



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher  
Mrs. D. Linley



Week Ending 29th November 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you who attended the Computing workshops this week. The leaflet that was given to all parents about e-safety is now on our school website - please have a read of this as it is a statutory requirement that children learn how to keep themselves safe on the internet.

Here are the questions we asked in our recent parent survey and the responses we received.

1. Do you read our school website to find out about what your child is learning about in school?

Yes - always	Yes - often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
17%	29%	42%	10%	2%

2. How useful do you find reading the school newsletter?

Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	I never read it
70%	30%	0%	0%

3. As a school, we strive to develop communication with parents through the weekly newsletter, school website, text2parents, pupil planners, parent workshops, parent meetings and presentations. How would you describe communication in school?

Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
34%	45%	17%	4%	0%

4. Please describe your experience of how the school dealt with a recent issue/query/concern in regards to your child.

I. The school acted promptly and I felt reassured.	II. The school took some action and I felt satisfied.	III. The school acted but I did not feel it was the appropriate action.	IV. The school did not take my concern seriously and I was left disappointed.
58%	38%	2%	2%

In addition to these questions asked, we also asked you as parents if there were any other additional comments you would like to make. I take all feedback from parents seriously and as a result, we have already changed some of the ways we do things in response to your feedback.

How do you feel we can better support your child at St. Mark's?	
What you said...	What we are doing about it...
<i>Sometimes assemblies are sent to parents via text with short notice.</i>	We now send out texts to parents for the Monday congratulations assembly on a Thursday instead of a Friday evening.
<i>I would like more homework so children can learn more at home</i>	Your child has word of the week stickers to complete in their planner, reading every night, weekly spellings and weekly homework from the class teacher.
<i>Reading and Maths clubs after school.</i>	We are recruiting parent volunteers to support reading in school and we have organised a Maths after school club for the Spring term. The children will be finding out more about this in assembly on Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December - letters will follow.
<i>I would like to see them learn instruments - is this available?</i>	Yes - currently, Year 6 are learning to play the recorder, other classes in KS2 will be given the opportunity as well later in the year. We have a group of 6 children learning to play the p-bone and Miss Francis delivers half-termly music workshops whereby children play percussion instruments. Miss Francis also delivered a music after school club for Years 1 and 2. We are looking at expanding our music provision further.
<i>Having a more structural play at lunchtimes</i>	Our lunchtime supervisors are receiving regular training and as a school we have invested in some additional outdoor play equipment. Our school council children are also working on creating an outdoor reading area.
<i>More regular feedback and how we can work together to achieve child's goals and support progress. Regular feedback on areas my child needs more support/practise would be good.</i>	At the end of every term, parents of children not having made expected progress meet with their class teacher - we give you a list of all the additional interventions we deliver in school to support your child and look at other ways we can work together to support your child. The senior leadership team have in-depth pupil progress meetings with staff every half term and provision is reviewed and evaluated. From now on, staff will not only meet parents of children who have not made expected progress

Keep parents better informed of how children are progressing much more regularly and how parents can support at home especially if under achieving.	but also children at risk of not making expected progress. Targets are also sent out in the pupil planners every half term for Reading, Writing and Maths. From now on, we will include a slip in the pupil planners of what your child has achieved this half term too as a result of their hard work. Please do come and see me if you have any concerns in the first instance.
I would like the school to support my child with his reading	We are doing lots to improve reading in school. We have extra adults to hear children read, we have developed staff subject knowledge to better support children develop essential reading skills and we will be running reading breakfast sessions in our new school library in the Spring term.
Could we find a way of empowering/inform children to ask their parents to park properly and turn their engines off to protect their health	Our recently appointed junior PCSO's (police constable support officers) are learning the skills of what it takes to become a good PCSO and they will be monitoring the road parking in future weeks to come. So far the children are enjoying having the responsibility of making their school area a safer place.
The curriculum information on website needs updating	We update the curriculum information a term in advance so the Spring term curriculum information will be on the school website by 20 <sup>th</sup> December and we have recently updated many other areas on the curriculum. Please have a look at our website if you haven't recently!
I understand the teachers are busy but writing something daily in the planners of what was taught and behaviour would be useful, especially for co-parenting and shared custody parents	We communicate as much as we can in the pupil planners. We inform you about behaviour (good or bad) in the planner, by telephone or in person, it is an expectation that children behave themselves in school and we have many opportunities for children to be rewarded and recognised for good behaviour and for producing good work. Please see our school website for information on the learning that is taking place as there are many photos you can look at.
If possible do lessons outside	All of our forest school sessions take place outside as children bring appropriate clothes for this and our early years children work a lot outdoors because they have constant access to an outdoor learning area. Where possible we take learning outside. This will be more viable once the weather gets warmer. It does happen but we will look at showcasing this more on our website!
In my opinion, there should be activities in the school which can help them express themselves (to develop their communication skills) such as against bullying etc	In school, we have Sports Crew - this is run by Mr. Hamilton to support children develop their leadership and confidence skills. We have additional regular workshops in school for the children that are run by external providers and we follow a citizenship programme whereby children have the opportunity to express themselves regularly. For children who struggle with expression and need well-being support, we also have our support worker; Natalie from Malachi in school every Tuesday. Please look under the 'well-being' tab on our school information for more information on this.

Thanks again for taking the time to give us feedback. We do value your feedback and your support!

Have a good weekend,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Attendance for this week:



Class	Attendance %	Lates	Class	Attendance %	Lates
Reception	93%	2	Year 4	99%	8
Year 1	98%	0	Year 5	96%	7
Year 2	95%	4	Year 6	88%	0
Year 3	98%	6	School	95%	37



**Congratulations and Well Done!**

We would like to say a big well done to the following pupils for receiving an award in our Congratulations assembly this week. Keep up the great work!

- Reception: Thomas, Aamir & Natasha
- Year 1: Jason, Rose-Alicia & Hena
- Year 2: Joshua, Kyle & Natalia
- Year 3: Lexi, Raiyanna & Freya
- Year 4: Teigan, Christian & Raphael
- Year 5: Kaiden, Desire & Aran
- Year 6: Arjun, Edward & Meisha



## **SAYING GOODBYE!**

At the end of this term, Miss Allen will be leaving us. We will miss her greatly and we thank her for the contribution that she has made to St. Mark's and for touching the lives of many children in her care. We know she will go on to touch the lives of many children in the future. We wish her well!

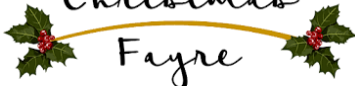
Mr. Hemmingway will be the Year 3 teacher until Miss Grant returns from her maternity leave after February half term.

### **Be Organised, Prepared & Ready for a Great Day!**



We would like parents to support the school in encouraging children, especially in KS2, to be independent and responsible for their belongings such as P.E and swimming kits. We are finding that some children are coming in to school regularly forgetting kits, when they are needed. Getting into a good routine of packing bags together the night before, means a smoother start to the day and less chances of important things being forgotten.

## *Christmas Fayre*



### **SMF Christmas Fayre**

We are delighted to invite you to the SMF Christmas fayre on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30pm till 5.00pm.

It will be great fun for all the family. There will be a variety of stalls to visit, Santa's grotto, raffle prizes and plenty more!

As it can get very busy, we please request that parents accompany their children at all times. Children will need to be collected as normal and can then come through to the fayre with their parents.

We would like to thank all our parents who have helped to support the Christmas fayre with all their contributions.

*We look forward to seeing you!*



### **Nativity Performance** - Key Stage 1 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

### **SMF Christmas Disco**

The SMF team are holding their Christmas disco on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30pm till 4.30pm. Children can come in to school in non-uniform on this day.

There is an entrance fee of £2.00- which includes unlimited squash and a packet of crisps.

Could we please ask parents to bring in the entrance fee in a labelled envelope with the child's name and class to be given in the morning. Spending money can be given separately to the children for the evening.

*We look forward to seeing you at the disco!*



### **KS2 CAROL CONCERT**

This year, St. Mark's will hold its annual Key Stage 2 carol concert at Holy Name Church on the evening of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. There will be hot drinks and mince pies served afterwards in the Holy Name Church Centre. We hope you will support us by joining us for this festive occasion.



We will be having our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The pupils will be able to come to school in non-uniform wearing a festive jumper. We kindly request a £1.00 donation for the day, in order to raise funds for our School Fund.

*Thank you for your continued support.*



### **Dates for Diaries:**

- YEAR 6 COMPUTING WORKSHOP – THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019 – 2-3PM
- Non-uniform Day - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - £1 (contribution)
- Christmas Fayre – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 3:30 – 5:00pm
- Christmas dinner - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Nativity - Key Stage 1 - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December - 2pm
- Flu Nasal Vaccination spray – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Non- uniform Day & Christmas Disco – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December - 3.30-4.30pm
- Key stage 2 Carol concert - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at Holy Name Church
- Teachers' Training Days: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Take  
Note

