Unique and Valuable before God

THE ST MARK'S NEWS

Friday 25th September 2015

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank You!

Thank you for your support with many of the changes that have taken place during the course of the last two weeks. It is very pleasing to see the vast majority of pupils in line and ready for learning at 8.55 a.m. Please ensure that this continues so children don't miss any of their learning time and do not have to walk into class late when their classmates have already started their work. The end of the day arrangement are also smoother, so thank you for helping with this.

Parents Evening

Next week you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and find out about how they have settled into school and be informed about the targets that we have set for them this term. The time slots are 7 1/2 minutes per person, so we can fit the event into one evening. Parents Evening will take place in the school hall. This does mean however that school will finish at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 30th September. Prior warning of this time change was provided for you back in July and each week since the beginning of this term, so we trust that you have made arrangements for this. If you haven't signed up for a time slot, please speak to your child's classteacher for available times. If your child attends an after school club on Wednesday, they can remain at school and be collected as usual at 4.25 p.m. We will also be running a crèche facility to enable you to drop off your child/ren while you speak to the class teacher. **Children not attending an after school club must be collected at 2.30 p.m.**

Secondary Transfer Meetings

Five school headteachers and some other secondary school representatives visited St Mark's this week in an attempt to encourage parents of Year 5 and 6 children to choose their secondary schools. Those of you who were present at the meeting wisely took the opportunity to speak to them and find out information about their schools and the admissions process. If you have any queries about the process or would like support, please do speak to me, or draw upon the expertise and experience of our Executive Head Mrs Sims, who is often present at school. I must also say that it was a pleasure to see secondary school children involved in giving persuasive speeches to parents on their school's behalf. We very much want to develop that confidence and independence in our children this year and prepare them for the future.

Attendance and Punctuality

Please continue to ensure that children are in their lines by 8.55 a.m.

Attendance winners for achieving over 95% attendance this week are Year 1 and Year 2 again . Thank you parents for ensuring their attendance is good. The school's oval all attendance was 93%, which is way below what it should be. Let's aim for 95% for next week!

School Collective Worship theme:

'A Passion for Learning'

Wk 3– Being an independent learner

Verse of the Week: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean- not on your own understanding ...

School Council

I have already got the school council working hard! This afternoon they reviewed the job applications we received for monitor positions across the school. Children will find out if they were successful on Monday. There will not be any interviews this time, but maybe another.

HARVEST COLLECTION

Next week we will collect food to donate to the Vauxhall food bank as part of our Harvest Festival collection. Please could you bring in tins and dried goods ? A special collection box will placed in the school playground.

Vauxhall foodbank

VACANCIES

Some of you will have seen some of the blue signs around the school advertising the fact that we have vacancies in our Reception Class this year. If you know of anyone who is looking for a Reception place, please direct them our way.