Unique and Valued by God

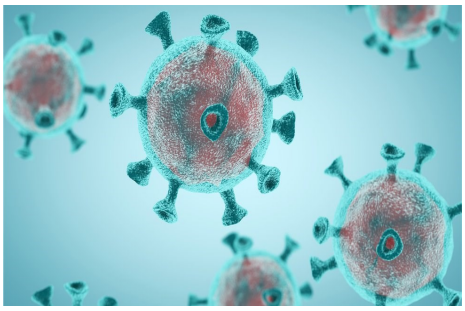
The St Mark's Newsletter

6th November 2020

'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, Staff, and Governors

Covid Update



For the sake of yourselves, your children and our staff, we are doing our best to continue with normality at St Marks, but we must not forget that we are in the middle of a global pandemic and a national lockdown. For these reasons please observe the following points:

- Please wear a mask when lining up outside the school and when entering the site
- Help us to reduce the number of people on-site by coming alone or by sending only one family member to collect your child (no secondary school students with parents please).
- Please move off the school site as quickly as possible. Do not block up the one way system or wait around the gates. Liaise with school teachers through email or phone, but please try not to get involved in lengthy discussions when they are receiving and dismissing children at the beginning and end of the school day
- Children are not required to wear face masks in school
- If your child is described as extremely clinically vulnerable and have received a letter from the NHS, please contact the school immediately
- Do not bring your child to school if they have any of the 3 Covid symptoms

Our updated risk assessments will be on the website next week . Please check the policy section.

Parents Evening Phone Calls

Thank you for your engagement in this term's parents' evening. There are a very small number of parents who have not been contacted due to us making arrangements for translation or teachers not being able to get through to you . These calls will take place on Monday.

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Be like a tree

BIBLE VERSE

... that person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does note wither_ whatever they do prospers-

Psalm 1:3

Attendance Update

Nursery — 98.22%
Reception — 96.52%
Year 1— 98.15%
Year 2— 95%
Year 3— 94.65%
Year 4— 91.79%
Year 5— 95.62%
Year 6— 94.94%

WELL DONE!

Well done Nursery , Reception & Year 1!

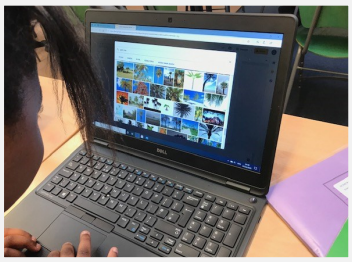
Keep it up! Remember that poor attendance not only has an impact on your child's learning, it affects the whole school.

School News

Tuesday 3rd November was ...

Forest School

The children had a great day of learning about their new classroom names through Art and DT, outdoor learning and through their own research



Our new class names

Nursery

Cedar Class

Reception

Ebony Class

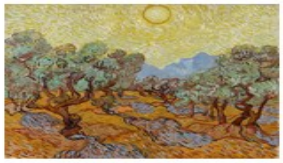
Year 1

Juniper Class

Year 2

Oak Class

Year 3



Olive Class

Year 4

Palm Class

Year 5

Sycamore Class

Year 6

Willow Class

School News

Year 5 and 6 Workshops—Preparing our older children for the future

Year 6 Growing Against Gangs

This week our eldest children took part in important workshops. A facilitator from 'Growing against gangs and violence' talked to the Year 6 children about the difference between friends and people being 'friendly' in order to influence or coerce them. Graeme was very impressed with the maturity and questions of the children and said that it was the best Year 6 class he has taught this year.

Year 5 Social Media

Graeme also led an excellent session on social media in Year 5. He talked to the children about being safe online and why there are age restrictions on social media apps. Parents, please carefully monitor your child's online and internet use, as some children mentioned that they have unrestricted use on their phones and they admitted to having followers who they don't know.

Providing free 1-1 tuition for Year 6 pupils

We are very pleased that this year we can continue to provide our Year 6 children with free 1-1 tuition from action tutoring. Tutors used to come into the school to deliver this, but now they tutor the children on a 1-1 basis online. It was great to have nearly 20 children present this week.

School Updates

Parent Survey on the Relationship and Health Education Curriculum

Thank you for your responses in the recent school survey. It is always good to have feedback from parents and we will respond accordingly in order to make further improvements to the school. We would like your responses to our new Relationship and Health Education policy and Scheme of Work that we have started at the school. You will be sent an email next week containing all of the details.

Flu Immunisations

Your child's school Flu immunisation will take place on **Monday 30th November 2020**. If you have not returned a signed consent form, we will **NOT** be immunising your child. However, should you still wish for your child to be immunised please contact the school office to request another form.

School Dinners

Please ensure your child's dinner account is paid advance via ParentPay

School Meals cost £2.50 per day or £12.50per week.

KEY SCHOOL DATES

DATE	DETAILS
Wed 11th Nov 2020	Remembrance Day, Year 3 having a virtual talk with Reverend Steve
Wed 11th Nov 2020	Year 1 going on a walk to the River Thames
Fri 27th Nov 2020	Inset Day—School closed for Pupils
Mon 30th Nov 2020	Flu Vaccinations
Wed 2nd Dec 2020	EYFS Nativity – This will be a virtual event this year
Wed 9th Dec 2020	YR1 & YR2 Nativity – This will be a virtual event this year
Friday 11th Dec 2020	School Christmas Lunch– details to follow from the office
Friday 11th Dec 2020	Shoe boxes to be collected (New date sent through from Operation Christmas Child)
Thu 17th Dec 2020	St Mark's Carol Service—St Marks Church– This will be a virtual event this year
Thu 17th Dec 2020	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Mon 4th Jan 2021	Inset Day—School closed for Pupils
Tue 5th Jan 2021	Children return to school