Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly News

7th September 2018

'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,

Welcome back to school! It has been great to see all of our children back in school this week. They have been very focused and settled and we trust that this will continue throughout the course of this term so they can make great progress across the curriculum.

Please take notice of important dates, messages and information within this newsletter.

Key Dates for Next Week

An opportunity has been arranged for parents & carers to come to school to meet your child's new class teacher and find out about what they will be learning during the term. If there is time, we can also have a look around the school and visit classrooms.

Mon 10th September 18 Meet the teacher for Year 5 parents & carers at 9.00 a.m.

Tues 11th September 18 Meet the teacher for Year 4 Parents & carers at 9.00 a.m.

Tues 11th September 18 Playground development begins– expect some disruption

Wed 12th September 18 Meet the Teacher for Year 3 parents & Carers at 9.00 a.m.

Wed 12th September 18 Year 6 Secondary School admission meeting 9.00– 9.45 a.m

Wed 12th September 18 Year 4 and 5 Science Trip to St Martin's in the Field Secondary

Thurs 13th September 18 Meet the teacher for Year 2 parents & carers at 9.00 a.m.

Fri 14th September 18 Meet the teacher for Year 1 parents & carers at 9.00 a.m.

All meetings will take place in the hall except the Year 3 meeting, which will take place in the Art Room and will last for 25 minutes

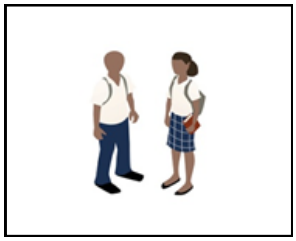
Some disappointing feedback on Attendance and Punctuality at St Mark's

Across the school last year, we showed excellent progress and outcomes across many areas of the school– attainment was strong from Early Years and across Key Stage 1 and 2; children won trophies for competitions and had opportunities to develop musically.

But we were bitterly disappointed to find out that our attendance level for last year fell to 94.8% ... far lower than the 96% we achieved in 2017 and the 2018 national level of 96.5%. The poor attendance of a small number of children across the school who are taking regular time off without providing a good reason, is having a significant impact on the attendance of the school as a whole. Unfortunately we will now have to send out fixed term fines for persistently poor attendance (below 90%) ,for regular lateness and for taking holidays taken within term time. These could be followed by court orders. Please support us in this area.

Free School Meals

If you think that you are eligible to claim **FSM**, please complete a form from the office as soon as possible as you need to apply for this each year.



School Uniform

Across the school the children look extremely smart in their new school uniform and are a real advertisement for the school. Please note that black trainers and boots are not school uniform and should not be worn. Please can jewellery not be worn to school and girls' earring should be studs and not hoops. Please can we also avoid the large, colourful 'JoJo Siwa' type hair bows and make sure that hair ties and bands are in neutral or school colours. Can I also encourage the purchase of school bags, rather than children's own bags. **Please ensure uniform is ordered online. There is a limited stock in school for new starters**

After school Clubs

Payments for after school clubs need to be made as soon as possible. Remember that after school clubs are provided to support parents with childcare and to provide additional enrichment opportunities for children. If clubs are not well attended we may have to withdraw them.

One change …

The music hub club is now open to all children who would like to learn the violin (Wednesdays for Years 5 and 6) or recorder (Thursdays for Years 3-6) to a high standard and achieve music awards. It is no longer by invitation only.

Drop off

Children from Year 3 upwards can be dropped off at school from **8.35am**, but children in Years 1 and 2 need to be supervised by an adult until **8.55am**. Please ensure children arrive at school by 8.50am so they are on time to line up with their class at **8.55am.**

Collection after school

All children need to be collected by someone **over 14** at the end of the school day and this person needs to be a named person for collection. On occasions when someone else will be collecting your child, you will need to inform your child's class teacher or the school office, so the school are aware of the arrangement. **Children over 10** can make their own way home, but a written request will need to be completed, available from the office, and agreed by the headteacher.

School Dinners and packed lunches

This year school lunches will be **£2.35 per day or £11.75** per week. The exact money is to be paid weekly or in advance. Please inform the office if you need to change from one to the other. If dinner money arrears exceeds one week, children will need to bring a packed lunch until the balance is cleared. Please support the school's healthy school's policy of bringing in only water, only one treat item alongside their lunch. We will send out our packed lunch policy next week as a reminder. **Please note that we will soon be moving to online Parent Pay for school dinners**.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8.00-8.55am and costs just **£2.50 per day**. This includes a healthy and varied breakfast and childcare. If you would like a space, please speak to a member of the school office staff. Regular payment needs to be made otherwise places may be lost.

Autumn Tem Dates for 2018/19

Date	Event	Details
w/c Monday 4th September	Nursery and Reception home visits begin	
Tuesday 4th September 2018	Children return to school	8.55am
Wednesday 5th September	Former St Mark's Nursery children begin reception	Up to 13 children
Friday 7th September 2018	Meet the teacher for Year 6 Parents	9.00am in the hall
Monday 10th September 2018	Meet the teacher for Year 5 Parents	9.00am in the hall
w/c Monday 10th September 2018	Nursery and Reception staggered entry begins	
Tuesday 11th September 2018	Meet the teacher for Year 4 Parents	9.00am in the hall
Tuesday 11th September 2018	Playground works begin	
Wednesday 12th September 2018	Year 4 and 5 visiting St Martin's in the field secondary school for a science trip	Parents needed please
Wednesday 12th September 2018	Meet the teacher for Year 3 Parents	Art Room
Wednesday 12th September 2018	Year 6 Secondary Transfer meeting	9.00am in the school hall
Thursday 13th September 2018	Lucy Hall from Trees for cities involved in leading workshops across the day	She is also leading collective worship
Thursday 13th September 2018	Meet the teacher for Year 2 Parents	
Friday 14th September 2018	Year 5 involved in Air quality project	9.30-10.30
Friday 14th September 2018	Meet the teacher for Year 1 Parents	9.00am in the school hall
Monday 17th –Tuesday 18th September 2018	CYE Year 5 school Journey Arrive by 7.00am	Catching coach to Chichester for an overnight stay
Monday 17th September 2018	Reception Phonics Workshop	3.00-3.45pm
Tuesday 25th September 2018	Year 3 and 4 visiting London Docklands Museum	All day. Parents needed
Wednesday 26 September 2018	Year 3 and 4 Girls football tournament	9.30-1.00 at Kennington Park
Wednesday 26th September 2018	Nursery, Reception and Year 1 scooter training	
Monday 1st October 2018	Year 6 involved in Into University all week	
Tuesday 2rd October 2018	Harvest Festival Celebration and welcome event at St Mark's Church	Food contributions
Wednesday 3rd October 2018	Some Year 5 and Year 6's involved in a netball competition	12.30-3.30 at Vauxhall primary
Wednesday 3rd October 2018	Years 3 and 4 involved in STEM workshops	
Wednesday 10th October 2018	Some Year 5 and Year 6's involved in a netball competition	12.30-3.30 at Vauxhall primary
Friday 12th October 2018	Inset Day	School closed to children
Monday 15th October 2018	Launch of shoebox appeal	
c/w Monday 15th October 2018	**Black History Month Celebrations**	Events throughout the week

Friday 19th October 2018	**Cultural dress day and International Celebration Evening**	Children to wear national dress or colours to school and an evening event 6.00-8.00pm
Friday 19th October 2018	**End of Term 1**	
	Term 2 events 2017/18	Details
Monday 29th October 2018	Children return to school	8.55
Wednesday 31st October 2018	Tag Rugby tournament	Woodmansterne 9.30-1.00
Wednesday 31st October 2018	Parents Evening	
Thursday 1st November 2018	Parents Evening	
Monday 5th November 2018	Year 3 and 4 trip to the British Museum – Ancient Greek Myths	
Wednesday 7th November 2018	Tag Rugby tournament	
Friday 9th November	Remembrance Event and Poetry focus	
w/c Monday 12-16st November 2018	Anti-Bullying Week	
Wednesday 14th November 2018	Anti-bullying workshops across the school	
Thursday 15th November 2018	Final day of shoebox appeal	
Wednesday 21st November	Year 5 seeing War Horse at the National Theatre	1.30pm
Thursday 22nd November	Year 5 and 6 Workshops Growing against gangs workshop	Parent Workshop at 9.00am
Wednesday 12th December 2018	EYFS Nativity	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Friday 14th December 2018	**Christmas Craft Market**	**3.30-4.15pm**
Tuesday 18th December 2018	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity	Held in the school hall for parents at 2.30pm
Thursday 20th December 2018	St Mark's Carol Service 9.30am Held at St Mark's Church	Led by Key Stage 2
Thursday 20th December 2018	Class Parties	1:15 onwards in Classrooms
Friday 21st December 2018	**End of Term 2**	**School finishes at 1.30 pm**
Monday 7th January 2019	Inset Day for Staff	
Tuesday 8th January 2019	Children return to school	8.55am