Unique and
Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

9th December 2016

'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 Parents and Carers

I am delighted to inform you that Lambeth Council have rated our School as a **Category A** School. Amongst other things, this means:

- Pupil progress at the school has been consistently above national expectations for the past three years
- Teaching across the school is good or better
- Behaviour is managed well and attendance is good
- Leadership and management at all levels has a good impact on pupils' achievement and behaviour.

This is the highest grade possible, and follows on well from our very encouraging Ofsted report issued at the start of this year. The Governors congratulate all the staff and children on this wonderful achievement.

As you know, St. Mark's has been in a partnership known as a Soft Federation with Archbishop Tenison's School. This has been of benefit to both Schools. However, whilst we hope to continue a close relationship with that School, we now feel this is the right time to bring the Federation to a formal end. Mrs. Sims was appointed as Executive Headteacher for the duration of the Federation, so now that the Federation is ended, she ceases to be our Executive Headteacher. We are grateful for all she contributed to the School.

Mr. Ingram, our Head of School, is now Acting Headteacher, and we hope to make a substantive appointment shortly.

Warm Regards

Reverend Steve Coulson

Theme of the week: I AM Sayings of Jesus

Bible Verse: I am the bread of life; he who comes to me sha;; never hunger

And he who believes in me shall never thirst. John Chapter 6:35

Improving outcomes for Boys Parent Workshop on Wednesday 14th December

at 9.00-10.00am

Boys Development Project

Are you a parent of a boy? Even if you aren't, don't miss this important parent workshop on **'Improving outcomes for Boys'** led by Trefor Lloyd from the **Boys Development Project** in Southwark on **Wednesday 14th December from 9.00-10.00am**.

Trefor will cover a range of areas all linked to how we can best improve educational outcomes for boys. Register your interest at the office now! All who attend will be entered into a prize draw for a free lunch for two at a local venue.

KEY STAGE 1
THE NATIVITY
Wednesday 14th Dec
At 2.30pm

Dear Parents of Reception, Years 1, Year 2 children

We are looking forward to seeing you at 2.30pm on Wednesday afternoon.

Please be on time so we can get off to a good start and join us afterwards for mince pies, tea and coffee.

ATTENDANCE NEWS

I first want to say a big THANK YOU to all parents who have been consistent in bringing their children to school. Our overall attendance is now 95.55% and our school target is 96% + . Please have a look at your child's class to see how well they are doing. Even with the cold weather & various illnesses, the results are promising and a clear indication that our children are happy and enjoy coming to school.

Holidays

Please note that we are unable to authorise any holidays during term time. Any parent taking their child out of school for holiday during term time may incur a fine.

Punctuality

School begins at 8.55am sharp. We expect all children from Reception up to Year 6 to be in line at this time ready to be collected by their teacher. We have seen such a great improvement in punctuality from previous terms, so please continue to arrive on time for school. Punctuality is monitored very closely and concerns are shared with parents. Remember, even a few minutes lost at the beginning of every day adds up to a lot of teaching time that none of our children can afford to lose.

Appointments

If your child needs to leave school during the day, please inform us in advance. No child will be allowed to leave the school premises without prior arrangement. If your child is absent from school for a prolonged period they must return with proof of absence in the form of a prescription, appointment cards or doctors certificate.

Reception - 93.59% Year 1 - 92.70% Year 2 – 94.23% Year 3 – 96.29%

Year 4 – 96.79% Year 5 – 96.03% Year 6 – 97.92 %

PLANTING PARTY

SATURDAY 10th December @ 11am—1pm

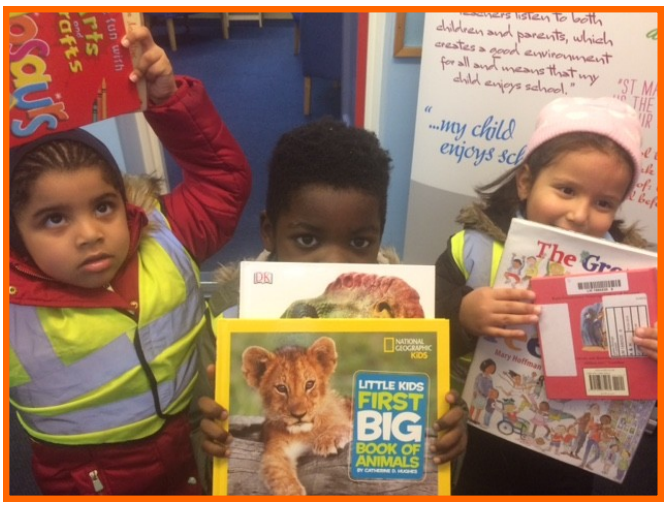
You may be aware of the changes to Vauxhall St becoming a cycle route.

We've been asked to plant the small beds in the road up, so we thought we'd turn it into an opportunity for the local community to come out and plant some spring bulbs there, and have a little mulled cider next **Sat 10 Dec 11am-1pm**.

No experience required, tools provided!

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AT ST MARK'S?

St MARK'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH



RECEPTION CLASS VISIT TO DURNING LIBRARY

TEENS & TODDLERS

We are pleased to be hosting a project called Teens and Toddlers this term, which sees 8 sixth form students from Archbishop Tenisons's School come in to work with our Reception children one afternoon each week. As you can see, all pupils are benefitting from the interactions.

The St Mark's Bake Off Friday 16th December 3.30-4.15pm

Dear Parents

We need you to bake cakes and run a stall for your child's class to help to raise money for the school.

The bake sale will be the second part of the school's Christmas Market on 16th December 2017 from 3.30-4.15pm