Dear Parents and Carers,

I can’t quite believe that the end of the school year has arrived but it is most certainly a time to look back with a huge sense of pride and satisfaction at all of the achievements this year, a time to bid some sad farewells, and to thank everyone for all they have done to make our school such a happy place in 2018-19. However, we still have a few days left and we are very excited about our Big Day out on Thursday – our very special way of celebrating another successful year, and I know we are going to have great fun!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to:

- YOU as parents and carers for supporting your children during their learning journey year.
- Everyone who has been into school to help support the children’s learning this year and to those who have helped and supported with all the PTA events and Rock Challenge. It is very much appreciated!
- All of the children who have worked SO hard this year. You are all St Mark’s ‘Sticks of Rock’!
- The PTA who have continued to organise & arrange a wide range of events and activities throughout the year. Their fundraising supports the purchase of essential equipment and resources for our children – especially important as school budgets continue to be ‘squeezed’ so tightly.
- The FAB-U-LOUS team at St Mark’s for their constant support and commitment to all the children.
- And most importantly … A great big final thank you to all our wonderful children, who make this school the very special place it is…. Well done for all your hard work this year, have a great summer!

The parents of the Year 6 children received the results with their child’s report on Monday and I am pleased to announce that their results for this year are fabulous!

The main outcomes are shown below and compared with national figures:

- In the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test 87% of the children at St Mark’s met the expected standard. Nationally the figure was 78%.
- In writing 93% of the children at St Mark’s met the expected standard. Nationally the figure was 78%. 33% of the children at St Mark’s exceeded this expected standard. The national figure for this was 20%.
- In reading 87% of the children at St Mark’s met the expected standard. Nationally the figure was 73%. 33% of the children at St Mark’s exceeded this expected standard. The national figure for this was 27%.
• In maths 87% of the children at St Mark’s met the expected standard. Nationally the figure was 79%. 20% of the children at St Mark’s exceeded this expected standard. The national figure for this 27%.

• The combined figure (children meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths) of children achieving was 87%. Nationally the figure was 65%.

These are clearly high outcomes for the children and I would like to thank all of the Year 6 pupils for all of their hard work and love of learning, and all of the staff who have shown great dedication in teaching these children in Year 6 - and in earlier year groups too.

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of this school and know that the children are so well prepared for the next step of their education when they leave us to continue their learning journey into secondary school. Whilst they have fantastic subject knowledge from their immersion in our integrated curriculum during their Primary years, which will help them move forward in their learning, they have also embedded our CIRCLE values that underpin their exceptional attitude to learning and how we treat each other. Through their hard work, focus and commitment the Year 6’s have demonstrated what can be achieved if you really put your mind to it.

Congratulations and good luck to all our Year 6 Leavers. They delivered a heart-warming service on Sunday morning, delivered a clear message about the value of friendship. Please keep in touch and pop in to see us every now and again!

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rain fall softly upon your fields.
Until we meet again.
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.
Amen.

The end of the academic year is always a sad time of year at school as we also have to say goodbye to a number of people who are very special to the St Mark’s Family. We say ‘Goodbye’ and ‘Good Luck’ to Mrs Walker and Mrs Boyce and wish them every happiness for the future.

We are also saying goodbye to some families with long attachments to the school and we would like to extend our very best wishes to them all. We hope that all children and families leaving us this summer will always look back on their time here with great fondness and many very happy memories and that they will take a small piece of St Mark’s with them into the future.

On behalf of all the staff, pupils and Governors I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for your support this year. Everything we do is only possible with the help of our community and once again you have shown the St Mark’s community is one of the great strengths of our school.

I look forward to welcoming you back on Thursday 5th September! In the meantime…have a very safe and happy summer.

Kind regards,

Mr Annabel Stocchetti
Headteacher
Governors Corner

Summer 2 2019

Did you know?

This is our Governor mission statement:

We are committed to positively and robustly governing the school, ensuring that it continually strives to create the happy, caring and safe environment that every child deserves in order that they can fulfil their learning potential. To achieve this we will accept responsibility for the positive contribution we will make as Governors by fully embracing and taking responsibility for our roles, by striving to make an impact, and by being accountable in the eyes of God, to our school community and those external expectations.

In many ways, too many to mention in a newsletter, but here are some examples of what we have done this year:

Governor Training:
Governor Induction – to ensure we understand our roles as Governors which are strategic and not operational. Operational matters are dealt with by the Headteacher and Senior Leaders Team.

Safeguarding Training – so we know that the school are doing all they can to keep our children safe, and that Governors also know how to report concerns.

Health & Safety in Schools – to ensure we can provide robust health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessments ensuring the safety of children, staff and visitors.

New Ofsted Framework – coming in September. We will be attending to ensure all Governors can understand what is expected of the school in terms of curriculum, behaviour and development.

Health & Safety Inspections:
Not exciting but extremely important! The Governors use their knowledge and skills from their own work environments and put them into practice at school to ensure the building is safe for all.

Governor Monitoring Mornings:
This happens three times a year. Governors visit the school to see for ourselves and hear with our ears just what is going on behind those doors. We observe and talk with your children, the staff and challenge the Headteacher. We have a different focus at each visit. This year we have asked how your children know how well they are doing at school and if they know how to access help. There was lots of evidence to support that your children receive effective feedback in many ways and we saw this in their books, on the classroom boards, through various reward systems such as Governor Special Awards, Maths badges, golden cushion and house points. We also heard this through conversation with your children who told us clearly about their learning objectives.

At our most recent monitoring visit we covered so much! We were presented with an enormous amount of information, which was well explained. We witnessed policies and procedures in action. The children had an open forum to tell us how it is for them at St Marks and there was much evidence to support their progress and happiness at school. It was clear the school do more than just fulfill their statutory requirements and go above and beyond what is required in order to nurture each and every one of your school children according to their individual needs.

Staff & Governor Twilight Sessions:
All staff have a specialty and this evening was so interesting to hear from each teacher about theirs. Aside from the core subjects, we learnt that St Mark’s incorporate and offer a wealth of opportunities to your children in many ways including, art, music and sport, delivered through an experienced and committed staff team.

Meet the Governors:
Meet us in the playground at meet and greet on 18 November 2019 to find out more of what we do.

Mrs Kerry Abbs - Foundation Governor