



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

St Mark's Church of England Early Years & Primary School

12th July 2019

Dear Parents

After a two-year break as Chair, it has been my pleasure to once again lead the school. As always, life at St. Mark's was full of joys. Here are some of the highlights of the year that I wish to share with you. This year was marked by the introduction of our new school vision, *Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*. The vision is built on the themes of providing a nurturing Christian environment in which our children confidently grow into life-long learners that are well placed to have a fulfilling future. If you haven't already done so, you can take a look at the Vision on our school website <http://www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk/>

Our Early Years Foundation Stage Centre continues to be a great example of a best practice provision. The children flourish under the careful leadership of Ms Vitrano who had the honour of attending City Hall this year to collect a Healthy Early Years Gold Award. St. Mark's was the first school in London to achieve the award which reflects Ms Vitrano's team's excellent work on parental engagement.

As you may be aware, school budgets are very tight. Nevertheless, we have decided to continue with our Pupil Premium teacher structure. Having dedicated out-of-class staff who work with small, focused groups provides an environment where the teacher is left with a reduced class size and allows for greater teaching time per child. Maintaining this structure weighs heavily on the budget, however, we are confident that it is a worthwhile investment that makes a huge difference to the success of our children.

Over the years, governors have led on the development of the outdoor play space as we firmly believe in the importance of creating an engaging environment for our children to learn through play. To continue with this commitment, governors have allocated £80,000 to make further improvements to the playground and gardens next year.

Year on year our SATs results have been strong, and our 2019 results are no exception with another solid result.

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admin@st-marks.islington.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Martha Braithwaite

Deputy Head: Matthew Jones



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I am blessed to work with an amazing group of people so it is never easy to say farewell to any of them. Charly Young has come to the end of our term and is leaving our governing body. In the four years that she has been with us, she has been a great addition to the governing body and chaired the Curriculum Committee. I thank her for her enormous contribution. Also stepping down as governors are Ellie Goldblatt and David Peacock. Both have inputted generously to the workings of the governing body and will be missed.

As we draw this year to a close, I am thrilled that we have once again been judged to be a Good school by Ofsted. My thanks for our continued success go to the school staff who are so ably led by Ms Braithwaite and Mr Jones. With their enthusiasm and passion for St. Mark's, I have every confidence that we will continue to have much to celebrate in the coming year.

Yours faithfully

Christine Kinnear
Chair of Governors

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