Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly Newsletter

9th May 2023

'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.'

The term is going extremely fast and the bank holidays and strike days have made the term even shorter. Staff and children continue to work hard across the whole curriculum and children have had great opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in different subject areas.

There is still a lot to squeeze in within a short space of time. Ebony Class in Reception will be heading out to the Science Museum during the coming week and children in Year 6 will sit their end of Key Stage Tests. Please also note that there will be an important workshop for parents on Internet Safety on Tuesday 23rd May at 9.00am.

St Mark's Nursery –Cedar Class

Our Nursery is proving to be very popular again and 29 of our 30 spaces are full for September 2023. If you have a child who will be three years old in September 2023 or just after, please obtain an application form from the office.

Year 6 SAT's TESTS

SAT's start on Tuesday 9th May until Friday 12th May.

Please ensure your child is at the school at 8.45 am.

We wish them all the best for their end of Key Stage Tests.

Holidays during term time

When children are well enough to come to school, they **should not** be out of school during term time, especially for holidays or events that do not relate to their education. The local authority reminds all schools that holidays are to be taken during the 13 weeks of holiday that schools receive each year. Please submit all requests for special leave to Mr Ingram and refer to our attendance policy.

You can be fined by the local authority for taking your child on holiday during term time without the school's permission

VALUE OF THE WEEK

Flourishing in our society & community

Coronation/British Values

BIBLE VERSE

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority."

1 Peter 2.13

ATTENDANCE NEWS

N - 82.86%

R - 94.25%

1 - 90.52%

2 - 94.87%

3 - 83.10%

4 - 85.6%

5 - 95.51%

6 - 92.39%

Whole school– 90.43%

Get in on time - In the line by 5 to 9!!

Mornings are always a rush, making sure everyone is up and out on time can be hard. The school gates open at 8:45am and close at 9am. When the children come into class at 9am they don't go to assembly, they start learning straight away, with Maths and English as their first lessons, it is therefore so important that children don't miss the first part of school. It can feel awkward walking into a busy working class late, so please always try to encourage that your child is in on time. **Mrs Natasha**

Coronation's Day at St Mark's

Talent Show at St Mark's

Dancing

Singing

Rubic Cube

Piano performance

Brass performance

Poetry

Gymnastics

A huge well done to all of the children who made the finals of our talent show: to Brenda, Laura, Mason, Naomi, Acacia, Alicia, Melodee, Jastin, Nikolas, Nyla Scott, Nila Connors, Ellie--May Jzard, Abigail, Leslie-Ann, Aquinna, Trojit, Emmanuel, Amy and Ana Clara. The winners were: 1st Aquinnah

2nd Melodee 3rd Trojit

What is happening at St Mark's

In R.E. this term; Year 1 have been focusing on parables.

During collective worship they helped to act out the parable of the 'Lost Sheep'.

Breakfast Club

Food Matters visited the Breakfast club to promote healthy eating. The children were able to sample some healthier alternatives that they could choose.

JUNIPER CLASS

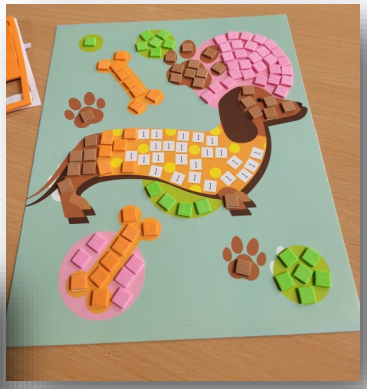
Year 1 went to the Garden Museum to support their learning of plants.
They participated in different activities including; dissecting a bean seeds, planting their own seeds, using microscopes to look at seeds more closely, and designing their own recycled tote bag.

What is happening at St Mark's

Every Wednesday children in Year 5 attend Action Tutoring sessions where they receive extra support in English and Maths by trained tutors completely free of charge.

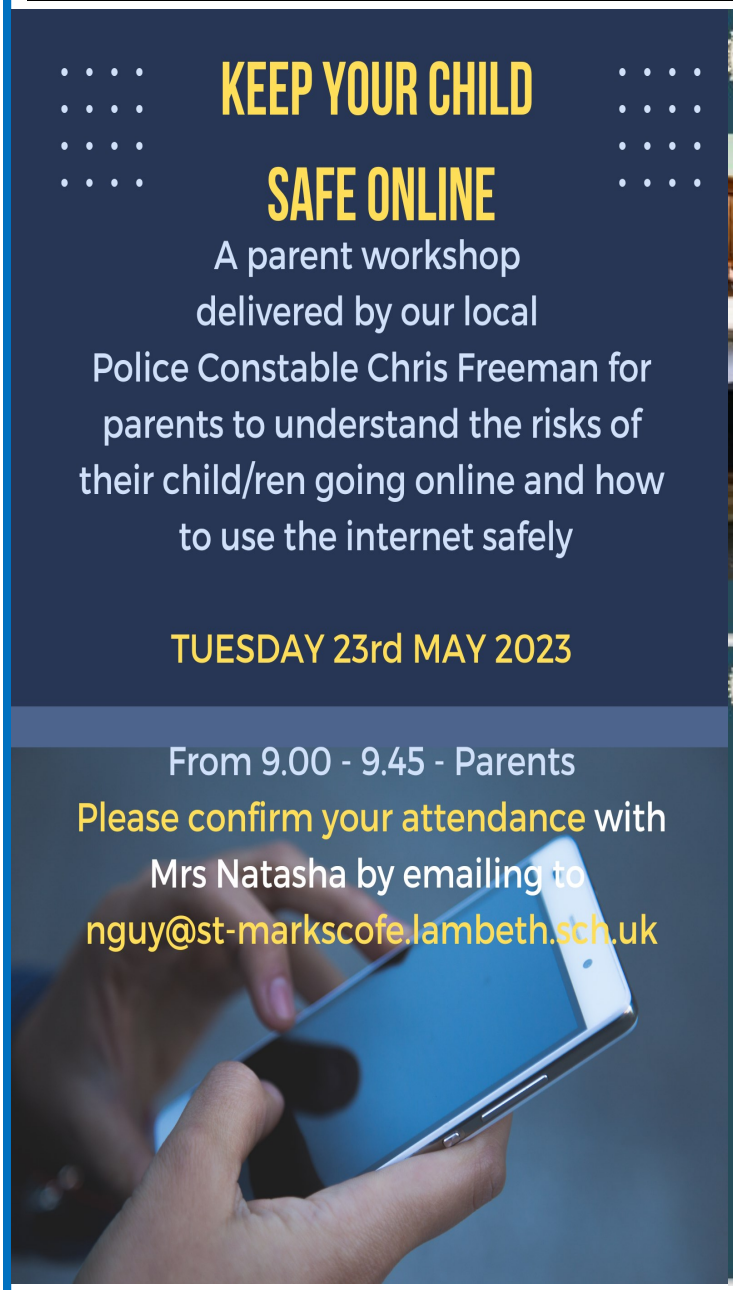
After School Clubs—Summer Term

We are pleased to see all clubs running this summer term as they are an excellent opportunity to children to enrich their education. Clubs are closed now. Should you have any query, please contact the school office.



Term dates, Notices & Events

Tuesday 9th May 2023	**SATs 9th – 12th May**	**Year 6 involved in national testing during the week**
Wednesday 10th May 2023	**PSA Planning Meeting for the Summer Fair**	**9.-10am All are welcome**
Wednesday 10th May 2023	Action tutoring for Year 5	
Thursday 11th May 2023	Reception Class school trip to Science Museum	From 10 am to 2.30 pm (
Wednesday 17th May 2023	Action tutoring for Year 5	
Friday 19th May 2023	EYFS Welcome event for children starting Nursery or Reception in September 2023	9.30am
Tuesday 23rd May 2023	Parent Workshop – Keep your child safe online	9.00 - 9.45 am
Wednesday 24th May 2023	Action tutoring for Year 5	
Thursday 25th May 2023	Year 2 Athletics Competition Venue TBC	10 – 2.00pm
Friday 26th May 2023	Last day of term 5	
Monday 5th June 2023	1st Day of Term 6	



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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they *do* offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school *does* permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.05.2023

St Mark's CofE Primary School Term Dates 2022-23

Term Dates for 2022-23

Please find the term dates for the academic year.

Sep-22						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30		

Oct-22						
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Nov-22						
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Dec-22						
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Jan-23						
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30	31					

Feb-23						
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27	28					

Mar-23						
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Apr-23						
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May-23						
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Jun-23						
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Jul-23						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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Aug-23						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

School Holidays | Bank Holidays | Pupil Days | INSET Days | Half Day INSET

Join the St. Mark's Family

Nursery Spaces available

If you, a neighbour, a friend or a relative are interested in a free, full-time Nursery Class place for this academic year or a Nursery or Reception space for September 2023, please contact us to express your interest, complete an application form and arrange an informal tour of the school.

St Mark's C of E Primary School is located on the Oval/Kennington borders (just behind the Oval cricket ground).

We are a friendly, family-based school that provides our pupils with a rigorous, yet inspirational, all-round education. We aim to challenge and engage all pupils during their learning journeys at St Mark's and prepare them for their lives beyond the school.

Our size, alongside our strong Christian ethos, also enables us to place an equal emphasis on nurturing each individual child's growth, development and character.

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