Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly News
7th December 2018

'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,

Christmas Events

There are just two weeks of the term left and there is so much still to squeeze in. Please keep a note of the events that will be taking place during the next 10 days of school. We hope that you can join us and support us for many of the occasions, as many of your children will be taking part. Please see the events listed towards the back of this newsletter.

Our Outstanding Curriculum—developing the passion for learning

We are constantly exploring and investing ways in which we can make sure that our children love learning and obtain a broad and balanced curriculum. In addition to the Christmas events, the next two weeks will also include: a Year 5 & 6 Chess Tournament (Monday 10th Dec); a Year 6 trip to London CLC to learn about 'Fake News' (Tuesday 11th Dec), a Book Fair (from Wednesday 12th Dec); a visit to the school by the Oval Underground manager to talk with the children about travelling safely around London (Wednesday 12th Dec), a Forest School session for under 4s with our school gardeners (Thursday 13th Dec) and a Year 5 and 6 Victorian Day (Friday 14th Dec).

Christmas preparations in the Early Years

Children in Nursery and Reception have been learning their lines and songs for the EYFS nativity due to take place on Wednesday 12th December at 2.30pm. Don't be late!

Value of the Week

SELF-CONTROL

BIBLE VERSE

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

Attendance and Punctuality

Nursery— 89.33%
Reception— 84.71%
Year 1—91.30%
Year 2— 96.80%
Year 3— 90.36%
Year 4— 99.31%
Year 5— 95.83%
Year 6— 94.00%

WELL DONE!

To the following classes who achieved over 96.%:

Years 2 and 4

Lets all work together as a team to get the overall school attendance above 96.5%

What's been happening at St Marks?...

Eco Committee

Jasmine (Yr 6), Mesha (Yr 5), Kelvin (Yr 4), Maria (Yr 3), Emmanuel (Yr 2) Vikela (Yr 1), Ameera in Reception and Kiara in Nursery have been chosen by their class members to be the Eco Committee representatives. Their first task will be to reduce food, energy and paper waste across the school.

0-4 Forest School

Last week we were visited by pre-school children from the local community who took part in Forest School with our school gardeners. They found insects, frogs, pond life and planted seeds in some of our vegetable beds. We will be running this again on Thursday 13th Dec. from 9.30-11.00am. All are welcome.

Parents Workshop

Angela Guiliani, our school counsellor led another inspirational session for 12 parents on 'Confident Parents, Happy Children—how to develop resilience in your child'. Key points can be found on page 4.

Year 7 reunion

It was great to see 24 of last year's Year 6 children return for a reunion last week. They enjoyed meeting up, looking at old pictures, drinking hot chocolate and eating cookies and using the new playground equipment.

School Council

It is great to see School Council members taking a lead across the school. They led assembly yesterday morning and have contributed to creating new safety rules for the play equipment and provided guidance for the design of the new school website. They will soon be meeting the school caterers to give them feedback from their classes on the quality of the school food.

Reception visit Peckham theatre

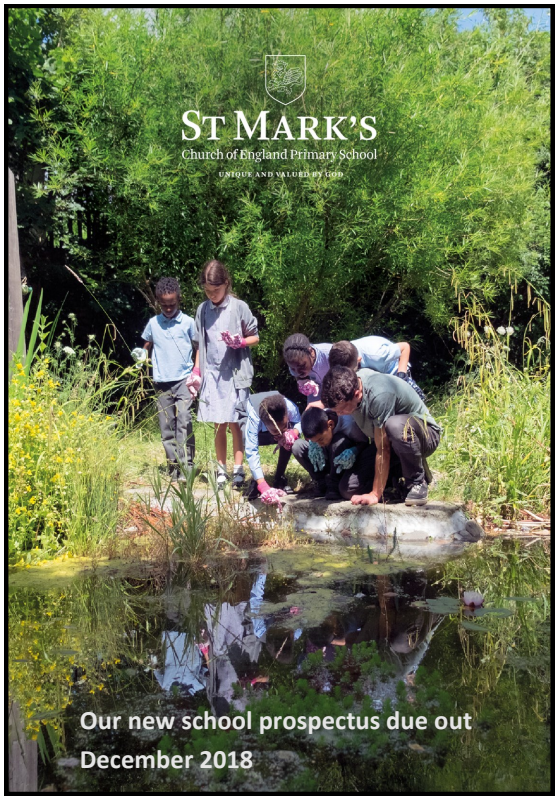
Reception visited Peckham Theatre to watch a singing, rapping, dancing pantomime of Robin Hood and his Merry Men!

Taekwondo Assessment

Well done to Ronnell (Yr 4), Nicholas (Yr 3), EJ (Yr 6), Mesha (Yr 5), Maja (Yr 4), Solange (Yr 4), Ziva (Yr 5), Neiyah (Yr 4) and Neriah (Yr 4) for their great work during this week's Taekwondo Assessment.

Recruitment to St Mark's Primary

We are currently looking forward to welcoming new families to join our Reception Class from September 2019. Please spread the word about our great school by speaking to parents, putting posters up in your areas, clubs or churches and generally being ambassadors for the school. If you would like any posters, leaflets or prospectuses to share with others, please speak to Mr Ingram.



St Mark's C of E Primary School

St Mark's C of E Primary School is located on the Oval/Kennington borders (just behind the Oval cricket ground).

We are a friendly, family-based school that provides a rigorous, yet inspirational, all-round education, aimed at both challenging and engaging all of our children.

Our size, alongside our strong Christian ethos, also enables us to place an equal emphasis on nurturing each individual child's growth, development and character.

If you are interested in a Reception Class place for September 2019 or to find out more about the school, please contact us or visit the school for an informal tour and conversation.

Come and join the St Mark's Family

Key Messages from our recent parent workshop by Angela— Growing and nurturing confident, happy children

- **Teach me to live and care for myself**
- **Through your positive example, I will learn much more from what you do than from what you could ever say**
- **Notice me often and take joy in my existence, so I grow up to feel special and know that I am loved**
- **Listen to me with an open ear and a loving heart, so that I learn to understand my feelings and trust that my needs will be heard**
- **Play with me often. Let down your guard and be more carefree. The memories will last long and our connection longer**
- **Focus on what I'm doing right and tell me when you appreciate me, so that I learn to feel worthy and motivated to do even more**

In the new year, Angela will be leading a session on strategies for managing parental stress so it does not impact on children

Upcoming Christmas Events

- **Wednesday, 12th December 2018**

-EYFS Nativity — Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm, followed by tea and coffee

-The school choir and recorder group will be performing at the Foundry at the back of the school leaving at 2.30pm. Please join us

- **Thursday 13th December 2018**

-The school choir and recorder group are performing at Oval Tube Station to raise money for Robes Homeless charity 9.00am

-Drama Club Presentations to Parents 4.10pm

- **Friday 14th December 2018**

-Christmas Craft Market from 3.30-4.15pm– A perfect occasion to buy Christmas gifts

- **Tuesday 18th December 2018**

-Pantomime at 2.15pm in School Hall

- **Wednesday 19th December 2018**

-Years 1 & Year 2 Nativity — Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm. Followed by tea and coffee

- **Thursday 20th December 2018**

-St Mark's Carol Service at 9.30am — Held at St Mark's Church and Led by Key Stage 2

- **Thursday 20th December 2018**

-Class Parties from 1:15 onwards in Classrooms

Friday 21st December 2018

-End of Term — School finishes at 1.30 pm

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

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

Institute of Imagination – Winter Wonders (Lambeth Community Programme)

Saturday 8th Dec, 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30 - 4pm, FREE (5 – 12 yrs with parent / carer)

26 Lambeth High St, London, SE1 7AG / 020 7494 9153

Nearest tube: Vauxhall (12mins walk), Westminster (15mins walk)

These sessions are for Lambeth residents only - please note there is a £4 charge for the snow glove activity

Create handmade gifts with three crafty activities…Make your own snow globe to take home using jars, figurines, and eco-glitter (costs £4). Design and create your own festive pop-out card to take home. Code a festive message or decoration on a Micro:bit and display it on our giant cardboard tree

*Register for FREE tickets at **www.ioi.london/event/lambeth-community-programme***

Science Museum

Saturday 8th Dec & Sunday 9th Dec FREE activities

Exhibition Road, South Kensington, SW7 2DD, wwwsciencemuseum.org.uk

Nearest Tube: South Kensington.

Hans Rausing Lecture Theatre: *Problems Solved Show!* 1.30 – 2.00pm

Calling all engineers! From buildings to body armour, engineers create amazing inventions to solve puzzling problems (suitable for age 7+). Flight area, Level 3: *Catapult Challenge Workshop* 3.30 – 4.15pm

Launch things across the museum (suitable for age 6+) See how far you can launch a pompom!

Entry to the museum is free every day 10.00am – 6.00pm (ticket needed for some exhibitions)

Museum of London (Docklands) – Interactive storytelling

Saturday 8th Dec, 1pm 2pm & 3pm FREE, drop in (Ages 5+) Duration, 30mins per story.

No 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, E14 4AL, 020 7001 9844 / www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Closest tube: Canary Wharf DLR: West India Quay

Join us on an interactive storytelling adventure that tells the true story of the London's Frost Fairs

Museum of London – Freezing Frost Fairs workshop

Sunday 9th Dec, 12,30 – 2.00pm & 2.30 – 4.00pm FREE, drop in (Ages 5+)

150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN, (the museum's entrance is on a pedestrian high wall which can be reached by stairs, escalators or lift from Aldersgate St; London Wall or St Martin's-Le-Grand)

020 7001 9844 / www.museumoflondon.org.uk / Closest tube: Barbican

Create a frost fair scene that recapture the magic of the frost fair celebrations on the Thames

38th Great Christmas Pudding Race

Saturday 8th Dec, 11am – 1pm FREE (All Ages)

Covent Garden Market, London, WC2E 8RF Nearest tube: Covent Garden

www.xmaspuddingrace.org.uk/London_Race.html

The 38th Great Christmas Pudding Race is organised in support of Cancer Research. Teams in fantastic fancy dress costumes race to complete the festive course, navigating obstacles such as a giant inflatable slide and a crazy foam slalom all whilst balancing a Christmas Pudding on a tray!

Messy Church (St Paul's with St Saviour's)

Sunday 9th Dec 3.30 – 5.30pm, FREE (All ages)

St Paul's with St Saviour's Community Centre, 24 Blenheim Gardens, Brixton, SW2 5BZ

www.stpaulsbrixton.org/messy-church / 020 7788 7259

Arts, crafts, games, stories, songs and food; messy fun for the whole family, all welcome!