Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's News
22nd July 2016

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

Dear Parents and Carers

Well done

We come to the end of a very busy and successful year at St Mark's . So much has been accomplished through the hard work and commitment of staff, governors, parents, local partners and the children themselves. The children at St Mark's are amazing and have inspired so much of our excellent work. Thank you very much for your feedback and comments from the recent parent survey. It is very helpful and will help us to continue to make progress as we look to move from Good to Outstanding.

Goodbye and Thank You

We say a big goodbye to pupils and parents in Year 6. They have made a significant contribution to the school and we trust that they will always see St Mark's as their community and be actively involved in future events within the school. We also say goodbye and thank you to Mr Harrowell– Year 6 Teacher; Mrs Davidson– Reception Class teacher; Miss Tefannum– Reception Class TA and Ms Fiona– Year 1 TA. They have all made a significant contribution to the achievements of St Mark's this year.

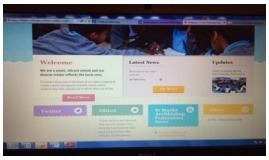
Year 6 children at last night's leavers ball and in Lion King costumes

Keeping busy over the summer

There is absolutely no reason for your children to remain inactive during the summer as there are lots of low cost activities available within Lambeth. Please see our school twitter feed and school website for local events that will be taking place over the summer.

www.stmarkscofeprimarylambeth.co.uk

Twitter: @StMarks_Lambeth



Also see our new photo galleries in the news section of the website

Competitive Sport

This year children at St Mark's have participated in a number of sports competitions and events against other local schools within Lambeth. Children across the school have participated in tournaments for gymnastics, athletics, cricket, tennis, football and tag rugby. We are fully committed to entering more competitions next year and hope to work towards achieving the nationally recognised Active Sports quality mark.

Tennis Team

Gymnastics Team

Tag Rugby Team

Music

We are pleased that this year has seen the expansion of our music provision across the school. Children in Year 3 now learn the recorder each week and have reached a very good standard in a short space of time. In addition to this, a group of children across Key Stage 2 are being trained for their Grade 1 exam , which will provide them with free tuition from Arch Bishop Tenison's. In addition to this children in Reception to Year 2 have participated in music lessons, Year 5 have worked with the singing Tutor and Year 6 children have had guitar lessons. We are currently looking into extending our music provision by reintroducing our steel pans next year.

Recorder Group

Yr 6

Guitars

Yr 3

Recorders

Junior Choir & recorder Group

Reception improvements

During the year we have worked hard to develop both the indoor and outdoor settings and provision for the children within the Reception Class and lots of progress has been achieved across all areas of the curriculum. Next year we hope to provide children with further opportunities to engage in outdoor learning and continue to invest in furniture and resources that will inspire children in their learning and help them to further develop their ability to be independent, inquisitive and motivated learners.

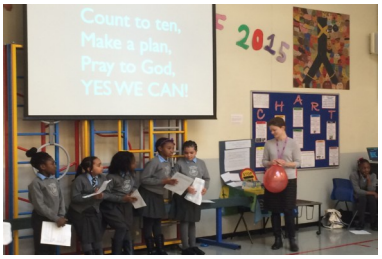
School Uniform

Please remember that children are expected to wear full and appropriate school uniform to school. Some trainers and inappropriate ear and headwear has crept in during the summer term. Please see our school website for full details of what children should wear to school.

Thank you

Christian Distinctiveness

It has been a year in which Reverend Steve, our Chair of Governors has yet again played a vital across the school. In addition to this, Caroline Levitt, the children's worker from St Mark's Church, has led weekly sessions with our school prayer monitors and encouraged them to take a lead in the prayer life of the school. Weekly staff and parent prayer meeting continue to take place and classes across the school have been responsible for leading collective worship. At the beginning of the year, we identified specific school values, which are displayed across the school. We plan to further develop our Christian distinctiveness next year through embedded the school values within our school curriculum and all areas of school life and also further develop our links with St Mark's Church .



Outdoor learning

We are pleased that the tradition of outdoor learning continues at St Mark's with children in Year 6 enjoying a week-long school journey to Carroty Wood and our Year 5 Class visiting Walhampton for an overnight stay. In addition to this, Our current year 4 class will be participating in an overnight trip to Chichester in September, when they will sleep on a Luxury boat and participate in water sports. We have grand plans for developing the wildlife garden at the back of the playground so that it can be used on a daily basis by the children. We plan to hold a 'Community Clear-Up Day' on Saturday 17th September 10.00 -1.00 to tidy up the wildlife area at the back of the school. We hope you can join us.

Year 5 trip to Walhampton

Yr 6 trip to Rock UK

Yr 5 to Walhampton School

Pupil Leadership

This year has seen children across all areas of the school taking on positions of responsibility and leadership. Pupils have taken on monitor positions for leading activities in the playground, helping in the lunch hall, being play buddies, leading in collective worship and prayer and helping to keep the school tidy. I would like as many children as possible to consider monitor positions for next year.

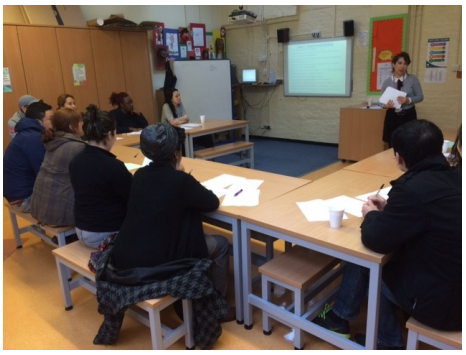
Partnership with Archbishop Tenison's

During the year:

- **Year 6 children received additional maths gifted and talented classes**
- **Staff and pupils from Tenison's have led some of our collective worship assemblies**
- **Children in the 6th form and Years 10 & 11 have read with some of our children**
- **Children at St Mark's have taken part in Tenison's competitions**
- **Year 5 children received science lessons based at Tenison's**

Results

We are very pleased with our results across the whole school, but particularly thrilled with the Sats results in Year 2 and Year 6. Both classes out-performed national expectations for the country.

Parental Engagement

It has been a privilege to work alongside supportive, fully engaged parents who want to play an active role in the life of the school. So many of you have been present at workshops, meetings and events that have been held at the school this year.