Unique and Valuable before God

THE ST MARK'S NEWS

Friday 16th October 2015

Year 6 visited the Wandsworth Recycling Centre as part of their Term's topic of 'Protecting the Planet.' They were given a guided tour of the centre and shown how they could reuse and recycle items that are often thrown away. Parlain's message for the whole school community is "Don't waste things but try to reuse and recycle."

Year 2 Cooking and Eating … Again!

Whenever I pass Year 2 they seem to be eating! Exciting activities such as picnics, sandwich making and making 'school-made' soup have been part of the learning throughout the term during their topic titled 'Land to Lunchchbox.' William and Ayla said 'We have learnt about where food comes from and we really enjoyed our trip to Vauxhall City Farm."

School Collective Worship theme:

'A Passion for Learning'

Wk 6– Learning to make the right choices

Verse of the Week: Choose you this day who you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

Joshua 24:15

Next week is a Black History Week Focus

Key Events on Thursday 22nd October

- **Cultural Dress Day– Please wear national dress, national colours or traditional dress to school (This is a non-school uniform day, but no fancy dress please)**
- **Emmanuel the Magnificent– a well known acrobat and musician is visiting St Mark's. There is a whole school demonstration for parent and children at 9.00 a.m. In the hall**
- **International Celebration Evening 6.00-8.00pm– see separate letter and send in money for your tickets.**

Please speak to your child's teacher if you can support the class with singing, art, cookery, story-telling story time next week

Parental Feedback

Your feedback has been very important in bringing items to our attention and in planning provision for how best we can support the children of St Mark's. In total, 62 questionnaires were returned to school with excellent comments and feedback.
83% of parents expressed a desire to see the school develop a Nursery
82% of parents expressed a desire to see the school develop pre-school provision
85% of parents expressed a desire to see the school develop after school provision
Other areas that parents expressed an interest in were parenting classes and English classes.
Governors, the Executive Head and the Head of School are currently in discussion about how best we can respond to this important parental feedback.

Raising the expectations on attendance and punctuality

School Council have raised the expectations on attendance and punctuality and are offering cash incentives to reward classes. Working with the school leadership, we have changed the expected attendance figure from 95% to 96% to match the higher average figure for Lambeth Schools. To encourage classes to achieve this figure, we have decide to give each class who have 96% or above attendance for the week, £5.00. At the end of the term classes can choose to spend their money as they wish. Classes with 100% punctuality will be given an additional £5.00 each week

School Council say you've got to be in it to win it!

Year 3,Year 4,Year 6 and Reception are already in the money with attendance already over 96% for this week. Year 3 receive an additional £5.00 for being on time all week. A big well done to those classes.

October half term FREE CYCLE TRAINING courses in Lambeth

Lambeth Council have provided funding to offer free cycle training courses in the October half term to any child of 9 or above who lives or goes to school in the borough. Training is by fully qualified cycle instructors and is delivered by Cycle Confident, Lambeth's official cycle training provider.

Courses are running in a choice of 3 locations:

CLAPHAM COMMON, BROCKWELL PARK, MYATT'S FIELD PARK.

Courses are for any child who has basic riding ability and would like to acquire some on-road skills. The training is in small groups and for 2 hours a day for 4 days (either in the morning or the afternoon), starting on 26 October. Children must bring their own bike and helmet (though there is a small number of bikes to borrow at Clapham Common).

Places are very limited and are given on a first-come-first-served basis so you are advised to book as soon as possible.

To book a place for your child, call **020 303 16730 or** visit the Cycle Confident website http://www.cycleconfident.com/courses/child-group/

and scroll to the bottom of the screen where all courses are listed and you can register your child.

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

BIG Draw; Seeing Closer – The Royal Society

FREE (All Ages)

6-9 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AG / 020 7451 2500 / https://royalsociety.org

Nearest tube: Charing Cross or Piccadilly Circus

Sat 17th Oct, 11am-5pm

A fun day out for all of the family with craft and drawing activities plus talks, demonstrations and workshops on the theme of microscopy.

Fun Family Photos - British Museum

FREE (Age 7+)

44 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG / 020 7323 8000 / www.british museum.org

Nearest tube: Holborn/Russell Square

Sat 17th Oct, 11am-4pm

Learn green screen technology skills to create a picture of your family interacting with the Museum's collection.

Feedback from the pupils

Through Independently submitting a written persuasive letter to the Head of School, Genesis, Rebecca and Mardiya somehow managed to gain the role of newsletter editors and will have a regular newsletter column throughout the term. Their first assignment was to gather feedback on the views of the pupils regarding some of the changes that have been introduced to the school since September. They asked Yorkabel in Year 5 some questions to get her view on this issue:

Q. What changes have you noticed since September?

A. Our classes can win money for good attendance, we get golden tickets for good behaviour and we have more opportunities to do jobs around the school.

Q. What are your thoughts on the school monitor positions?

A.I am excited because children get to help out a lot which makes them feel a part of the school.

Q. What is your opinion about the school behaviour system?

A. Great, because there is a record of good behaviour and it is rewarded.

Q. What else could you like to see changed or improved?

A. I would like to see more playground equipment and some more clubs, e.g. Fashion Club

Shape your child's school - become a school governor

Parent Governor Elections

The full Governoring Body working hard this week to make St Mark's an outstanding school

The Board of Governors work with the School leaders in making some of the strategic decisions about the School, and they are interested in everything that goes on in the School. The parents of the children at St. Mark's elect two representatives and they play a vital role in helping the whole Board understand the views of parents. There is currently one vacancy for a PARENT GOVERNOR. If you would like to know more about the role and the necessary time commitment, please speak to me or to Shinor Kawa, the mother of Nadia in Year 4. Please use the slip to nominate yourself or another parent. Please return this slip to the School office by Friday 23rd October.

I wish to nominate as Parent Governor_____

Signed _____

Name of child/ren _____ (Return slip to school)