



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy week in school. We had our Virtual Sports day on Wednesday, and although this looked a bit different to previous years, the children's efforts were much appreciated. A big thank you to Mr. Hemmingway for organising this and for ensuring that sport remains a priority on our curriculum.

Y6 Leavers' Gathering

On Thursday evening we welcomed our Year 6 children back to school for a special goodbye gathering. It was wonderful to see the Year 6 children together again. Many photos were taken and we will send these out via BGfL next week. I could not be prouder of all the Year 6 children this year. Due to the pandemic, we have sadly not been able to arrange many of the fun, exciting and memorable experiences we would normally have been able to, not only for our Year 6 children but for all our children. Thank you for your support and understanding during these unprecedented times – it has meant a lot!

Prayer for our Year 6 children:

May God keep you in all your days.

May Christ shield you in all your ways.

May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.

May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you.

And pour upon you your blessing and light.

Amen.



Goodbye Mrs. Barnett

This week we said goodbye to Mrs. Barnett who has been working in the school office. We thank her for her help and wish her every success for the future. Next week we welcome back Mrs. Hussain from maternity leave.

Returning to school in September

Next week we will be publishing a guidance booklet to all parents about your child's return to school in September as **ALL children are expected to return to school in September**. I am sure many of you will have questions and concerns and the booklet we have created will hopefully answer all your queries. We will notify you via text message once this is available on our school website so every parent will be able to access it. For many of the children, it will have been about 6 months since they were last in school so we are offering support for you as parents in managing potential worries and concerns your child may have about their return to school.

Helping Hands will be open in September at St. Mark's but it will operate on a reduced capacity. For more information about Helping Hands (our before and after school club provider) please contact Sam on: 07904942281.

Reminder: We have organised a ZOOM session for PARENTS ONLY to take place on **Wednesday 15th July (5pm -5.45pm)**. Natalie Bowen from **Malachi** will be the main speaker giving advice about managing and supporting children's wellbeing along with St. Mark's senior leadership team. Natalie currently provides practical support and one-to-one therapy for many children and families at St. Mark's. She tailors support to meet the needs of each individual family, and provide a safe, non-judgemental space for parents to explore and understand their situation and make the right choices for the well-being of their family.

This session is aimed at all families, so I hope many of you will be able to join us for this. If you would like to join us, please email the school on: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk with your full name and your child/ren's full name/s and year group/s and we will email you back the zoom meeting details.

Also, please consider the following campaign offering free and valuable support from Birmingham:

**#
YOU'VE
BEEN
MISSED**

Birmingham's **#you'vebeenmissed** campaign is to support children and young people, parents and carers and professionals throughout the Covid pandemic. As part of the campaign, Lydia Stafford, a Mental Health Nurse working in the Forward Thinking Birmingham's early help team is leading 2 webinars to support parents. Lydia is passionate about supporting parents to maintain and strengthen relationships with their children, whilst being able to manage difficulties and challenges. There are many transitions ahead for everyone moving slowly back into life after lockdown; Lydia would like to offer parents a webinar that explains why self-care as a parent at this time is a priority not only for their well-being but also in supporting and being "present" for their children during these transitions. Parents will also hear how the smallest acts to look after ourselves can make a significant difference.

For resources and videos please visit: bwc.nhs.uk/youve-been-missed

Lydia will be hosting sessions on the following dates:

17TH JULY, 10.30AM - 11.30AM

25TH AUGUST, 1.30PM - 2.30PM

To book, please visit: <https://bep.education/events/>



On Wednesday 8th July our children took part in a virtual sports day. It was great to see children taking part in events such as speed bounce, hurdles and shuttle run in school, and at home. Winning certificates will be emailed out today and thank you to our parents who uploaded photos onto Twitter.

Well done to all the children for taking part in Sports Day, you all did incredibly well!

Class	1 st 	2 nd 	3 rd 
Reception	Josiah	Gabriella	De'Jaurne
Year 1	Kaiden	Ivelin	Delphi
Year 2	Adam	Joshua	Szymon
Year 3	Trey	Micah	Zahra
Year 4	Rayan	Avya	Amani
Year 5	Jerimiah	Kaiden	Kai
Year 6	Olivia	Gideon	Jake

What some of our children said about Sports Day...

'Our favourite events were the 'Egg and Spoon Race' and 'Frying pan'. We really enjoyed 'Frying pan' as it wasn't one of our usual sports day events and it was a new challenge!'

By the Green key worker group

We really enjoyed participating in the indoor sports day on Wednesday afternoon because we all took part and it was really fun! It was extremely exciting and it was an unforgettable, excellent experience. As we were in our bubbles, we were more involved and active for longer periods of time. Our favourite events were the egg and spoon race – it was extremely exciting and excellent!

By the Purple bubble group

Reminder for next week's Home Learning

Due to preparations being made in school next Week for September, there will be no ZOOM online Learning sessions next week. Instead, activities will be Available on BGfL for children.



REMINDER: End of term finish time (1.30-2.00pm)

St. Mark's will be closing on Friday 17th July at an earlier time. To allow for social distancing, please collect your child between 1.30pm and 2.00pm on this day.



Summer holiday

READING expectations



Over the holidays, we still expect your child/ren to read regularly at home as reading is such an important skill and it will support your child in their return to school. Leaders will be monitoring the amount of reading your child/ren is undertaking at home on **Bug Club**. Instead of setting a 'Reading Challenge' as I have done in previous years, I will be sending out Praise Postcards over the Summer holidays to motivate and reward children who are continuing to read regularly at home. If your child is reading a range of material (not just books on Bug Club) please send a tweet to our school twitter account **@StMarksRC** as I would like to hear about all the fantastic reading that is taking place!

Wellbeing Garden – thank you to those parents who have been in touch to offer help and time to create this valuable project for our children. Please encourage your child to complete a design for the school's wellbeing garden as we want this to be a garden created **by** the children and **for** the children.



Have a good weekend, God bless.

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

