Unique and Valued by God

# The St Mark's Fortnightly News

## 21st December 2017

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

## For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given-Isaiah 9:6

We come to the end of a very busy term, which has seen so many high points and things to celebrate.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas and may we all give ourselves time to reflect upon the wonder and significance of the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Don't forget that school begins on

## Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 8.55 a.m.

**Value of the Week**

**JOY**

**BIBLE VERSE**

**And the Angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10 - 11**

# St Mark's Nativity & Christmas Carol Service!

**It has been a privilege during the past week to see the extraordinary talents of the children at St Mark's Primary School. Firstly last Tuesday, our children in Nursery & Reception produced an amazing Nativity performance to many of you. This week Tuesday, children in Year 1 and Year 2 performed their excellent version of their Nativity too.**

**There was a remarkable turn out Yesterday morning, when children in Key Stage Two led the Carol Service at St Mark's Church, accompanied by the school Recorder Group and Choir . Thank you Mrs Eppie Thompson, for teaching our School Choir Group and Recorder Group this year and for all of the teachers and TAs across the school who have helped to organise such excellent events. We have so many fantastic singers in the school that we would encourage as many children as possible to consider joining the school choir, which is after school on Tuesdays. Well done children for all of your hard work, effort and achievements and thank you parents and carers for your support for these special events.**

## Stars of the Term

At the end of each term, teachers select 3 children who have demonstrated excellent achievement in learning, excellent effort in their commitment to their work and excellent collaboration in the way they have worked with others. So many children across the school demonstrate these qualities but the children below have been identified for Term 2 are:

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|---|---|---|---|
| Reception : | Gerard | Ryan | Phillip |
| Year 1: | Enioluwa | Rosa | Emmanuel |
| Year 2: | Shary | Kamarni | Sergio |
| Year 3: | Tomiwa | Grace | Maya |
| Year 4: | Ryan | Donte | Rebeca |
| Year 5: | Gracie | Ian | Patricia |
| Year 6: | Alicia | Joyce | Hensi |

# 100% attendance Award Winners

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Well done for the children below who achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term.

**Reception - Vickela, Naliyah, Kaiqi, Moriah, Anthony, Jerome, Mara.**
**Year 1— Samuel, Joseph, Freya, Holly, Hamza, Enioluwa, Ana, Ellie-May.**
**Year 2— Oreoluwa, Kailin, Shary.**
**Year 3— Keziah, Valeria, Djelika, Taj, Kelvin, Angel, Faith, Kaylee.**
**Year 4— Donte, Bruce, Kellissia, Tsion, Francisco, Jaden-Lee, Gahie.**
**Year 5— David, J'Neil, Juanita, Natalie, Norrissa, Sara, Jose, Ian, Bless, Jacob, Maria-Clara, Ifedayo, Iara, Ainhhoa.**
**Year 6— Shreine, Joyce, Abdul-Matin,Deborah, Hensi, Nakai, Pierreice, Yasmin, Saied, D'Andra May, Mariette.**

# Parental Feedback

**Responding to parental feedback**

**Dear Parents, thank you very much for the feedback that you provided for us as a school. You have given us lots of positive comments and also suggestions of things that we can improve as we continue to move the school on its journey towards being outstanding.**

### Improve school Dinners

We have already met with our school caterers, taken feedback from pupils in terms of what they like and don't like and we will be changing the menu soon. This was meant to happen previously, but didn't due to staffing at Caterlink.

### Pushing higher achieving children

Additional teachers work within Years 6, 5, 4, enabling a greater focus on more able pupils. From January, additional teacher support will take place within Years 3, 2 and 1. An increase in Reception and Nursery staffing also enables adults to cater more effectively for all pupils, including the higher achievers

### Organisation of parents' evenings

We are currently working on this as we know that lots of parents who are interested in similar time slots to speak to teachers. We will also review our ways of working to ensure that timings support those of you who have siblings in different classes across the school.

### Restoring music clubs

We welcome the return of Kathy, our music teacher from last year who will be teaching music in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and also running two lunchtime guitar groups , an after school choir and a slot for the recorder group during the afternoon.

### Separate boys and girls changing areas in Year 6

We recognise the need for this as our children get older and now boys and girls in Year 6 are supervised in their own separate changing areas, while they change for PE

### Informing parents about pupils' progress

We currently hold a parent and teachers meeting each term when you will be informed about children's progress and next steps. During one of these meetings you will have the opportunity to see children's work and progress for yourself by looking at their books. If your children receives any additional support or provision, we will inform you by letter.

### More equipment in the playground x 5

This is something I have discussed with both the school governors and the buildings manager at the Southwark Diocesan Board … watch this space!

### More activities in after school clubs, including homework club on Fridays

From January 2018 /19 different clubs will run for the Spring Term including new clubs, such as African chess, a Science, Technology and Engineering club (STEM), Maths games, Computing with the Oval and a return of Homework club.

### More security in the entrance gate

We have increased our staffing at the front gate at the beginning and end of the school day and now ask parents to wait outside the school, keeping the reception area clear during the time when school clubs are running .

# Healthy Packed Lunches

## Thank you parents for supporting our healthy packed lunch agenda

# Christmas Market

**Well done children for making excellent crafts to sell at the Christmas Market and thank you parents for supporting us through your purchases.**