Unique and Valued

by God

The St Mark's Fortnightly News
27th January 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.'

Dear Parents & Carers,

Parents Evening

Thank you for signing up for the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher next week. This is an important meeting, held half way through the academic year, to provide you with information about how school and parents can work together in supporting your child with their targets and next steps in their learning. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please do so as soon as possible. If you are unable to make appointments over the two days, please speak to your child's class teacher to find another suitable time.

Parental Feedback Needed

During the parents' evenings, we would like you to complete one of our questionnaires about how we can further improve the school. In particular, we would you you to provide feedback for us in relation to a school nursery and an after school club running up until 6.00pm every night after school. We are currently in discussions relating to both these areas and if we can demonstrate that the demand is there from our parents, it will strengthen our case.

Attendance and Punctuality

During recent weeks punctuality has slipped a little, with pupils attending late to school and as a result arriving when lessons have started. Please ensure that children are in their class line outside their classroom at 8.55am. **Attendance and Punctuality winners for this week are:**

YEAR 5 = 98.5% Attendance / 0.33% Punctuality

Year 1 = 90.8% Attendance / 0.40% Punctuality

Year 2 = 85.0% Attendance / 1.66% Punctuality

Year 3 = 96.42% Attendance / 0.71% Punctuality

Year 4 = 94.66% Attendance / 0.66% Punctuality

Year 6 = 97.50% Attendance / 1.50% Punctuality

Value of the week:

Accountability

taking responsibility and being answerable for one's words and actions

Bible Verse of the week:

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans.: 14.12

IMPROVING THE SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

During our last pupil survey, a number of children raised questions or made comments regarding the school dinners.

Last Monday 25th January, the school council had the opportunity to meet with a manager from Cater Link, our school caterer, to provide feedback on the lunch menu. In response to the meeting, the children will now gather more feedback from their classmates, before making some suggestions to Cater Link about how they can further improve their menu.

Cater Link have also offered to lead an assembly on food health, hold class food workshops and also hold a food sampling workshop for parents. More details will follow soon.

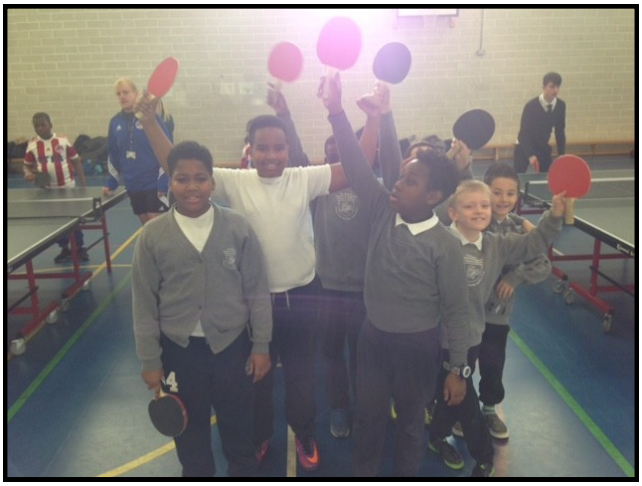
Residential School Trip

Many thanks to the Year 6 parents who braved the cold weather to come out on Wednesday evening to hear about our planned Year 6 school Journey to Rock UK **26th June - 28th June**. We are very much looking forward to this exciting residential school journey where children will participate in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities including climbing, high ropes, low ropes, hiking, abseiling, biking and team challenges. As mentioned at the meeting, deposits of £50 or £25 for children on free school meals need to be paid by **10th January 2017**. A separate letter will be sent out with the children on Monday containing all of the information.

In addition to the Year 6 trip, children in Year 5 have been invited once again to camp overnight at **Walhampton Prep School in Hampshire Friday 23rd June - Saturday 24th June 2017**. We will be welcoming the headteacher from the school, Mr Titus Mill, along with 6 children on **Monday 27th February**. Mr Mills was previously the deputy headteacher at St Mark's and always looks forward to returning to his former school. He actually taught some of the parents of St Mark's when they were children!

Also, two of our teachers - Mrs Norridge and Miss Trott will be visiting Walhampton on Friday 2nd March 2017, as part of a teacher exchange arrangement between the two school.

Competitive Sports at St Mark's



We are very pleased that children at St Mark's are provided with regular opportunities to compete against other Lambeth schools in a range of sports competitions. During the past two weeks, Year 3 participated in a sports hall athletics tournament against 6 other schools; children in Years 4, 5 and 6 competed in a table tennis tournament against 8 other schools and children in Years 5 and 6 took part in some friendly netball matches with another school after the tournament was cancelled due to the weather being cold.

A big well done to all pupils, especially Year 3 who finished in 3rd place overall. Many more tournaments are booked for the coming months across a range of sports.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

The excitement of after school clubs have got off to an amazing start this term, We have 19 clubs operating throughout the school week from 3:30pm - 4:25pm. All the clubs have been well attended and some even have a waiting list. We do try our best to accommodate for all children from Years 1—Year 6.

ART CLUB KS2

KS2 DRAMA

VALENTINE'S CELEBRATIONS