Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

9th February 2022

'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,

We would like to draw your attention to some events that will be taking place during the first week of Term 4 . It would be great if you are able to join us for the parents' football and the social media workshop! See the details on this page.

Parents'5-a-side football at Black Prince Road Trust followed by breakfast, on Thursday 24th February 9.10-10.30am. Meet at St Mark's Primary School at 9am

Growing Against Violence (GAV) provides evidence-based public health and public safety education and training.

ONLINE SAFETY/SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS ON MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 9.00 AM—10.15AM IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Raising a generation of children who have grown up in a digital world can be challenging for parents, it can be difficult to know where to begin when trying to navigate keeping them safe. This is especially true to life with new technology evolving so rapidly and our daily lives dominated by the internet. Never more so than over the last 18 months where children's screen and online time has vastly increased.

We are offering a free workshop for parents and carers at St Mark's Primary School on **Monday 28th February 9.00-10.15am**, which will help you understand how children use the internet, and will cover a range of topics to ensure you feel confident in having conversations about online safety. There will also be resources and tools to help you empower your children on their online journey, and keep them safe in the process.

I look forward to you attending
Natasha Guy
Home School Liaison Officer

GAV
Growing Against Violence

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Trust

BIBLE VERSE

"Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable … think on these things ."

Philippians 4.8

Attendance and Punctuality

N -	85.03 %	3—96.44%
R -	96.13%	4 - 92.59%
1 -	95.83%	5— 96.28%
2 -	96.74%	6— 91.98%

Overall Attendance—93.64%

There are still too many children arriving late to school. Please ensure you give yourself extra time for travel

Our Outstanding, Inspirational Curriculum at St Mark's

Last week, Willow Class went to the Horniman Museum where the children learnt about the Ancient African kingdom of Benin and participated in a workshop. They saw real artefacts in the museum and got to touch replicas in the workshop. In the gardens of the museum, the children were able to see a range of animals

Development of lunch hall to improve the eating environment

Seraphena, Eni, Ellie-May and Jastin from Sycamore Class getting ready to leave school to attend a maths mastery session at King's College Maths School

Last week we were visited by an acapella singing group as part of the Vauxhall Classical festival and they led workshops with children in Palm Class and Oak Class

Palm class
Made excellent
Greek pots

Our Outstanding, Inspirational Curriculum at St Mark's

SCIENCE DAY

This year's Science Day coincided with the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2022, so at St Mark's we made a day of it! We carried out experiments, made bird feeders/bird houses and took trips outside to see how many different species of birds we could find! The pupils really put 100% into each activity and I was so impressed with the fantastic creations produced across the school.

Thank you to all of the pupils and teachers for your amazing effort and another thank you goes to parents and families who helped by donating cardboard and resources.

Miss Stewart

Our Outstanding, Inspirational Curriculum at St Mark's

Last Wednesday <u>Olive Class</u> went on a school trip to the Natural History Museum. It was amazing. They had a very interesting workshop on Volcanoes and Earthquakes. Year 3 children became scientists and had to help on a mission to save Volcano Town. They did an amazing job. We also visited few of the galleries: Dinosaur, Mammals and Earthquake and Volcano, THERE WAS SO MUCH TO SEE!!!

<u>Sycamore class</u>

Last Friday, Sycamore Class had the amazing opportunity to visit the Science Museum.

What has been happening at St Mark's

EARLY YEARS VAUXHALL CITY FARM SCHOOL TRIP

What a fun trip Cedar class had on Tuesday. Children loved walking around the farm and seeing so many animals – goats, chickens, sheep, guinea pigs, ducks, donkeys… they fed the animals, stroked them, listen to the 3 Little Pigs story and had a picnic back at school! Thank you to all the parents that came and helped.

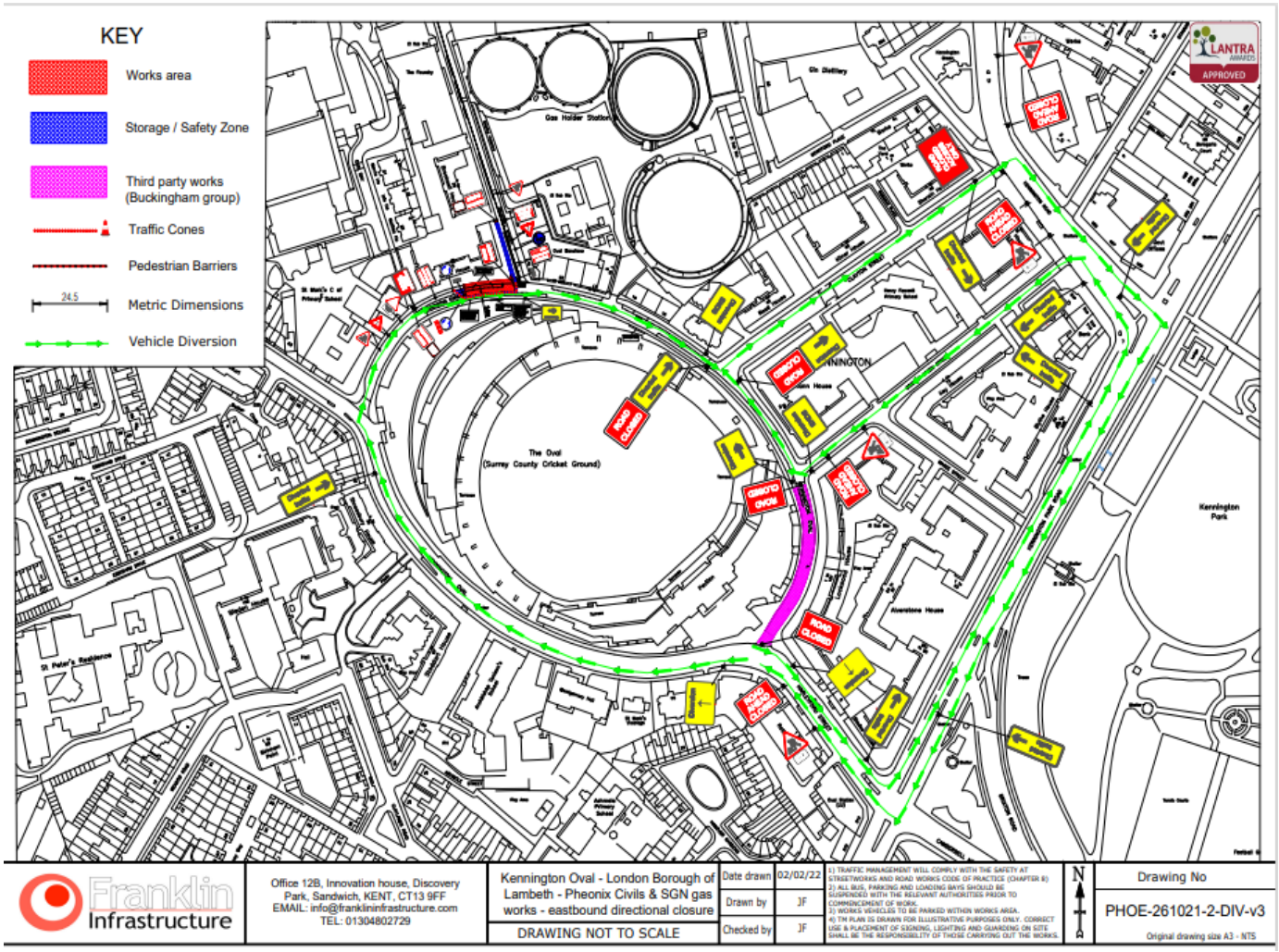
Some children in the school have been learning about China as part of their topic and also celebrating Chinese new year as their focus on celebrations. Olive Class are looking forward to having an Ancient China Day on the last day of term.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You will have noticed that there are gas works currently underway around the Kennington Oval which has resulted in restricted access and some road closures. The manager of the gas company Phoenix has been in contact with the school to express his concern that between the times when children are dropped off for school and collected from school, there are some St Mark's parents who are breaching the temporary traffic rules. He is fearful that this could result in an accident and has asked me to relay important messages to those of you who drive your children to school. Please:

- **Follow the traffic controls**
- **Follow the road closure signs**
- **Do not park in the coned areas**
- **Follow the stop signs**
- **Be respectful to the traffic marshals trying to direct traffic**

Breaches of these temporary restrictions could result in a £ 60 fine and a three point penalty. He also said that from next week if there are any further breaches of the rules, he will take photographic evidence and pass this on to traffic enforcement agencies. He has kindly passed on a TM diversion plan of their works and the road closures. Please see below and please co-operate fully, to avoid any unnecessary penalties. Give yourselves extra time to use alternative routes to and from school.



Term 3 Diary Dates—additional dates in red

Tuesday 8th February 2022	Safer Internet Day	
Tuesday 8th February	Cedar Class—Vauxhall Farm School trip	10 am
Wednesday 9th February	Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball Tournament	La Retraite School
Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th February 22	Parents Evening	
Friday 11th February 2022	Year 3 Ancient China Day	Children come in Chinese Dress for a day of learning, food and fun
Friday 11th February 2022	Year 4 Ancient Greece Day	Children come as Ancient Greeks for a day of learning, food and fun
Friday 11th February	Last day of Term 3	
w/c 14th -18th Feb 2022	Half Term	
Monday 21st February 2022	Children return to school	
Monday 21st February 2022	Year 5 children begin swimming	Children need to be in school at 8.50am
Tuesday 22nd February 2022	School photographs	Individual and siblings photographs. Children to wear full school uniform and bring PE kits
Wednesday 23rd Feb 2022	EYFS Stay and Play	9.00-9.45am
Thursday 24th Feb 2022	Parents' Football and breakfast At Black Prince Road Trust	9.00- 10.30am
Friday 25th February 2022	Year 3 and 4 Football Tournament	tbc
Monday 28th February 2022	Parent Workshop online safety and social media	In the school hall 9-10.15am
1st March 2022	Secondary School Offer Day	
4th March March 2022	Year 5 and 6 Basketball Tournament	
Friday 18th March 2022	Red Nose Day. This is a fundraising activity and we would like all children to bring in £1 to raise	Children can wear red to school and participate in Sports Challenges
Wednesday 23d March 2022	EYFS Stay and Play	9.00-9.45am
Wednesday 23rd March 2022	Musictrax Violin/Cello Concert	2.50pm
Thursday 24th March 2022	Year 3 and 4 Recorder Concert	2.50pm
Friday 25th March 2022	Mothers' Day Breakfast	tbc
w/c 28th March 2022	RE Week	Week of RE activities leading up to Easter
Thursday 31st March 2022	St Mark's Day	Fun activities across the day
Thursday 31st March 2022	Church Service at St Mark's Church	
Thursday 31st March 2022	Last day of Spring Term	
Tuesday 19th April 2022	Children return to school	

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

18 CENSORED

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it *does* offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.01.2022

Half –Term Activities

From the 14th - 18th Feb, Vauxhall City Farm will be conducting a **Sustainable Spring** holiday club. It will focus on the main themes of: **Waste, Growing, Pollution, Energy & Ecology.** It will, of course, all be centred around our wonderful animals and garden project too.

The club will run from **10:30am - 2:00pm,** each day and the cost for a day is **£25.**

More info can be found here: https://www.vauxhallcityfarm.org/events/sustainable-spring/

Vauxhall City Farm

Sustainable Spring Half-Term '22

Event Date: 14 February 2022

Event Time: 10:30 am

Event Location: Vauxhall City Farm

We are happy to announce that our Spring Half-Term Club is back! And it's all based around Sustainability! We will have space for 20 children (split into 4 groups of 5) on each day of the half-term, with activities being specifically designed for 7-12 year olds.

The club will run from 10:30am – 2pm, beginning on Monday 14th February, ending on Friday 18th.

It will allow children to get involved in many aspects of the farm and take part in some activities based around the sustainability. It's a real opportunity for those taking part to increase their knowledge of animals, nature and the environment whilst developing their artistic, personal, social and practical skills.

The club will cover topics and activities including:

- Learning about the different types of waste and how to reduce its impact on the environment
- The negative effects of plastic and viable alternatives
- An introduction to ecology, seeing how everything natural is connected
- Exploring different types of energy and how we can use them
- Getting our hands dirty in the garden, seeing how growing food can help us be more sustainable
- And loads more!

The activities differ on every day but whichever sessions children attend they'll have a great time!

The Sustainable Spring Half-Term is led by farm staff and volunteers who are trained and experienced in working with children of all ages to help them achieve their potential and do more.

Sessions last 3.5 hours and cost just £25 per day. You can book as many or few dates as you wish (subject to availability)

Sustainable Spring is for 7-12 year olds only, and runs 10.30am – 2:00pm

Please bring a packed lunch with you – catering is not provided

Some of the sessions may involve physical activity around the farm and may be messy so please ensure appropriate clothing is worn.

CRISS CROSS
ACTIVE

Free Family Fun & Fitness

Every other Sunday morning, 10.30 – 11.15am

Make friends, develop your agility, balance and coordination skills with this fun and inclusive physical literacy based session.

Location:

Lollard Street
Adventure Playground
London, SE11 6PX
(Entrance to the astroturf pitch is via Fitzalan Street)

Dates as follows:

January 16, 30
February 13, 27
March 13, 27

Then every other Sunday after Easter, starting back April 24, until July 3 2022.

Check website for updates.

For further details visit our website or email us:
crisscrossactive.co.uk
hello@crisscrossactive.co.uk