h December	No School – Inset day	

*Christmas events are in red

Please click here for link to book event

DONATIONS NEEDED!

FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET ON FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

- GOOD QUALITY TOYS AND BOOKS
- UNOPENED BEAUTY PRODUCTS/ TOILETRIES
- ALL TYPES OF CHOCOLATE (ABSOULUTELY NO NUT PRODUTS PLEASE)
- UNOPENED SWEETS

PLEASE DROP YOUR DONATIONS AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENOROSITY

FROM MRS NATASHA

NOTICES & EVENTS FOR PARENTS

FREE

PLAY IN A DAY!

Monday 22nd December
Tuesday 23rd December

Devise a play in just a day!

FREE drama programme for young people aged 6+

Join us at Longfield Hall this winter for our FREE drama programme! Thanks to Lambeth's Holiday Activities and Food Programme, we will also be providing a free hot meal.

You will create a play from scratch that you can share with friends and family at the end of the day! Expect a fun-filled workshop with all your favourite drama games and a whole lot of creativity, all for FREE!

Monday 22nd December
10:00 -15:00 - ages 6 - 9

Tuesday 23rd December
10:00 -16:00 - ages 10-16

Please note that places are means tested, and will be given on the basis that your young person is in receipt of benefits-related free school meals and attends a Lambeth school.

Longfield Hall, 50 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY
youthmanager@longfieldhall.org.uk
07988629697

For more information & to book your free place, scan the QR code.

LONGFIELD HALL
Registered charity no. 1133679
50 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY
www.longfieldhall.org.uk

Lambeth

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ST. MARK'S PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS MARKET

INFO

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2025

STALLS BY ST. MARK'S CHILDREN | MUSIC | FESTIVE FAMILY FUN | RAFFLE + MORE

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AND SUPERVISED BY ADULTS

Save the Children

Christmas Jumper Day

is coming. Be part of it!

Where St Mark's School

Friday 12th December

Other details

Come dressed in your christmas jumper

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

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

Vauxhall City Farm
165 Tyers Street, London, SE11 5HS.
Santa's Grotto on weekends from now until – 21st December
https://vauxhallcityfarm.org/events/christmas-at-the-farm-2024/

Christmas Market on 6th and 7th December
https://vauxhallcityfarm.org/events/christmas-market-at-vauxhall-city-farm/

Festive Wreath Making Workshop (various dates)
https://vauxhallcityfarm.org/events/save-the-date-wreath-making-extravaganza-at-vauxhall-city-farm/

Pines and Needles Christmas tree Sale now until – 24th December

Children's Craft sessions with Santa's elf
https://vauxhallcityfarm.org/

Christmas Fair
Saturday 6th December from 11am – 4:00pm
Surrey Docks Farm, South Wharf, Rotherhithe Street, SE16 5ET
Get into the festive spirit at the farm where there'll be carol singing, craft stalls, mulled wine, animal handling, plus wreath making kits and beautiful quality Christmas trees will also be on sale.
https://www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk/contact-us/

Saturday Sessions: Singing Together - FREE
Saturday 6th December at 1:30pm
The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall
Join in and experience the magic of singing together with Southbank Centre Youth Voices in this Month's fun, hands-on session. Saturday sessions are the perfect place to start the weekend. On a monthly basis, enjoy a piece of art, make something new along with the artists and create with other children and their families – all for free!
Choirs leaders will teach songs to sing together, and the session ends with a performance by the Southbank Centre Youth Voices Choir, so stick around to watch this special performance!
https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/saturday-sessions-singing-together/

Raw Material – Christmas Film Night - FREE
Wednesday 10th December 2025, 4:00pm – 6:00pm
2 Robsart Street, SW9 0DJ
Come and join the Raw crew watching the classic Home Alone movie.
What to expect, Snacks and treats, Drinks, Holiday cheer!
Don't miss out on a cozy, festive afternoon with the community!
Bring your friends and join the fun!
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/raw-material-members-christmas-film-afternoon-tickets-1968712735789?aff=oddtdtcreator

CLICK HERE FOR THE WHOLE DOCUMENT WITH MANY MORE ACTIVITIES

HAF WINTER

Lambeth's Holiday Activities & Food

Dear Parent/Carer

I'm delighted to let you know that this winter Lambeth Council will be hosting our Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

We are partnering with local holiday club providers across the borough to provide an exciting programme of meals and activities for children and young people in our local communities. Free places are available for children between the ages of 4 and 16 years, who are eligible for benefits-related school meals.

The programme will run from **22 December to 2 January** and is designed to give local families on benefits-related free school meals access to free, healthy food and fun activities over the winter holidays. Each programme will provide:

- Free, healthy, and tasty food
- Fun physical activity sessions
- A wide range of other activities to suit different ages and personalities
- Opportunities to learn more about food and nutrition for children and families

You will be able to book up to 5 sessions per eligible child on our Eequ booking system from 17 November at 4pm.

To find out more scan the QR code or visit the web address below.
I hope your family can take full advantage of the winter programme.

If you'd like to learn more about what Lambeth Council has on offer to support with the increased cost of living, such as food vouchers, free childcare and access to pre-loved school uniform, visit **www.lambeth.gov.uk/costofliving**.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Ben Kind – Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education

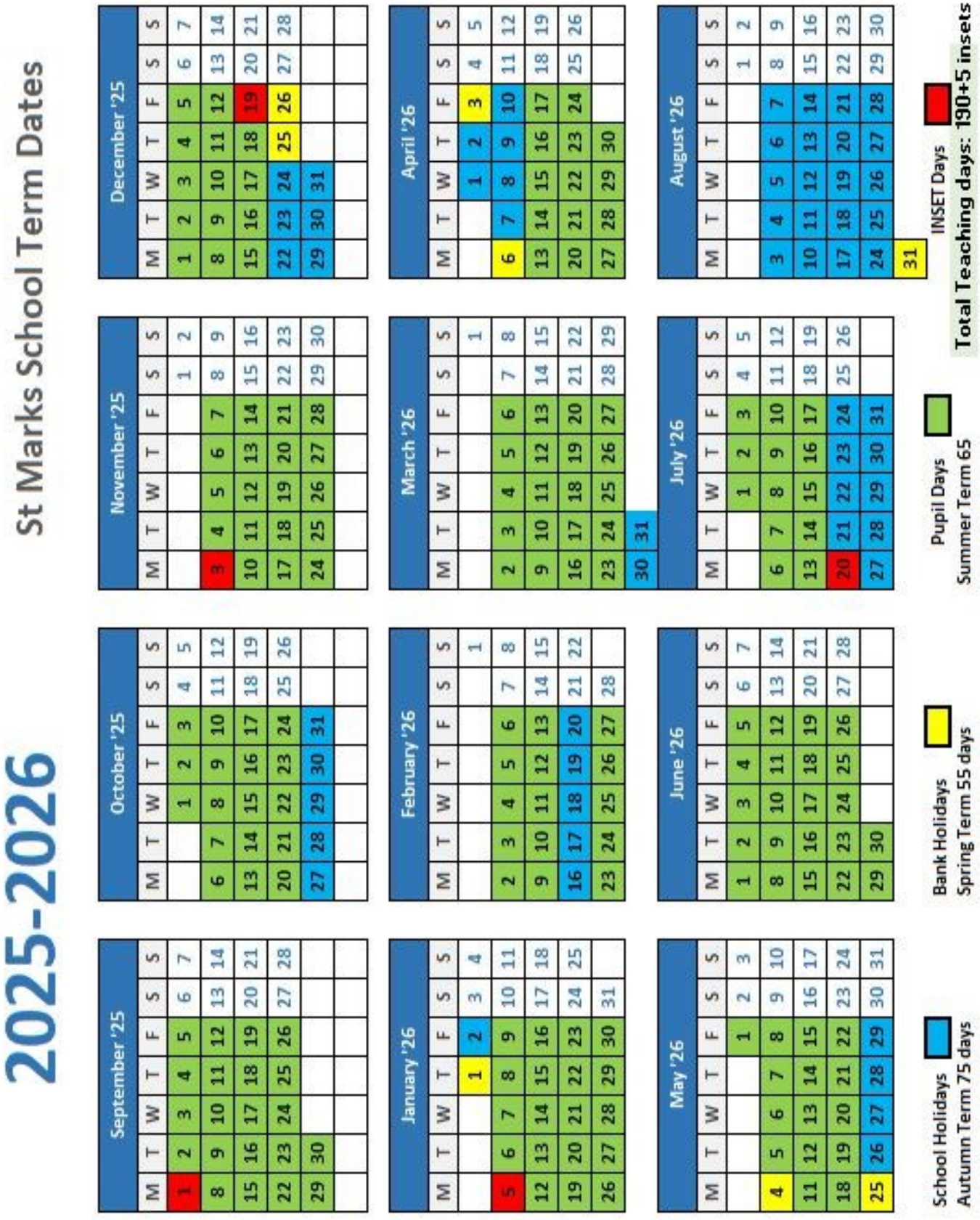
If you want to receive this copy translated in other languages or in easy read format, please contact **communications@lambeth.gov.uk**

lambeth.gov.uk/haf

SD0513 08 11 21 FH

A place we can all call home

Lambeth

Term Dates for 2025-26

Please find the term dates for the academic year. Please avoid taking holidays during term time as it can impact on children's progress.