Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

7th January 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 and Governors,

Happy New Year! We trust and pray that we will all experience and know God's help, guidance and blessing throughout 2020. We would like to draw your attention to a few important items at the beginning of the year: **1. Applying for a Reception place**– Nursery parents, please be aware that the deadline is **15th January 2020** so make sure you apply on time.

2. Attendance and Punctuality - This has become an issue for us as a school with too many children regularly late (please see the chart below to see the impact that lateness has on children's learning across the year. Let us work together to improve this as poor attendance and lateness impacts the school.

3. After school Clubs—Clubs begin next week, so please book your child's place by the end of the week to avoid disappointment. They remain very cheap at £2.00 per session.Please pay via parent pay

4. **Maintenance Fund Payment**—Please pay your maintenance payment of £24 per child to help us fund a seating area and a shelter for parents. Payment details are available on parent pay

Applying for a Reception Place

Now is the time to apply for your child's primary school place if your child has been born **between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.**

Please do not assume that pupils will automatically move from Nursery to Reception. You will need to apply online via your home borough and follow the instructions on the link to the Pan-London online Common Application Form (CAF) https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app

You MUST apply by **Wednesday 15th January 2020**. If you apply after this date the likelihood of gaining a place at your preferred school may be significantly reduced.

Value of the Week

Grow in Character

BIBLE VERSE

"Grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"

2 Peter 3.18

Attendance and Punctuality

Let's be on time!

Lost minutes = Lost learning

Screen Addiction Information

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech - related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?

47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.

CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.

National Online Safety®

Top Tips for Parents

LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

STATISTICS

- **52%** of children aged **3-4** go online for nearly **9hrs** a week
- **82%** of children aged **5-7** go online for nearly **9.5hrs** a week
- **93%** of children aged **8-11** go online for nearly **13.5hrs** a week
- **99%** of children aged **12-15** go online for nearly **20.5hrs** a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018

SOURCES:
https://www.independent.co.uk, Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018: https://www.ofcom.org.uk, http://uk.businessinsider.com/how-app-developers-keep-us-addicted-to-our-smartphones, Journal of Youth Studies: https://www.mirror.co.uk/tech/one-five-kids-losing-sleep-9653986, University of Leeds: https://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/news/article/1296/lack_of_sleep_damaging_for_children

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After School Clubs SPRING TERM 2020

BOOK 5 CLUBS AND GET THE 5th FOR FREE (by refund at a later date)

(Years 2-6 * Taekwondo not included)

Payment deadline extended to Friday 10th January 2020.

TENNIS

Do you want to be the next Rafael Nadal or Selena Williams? Come and join the tennis club!
Limited spaces. **Yrs 3-6**

MULTISPORTS

Mr Emmanuel will be putting together a range of different sports each week. Every week there will be something new to do.
Limited spaces. **Yrs 1 - 3**

JEWELLERY

We have seen some amazing creations from our jewellery club, so much so, that we have even raised money for the school funds selling ear-rings, bracelets, chains, and rings at our school fair. The list goes on and on. Come and learn new skills in a fun class for all year groups
Yrs 1– 6

ART AND DESIGN

Calling all artist from **Yrs 1 - 6,** do you like drawing and making amazing sculptures, have you ever wondered how artist manage to have their work in museums and galleries. Come and enjoy an amazing ART club, filled with fun and imagination for you to explore. Painting, Drawing, Colouring, Moulding, Needlework, Free Design and much much more.

Limited spaces. **Yrs 1 - 6**

DANCE

From hip-hop to the foxtrot, dance fever is sweeping the nation, started by popular TV shows such as Strictly Come Dancing and Britain's Got Talent. Whether you like to jump or jive, tap or tango, shake your hips or your booty, dancing is one of the most enjoyable ways to get moving.. Come along and join this club.
Spaces available to all Yrs 1—6

GYMNASTICS

A brilliant way to develop balance, strength … and have fun.

Spaces available to all Yrs 3—6

DODGEBALL

Dodgeball is a fun packed game of action and skills. You will be amazed how fit you can be running around and trying to get your opponent out! A team game of fun and laughter.
Available for
Yrs 3 - 6

HOMEWORK CLUB

YEAH…. ITS BACK!
For help and support when you need it most.
Available for **Yrs 2 - 6**

COOKERY

Just because the festive season may be over, does not mean all cooking has to stop. Why don't you come to our Make and Bake workshops! Activities include making, painting, decorating and baking a range of sweet and savoury pastries, cupcakes and cookies. So what are you waiting for? Come join this popular club.
Available to Yrs 1—6

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Our Football Team speaks for itself, great matches and winning GOLD! We want more Boys and Girls to join the team, so that we can keep bringing home St Mark's Trophies for the school… Come on .. Come On..
And sign up now.

Available to Yrs 3 - 6

CHESS

Do you want to participate in chess tournaments and gain medals for the school? Join the chess club!

Available to Yrs 4 - 6