Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's News
17th JUNE 2016
Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been a very busy fortnight at St Mark's, with children being actively involved in a range of learning opportunities both inside and outside of school. Children in key stage two have participated in a Lambeth mental maths competition against other schools, and children in Year 6 have taken part in singing workshops as part of a project with other neighbouring schools. Children in Year 5 experienced their first taster session at Archbishop Tenison's earlier this week in their science lab and Children in Years 1 and 2 participated in workshops with students from Sydenham High School.

Breakfast Club Begins

In response to parental demand, the school has set up its own breakfast club to support parents who need to drop children off from 8.00 am. Ten children have already started and we have spaces for more. Please enquire at the office for more details.

Reception Places Available

Many of our Year groups are either full or near full but we still have spaces in our current Reception Class and for Reception September 2016. If you know anyone who is looking for a space, please direct them to the school.

Theme: The school's Mission Statement

Week 2: <u>Developing Spiritually, Morally, Socially and Culturally</u>

Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; to goodness knowledge; and to knowledge self control; and to self control, perseverance; and to perseverance, Godliness: 2 Peter 1:6

Friends of St Mark's

NEED YOUR HELP

WANTED...

VOLUNTEERS TO RUN STALLS, RAFFLE PRIZES, TOMBOLA PRIZES, AND FOOD DONATIONS. PLEASE DROP OFF ALL ITEMS ON THE FSM TABLE IN THE HALL EACH MORNING

ST MARK'S
Church of England Primary School

GOT TALENT

Well done to all children who took part in last week's talent show and particularly to Ziva in Year 2, the overall winner. Many thanks to all involved in putting together a fantastic evening

What has been going on at St Mark's

Learning outdoors and outside of the classroom

KS1 children planting seeds with Yr 7 children from Sydenham High.

Year 5 children enjoying a science investigation at Archbishop Tenisons.

Toluwa and Othniel return from their poetry workshop with local schools.

One of the performing acts from last week's excellent St Mark's Has Got Talent event.

Active parents preparing for last Friday's event.

Year 4 and Year 5 children returning from the Lambeth Mental Maths competition.

Learning Opportunities through our partnerships

Year 1 taking part in a Tennis session with a coach from the Ferndale Community Centre in Brixton.

Jason and Glen from Oval station talking to the children earlier this week about safety at Oval station, and Careers on the underground. They also encouraged the children to use the station to promote the school.

Our inspirational parent and children's group producing excellent animation work as they work with the London Connected Learning Centre as part of their 6 week project.

Important Dates for Term 6

DATES	Focus/Activity	Time
Monday 6th June 2016	INSET DAY	
Tuesday 7th June 2016	Children return to school	8.55am
Monday 13th June 2016	Year 1 Phonics Screening	
Tuesday 14th June 2016	Year 5 into University	
Thursday 16th June 2016	Children who are transferring to Pimlico School Assessments	8.45 – 12 noon
Thursday 16th June	Year 6 at Leavers Service at Southwark Cathedral	11.45
Friday 24th June 2016	YR 5 Overnight Camping Trip	Leaving at 9.15pm
Saturday 25th June 2016	YR 5 Camping Trip	Return at 4.00pm
Monday 27th June 2016	Yr 6 Into University Secondary school transition – half of class	
Tuesday 28th June 2016	Yr 6 Into University Secondary school transition – half of class	
Friday 1st July 2016	Year 6 Children going to Pimlico school – Taster Day	
Monday 4th July – Friday 8th 2016	Cycle Confidence – Yr 6	
Saturday 9th July 2016	School Summer Fair	1-4pm
Sunday 10th July 2016	Year 6 Leaver's Service at St Mark's Church – all welcome	10.00am
Tuesday 12th July 2016	Parents Evening and reports out	An opportunity to cele-brate the year
Wednesday 13th July 2016	Sports Day	9.30-12.00 Kennington Park
Friday 15th July 2016	Year 6 End of Year Production	6.00 pm – Venue tbc Please note change of date
Monday 18th July 2016	Health, Fitness and Well-being Week	
Tuesday 19th July 2016	Awards Ceremony School hall	9.30 am
Thursday 21st July 2016	Year 6 End of Year Ball	6-8pm
Friday 22nd July 2016	End of Term	1.30pm

The school's vision Statement

Our vision statement outlines what we strive to achieve for our pupils by the time they leave St Mark's in Year 6. It says:

'A school where children develop the passion to learn; the skills to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'

We want children who leave St Mark's to have an on-going **love for learning.** We want them to possess a range of skills so they can function effectively in all areas of life and be successful. Skills such as being able to: communicate effectively, listen to others, empathise, debate, resolve incidents and conflicts, respond to advice, respond to setbacks, problems and disappointments and interpret information.

The School's Mission Statement

Our mission statement states how we, as a school, will work together in partnership with our parents to achieve the aims set out in our vision statement. We are committed to ensuring:

- ***Children are intellectually challenged through high standards of teaching and learning***
- ***Children develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.***
- ***Children think for themselves, develop enquiring minds and become independent, reflective individuals.***
- ***Children are able to engage and work collaboratively with a wide range of people and develop mutual respect.***
- ***The school works in partnership with local organisations, schools and in particular Archbishop Tenison's within our soft federation, in order to develop a clear path into secondary school***
- ***Children learn within a safe, stimulating learning environment in which outstanding learning takes place.***
- ***We offer an enriched and inspirational curriculum in which pupils actively participate in a broad range of meaningful learning experiences.***

The School's Values

We want children from St Mark's to be guided by our **Core Christian Values of : Compassion, Hard work, Accountability, Respect and Trust, in addition to Joy, Peace, Kindness, Self-Control and Forgiveness.**

HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES – ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

Autumn Term 2016

	Monday 5th September – **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
	Tuesday 6th September – **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
Start:	**Wednesday 7th September** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Friday 21st October**
Half Term:	Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October
Start:	**Monday 31st October** – All pupils return to school
	Wednesday 23rd November – **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
Finish:	**Wednesday 21st December**
Christmas Holiday:	Thursday 22nd December - Monday 2nd January

Spring Term 2017

	Tuesday 3rd January – **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
Start:	**Wednesday 4th January** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Friday 10th February**
Half Term:	Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February
Start:	**Monday 20th February** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Friday 31st March**
Easter Break:	Monday 3rd April – Monday 17th April

Summer Term 2017

	Tuesday 18th April - **INSET DAY** (school closed to students)
Start:	**Wednesday 19th April** – All pupils return to school
	Monday 1ST May **Bank Holiday school closed**
Finish:	**Friday 26th May**
Half Term:	Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Start:	**Monday 5th June** – All pupils return to school
Finish:	**Friday 21st July (Last day of Summer term)**

BANK HOLIDAYS 2017

Monday 26 December 2016 (Boxing Day)

Tuesday 27 December 2016 (Christmas Day Bank Holiday)

Monday 2 January 2017 (New Year's Day Bank Holiday)

Friday 14 April 2017 (Good Friday)

Monday 17 April 2017 (Easter Monday)

Monday 1 May 2017 (May Day)

Monday 29 May 2017 (Spring Bank Holiday)

Monday 28 August 2017 (Summer Bank Holiday)

Permission will not be given for pupils to be taken out of school during term time for family holidays, as this is very disruptive to their education and is not in keeping with Government guidelines.

Low Cost/No Cost Family Fun in London

West End Live – Trafalgar Square

Saturday 18th June 11am – 6pm; Sunday 19th June 12 – 6pm

FREE (all ages) no tickets required

Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN, www.westendlive.co.uk

Nearest station/tube: Charing Cross

Come and celebrate West End LIVE in Trafalgar Square. Now in its 12th year West End LIVE offers a stellar line up of much loved favourites and exclusive performances from the very best that Theatreland and London's cultural institutions have to offer.

Flight - Explore Family Workshops – Horniman Museum

Saturday 18th June 11.45 am – 12.30 pm; 1pm – 1.45pm

FREE (tickets available half an hour in advance) Age 3+

Touch real museum objects and discover them with your family in these popular sessions for families of all kinds. This week's theme is Flight.

Explore Zoology – Grant Museum of Zoology

Saturday 18th June 1 – 4pm

FREE (for families) no tickets required

Grant Museum of Zoology, Rockefeller Building, University College London, University Street, WC1E 020 3108 2052 www. ucl.ac.uk Nearest tube: Warren Street

Ever wondered how heavy an elephant tusk is or how sharp a shark's tooth is or how many scales a pangolin has? Well, bring along your budding zoologists for our family hands-on specimen based activities and be inspired to ask these questions and many more with our enthusiastic museum educators. Come along and be amazed at the natural world.

More Competitive Sports at St Mark's

Last week a group of athletes from Years 4-6 took part in an athletics tournament against other schools in the Oval Cluster and did very well.

Helpful Opportunities for Parents and Families

1. Hexagon Careers Service - which is based in Sydenham and looks to be open to anyone over the age of 16 years old (See Website)
2. Women Like Us - offering free job seeking/career support for people in households with an income of less than £20,000 (See website)
3. A training opportunity for Money Champions on Thursday 30th June (see website)
4. A 'Money Talks' workshop to talk about debt solutions on 20th June (see website)

Supporting Communication with your child

Supporting communication development is easy when you know how. It doesn't take lots of thought or planning. Communication is everywhere, so can be supported in all activities by making slight changes to current good practice to make it even better. Attending a free training session with a speech therapist will help. Talk to your school SENCO about training sessions at Mary Sheridan Centre or Sunshine House.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

PLEASE SEE BELOW THE DETAILS OF A PROGRAMME OF FREE WORKSHOPS WHICH TAKE THE FORM OF A 'DROP IN' (NO BOOKING REQUIRED) FOR PARENTS. THESE WORKSHOPS AIM TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL AND USEFUL ADVICE WITH STRATEGIES AND IDEAS ON HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD IN CONTINUING TO DEVELOP THEIR IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS. THE SESSIONS WILL BE RUN BY 2 MEMBERS OF THE OUTREACH SERVICE.

Tuesday June 28th 2016 – Social Scripts and Social Skills.

A practical overview which will explain what Social Scripts are, how to write them and how to use them in order to guide children and young people through specific situations and/or behaviours.

A chance to look at and discuss what is meant by the term 'Social Skills' and why they are taught in schools.

Venue – Loughborough Primary School, Minet Road Brixton SW9 7UA