Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

8th September 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,

It has been most pleasing to welcome the children back to school. They seem to be happy to be with their new teachers, to see their friends and classmates and to be back working in school again. Thank you very much for your patience and understanding , while we adjust to different arrangements at the beginning and end of the school day.

This newsletter provides you will a lot of reminders and information about what will be taking place this term. Please read carefully. A key change is that class teachers will not be as available as they were previously at the beginning and end of the day. They will be available via email to answer and respond to any queries or questions that you may have.

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Compassion

BIBLE VERSE

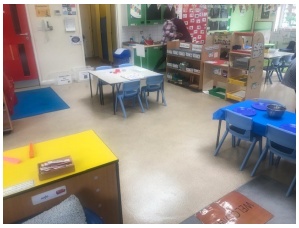
The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion

Psalms Chapter 116 verse 5

Latest Updates

Early Years—Nursery and Reception

We are thrilled that our school Early Years is thriving. For yet another year the Nursery is full with a waiting list and Reception is almost full. It Is also exciting that many of the children in the Nursery are siblings of children already in the school and we look forward to them remaining with us until they leave in Year 6. This week we have a number of stay and play sessions planned for our children in Nursery and Reception , which provides them with an opportunity to get to know the staff and the setting. Children will begin coming into the Nursery and Reception later in the week.



School Uniform

It is good to see so many of the children looking smart in their school uniforms. **Please make sure that children come to school in school shoes and not black trainers, which are not school uniform.**

PE kit

We want to return to children wearing PE kit to school from **28th September 2020**. This will be the only time when they should wear trainers to school. The reason why this was stopped last year was because some children were wearing a range of different clothes to school on PE days. Please remember that children are expected to wear Navy or black jogging bottoms or blue shorts, a white t-shirt and their school jumper to school. Items should be without writing and logos. Please also avoid leggings for girls.

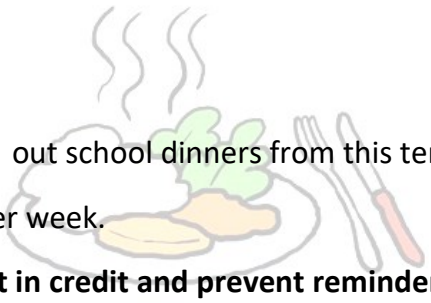
School Uniform orders can be make following this link from our website:
https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/stmarksceprimaryschoolse115sl

School curriculum

This year we will continue to provide children with a broad and engaging curriculum at St Mark's. We want to ensure that our curriculum provides children with the knowledge and skills to succeed. Each term children will have a new and exciting History or Geography topic and an Art or DT focus and we hope they'll come home with lots of interesting facts to share. To start the year, the whole school are focusing on the same book - Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers. We will also be running interventions and catch up work.

Office Reminders

School Dinners



ISS Education are our new catering provider and will be providing out school dinners from this term

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

Please pay on ParentPay in advance to keep your dinner account in credit and prevent reminders

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Families on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals.

We actively encourage families to apply for free school meals, as this will ensure that your child not only receives a free meal but also grants additional support within school through the Pupil Premium funding.

To apply please click here and return the completed form to the office or obtain a form from the office.

If your child wishes to bring a **PACKED LUNCH** to school, please ensure the office are informed and that it is Healthy. Click here for details

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available from 8am every day for £2.50 per child per day (£12.50 per week).

Please contact the office for an application form

The School Office is currently closed to parents

Contact with the office can be made via phone (0207 735 1467—option 3) or by email admin@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk

If you require assistance whilst at school please press the intercom at the gate and we will do our best to help you.

Thank you for you understanding!

We are currently unable to offer After School Clubs for the children this term , however are working to ensure that these can safety begin in line with the government guidance. Please look out for more information soon.

Latest Updates

Secondary Transfer for Year 6 Parents

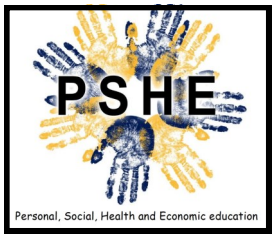
As if you didn't have enough to think about, parents with a child in Year 6 will need to apply for their secondary place by 31st October 2020. A guide and covering letter was sent out on Monday 7th September. Please take note and please make direct contact with the secondary schools that you are interested in as open day arrangements may have changed due to Covid 19.

Here are some details from last year to guide your selection.

82% of the children in Year 6 at St Mark's received their first or second choice of secondary school for September 2020 and 71% actually obtained their first choice. The most popular schools were Archbishop Tenison's (6); St Gabriel's College (4); Lilian Baylis (4); Platanos College (3) ; Oasis Academy (3); Pimlico (2) and Grey Coats Hospital (2). Children also secured places at Lambeth Academy and La Retraite.

A socially distanced meeting to talk you through the process will take place at **9.15am** in the school hall for **Year 6 parents only** on **Tuesday 15th September 2020.**

Health and Relationship Education



Our PSHE curriculum aims to develop children's knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to thrive as individuals, within their families and as confident members of the wider community. The Government requirements for Relationship and Health Education are embedded in the St Mark's PSHE curriculum and will be taught following The Character Education Programme of Study devised by The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. We found that this programme was most in line with our school's Christian Ethos, vision and values. Lessons are organised into topics and fall under four broad headings: flourishing individuals, flourishing relationships, digital flourishing and flourishing societies. Many of the topics are introduced in KS1 and re-visited in KS2.

Google Classrooms

Google Classroom is a web service developed by Google for schools. At St Mark's we are moving towards the use of Google Classrooms for teaching and learning. Children will learn how to navigate their way in the classroom in school. Once we are confident that children can do this we will begin to set Homework for children to complete.

This will also be useful if schools are required to close suddenly. It would mean that children's learning can continue unhindered. It will enable us to provide some live teaching; upload videos, see when children have and haven't completed work and also mark their work.

The Schools Vision, Mission and Values

School's Vision Statement

Our School Vision Statement remains as relevant as ever. We want our children to be: life long learners, individuals who possess core skills and knowledge and shaped by Christian values.

St Mark's… 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'

Skills for life

We will be committed to helping children to develop a range of skills that they will need throughout life during their time at St Mark's.

•Communication skills—including tone, body language, eye contact etc;
• following instructions • listening to and responding to advice
• expressing views and opinions; • negotiating
• responding to setbacks • problem solving
• reading, writing and maths skills
• social skills and team work,
•interpreting information
• justifying and debating
• resolving incidents
• debating

School Values

Our school values are based upon the teachings from the Bible and the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will look to promoted them throughout our school rules, the school curriculum, PSHE and during Collective Worship. They are important in informing us about how we should live and treat others. We will learn about lots of different values, but our main school values spell out CHART

COMPASSION—LOVE AND KINDESS IN ACTION
HARD WORK—DOING THE BEST YOU CAN
ACCOUNTABILITY—TAKING RESPONSIBILITY
RESPECT– TREATING OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED
TRUST— DEPENDING UPON GOD

Reminders for the beginning and end of the day

- If you have a child in Years 1 or 2 but also have a child in Years 3-6, you can drop off all children from 8.45am
- Pupils in Years 3-6 without siblings will need to be dropped off from 9.00am. You are able to drop them off at the gate if you would like to
- Please continue to use the one way system
- Please remove children's masks before they enter school
- Please try to communicate with teachers via email, phone or arrange a time to meet with them. Currently they are not available at the beginning or end of the school day
- Children in Years 1-2 need to be collected at 3.20. Please follow the one way system
- If you have a child in Years 3-6 as well as Years 1-2, please collect them altogether at 3.30pm, so you do not have to do two collections.
- Please leave the school site and the areas around the school as soon as possible to help with social distancing
- Avoid arriving to school too early. The staggered timings have been introduced to help to support social distancing across the school.
- To avoid too many people entering the school site, please could second collectors and secondary school siblings under 14 who are not collecting children remain off site in the mornings and afternoons
- If you are showing any of the Covid symptoms, please do not enter the school site
- Please inform the office if someone different to usual is collecting your child

Well Done!!!

It is great to see so many children walking, scooting and cycling to school at the moment. We have ordered some more scooter stands and we are waiting for them to arrive.