



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Monday and to see so many happy faces. Welcome to all of our new reception children, they have managed very well with the transition to St. Mark's. We thank parents for supporting this, as we appreciate it is not easy, but it has certainly helped us and the children to make a flying start.

As mentioned previously, we are monitoring children's presentation and so far, we have had very few occasions whereby we have had to speak to parents about this. I thank you all for your support. It has been wonderful to hear so many children using their manners and being very polite around school - what a delight! All in all, the behaviour of the children returning from the summer has been brilliant, Keep it up!

Very few children have arrived late and almost all have remembered to be organised, and have planners in school EVERY day. The school planners are checked by staff every day so if you have a message/query for your class teachers - please write a note in your child's planner. Staff will also be communicating with you via the school planners so please check them daily for messages/updates. Staff do not always get to read emails from parents the same day - please remember that they are teaching and also need to keep a work/life balance.

Our weekly newsletter will continue to be emailed to all parents, it is issued every Friday and it supports our Twitter feed, our website, class pages, emails and texts as needed, as a regular reminder and update on school life here at St. Mark's. If you haven't yet visited our new school web page - please have a look and let us know what you think. Feedback is always appreciated. We are still updating it but it is coming along very nicely, and we feel it reflects life at St. Mark's. I will be holding key stage assemblies next week and congratulating children on their achievements the first week back. Currently, we are not inviting parents in to watch these assemblies, but we will be posting photos of children on Twitter and including names as before on the newsletter.

Lastly, well done to all the children for their regular hand washing and sanitising of their hands, this is important, we are still taking measures to prevent the spread of Covid so thank you for this.

I hope you all have a peaceful weekend 😊

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Prayer for the new school year

Lord Jesus,

We ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen



Inspiration Day!

On Friday 17th September, we will be holding our first Inspiration Day of this year. Please support your child's love of the curriculum and help them to get dressed up to represent the History topic they are studying this half term. To help you, we have given you some ideas...



Class	History Topic	Suggested attire
Reception	All about me!	Own clothes likes/hobbies
Year 1	Mary Seacole	Nurses, Doctors and other Healthcare workers
Year 2	Fire! Fire!	Great fire of London, early Victorian baker, fire fighter
Year 3	Egyptians	Mummies, Pharaohs
Year 4	Romans	Soldiers, Celts, Boudicca
Year 5	Mayans	Tribal, Camouflage, explorer
Year 6	World War II	Evacuee, Soldiers and war time clothing

To tie in with this Friday's inspiration Day the Mrs Baresford in the kitchen will be showing the children how different foods tie in with the History topics they are learning.

Reception	Fish and why we should be eating more.
Year 1	Why we should look after our bodies
Year 2	Bread and the Baker's shop on Pudding Lane
Year 3	Shortbread pyramids
Year 4	Dates and fruit
Year 5	Sweetcorn and coco beans in hot chocolate
Year 6	Rations, food then and now

Healthy Eating



At St. Mark's, we are a healthy eating school. We recognise that a healthy diet must contain all food types but in proportion to what is recommended for a growing child. Please help us by ensuring your child's packed lunch is full of healthy and nutritious food. We ask that children bring only 1 'treat' into school as a snack. Examples include:

- small chocolate bar
- packet of crisps
- breakfast cereal bar (these are often high in sugar)

Sandwiches should have healthy fillings such as ham, cheese, pork, tuna, salad etc. Peanut butter is NOT allowed as we are a NUT free school.

Please do not send your child to school with left over takeaway food wrapped up i.e. pizza.

Please do not include any of the following as one of your child's 5 a day portions of fruit and veg as they are high in sugar content.



Lunchtime staff in school monitor lunch boxes so please ensure you are sending your child into school with healthy packed lunches. Every week in school, we will be awarding one child from each Key Stage with a Healthy Eating award.

Homework Agreement

Today you will have received a homework agreement detailing our expectations for homework. Information will be given in pupil planners – please check these daily. We will be chasing any parents who do not email to confirm they agree with the new homework agreements – **please respond by Friday 17th September**. Parents will be informed if homework is not completed by children. Please support us and your child as homework will further support your child to close the gaps in their learning.



Parent's Evening

This year we will be holding parents' evening on **Thursday 21st October** and we want to give you as much notice as possible. Communication with parents about children's learning and progress is important to us. We will of course be communicating with you before this date should we have any concerns about your child's learning, and equally, please contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns in the meantime. You can do this by writing a note in your child's class planner (they are checked daily). We have assigned every parent a 10-minute appointment slot with your child's class teacher. You will have the option of attending this meeting via online or in person face to face in the school hall. Appointments will be available from 3.20pm to 7.30pm. More information will be given out to you nearer the time.

Food Parcels

We recognise that some families have faced a great deal of financial instability over the past year, and we would like to help any family struggling financially. The St. Vincent de Paul charity have been putting together food parcels to help our families over the last year. These are still available on a fortnightly basis to be collected from the school on a Monday. If your circumstances have changed and this would be of help to you, please contact the school office and we can put your name down for one. You can either call us on 0121 357 9892 or send us an email on enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk, with details of how many people there are in your family and their ages. If you find yourself urgently needing support with food parcels – PLEASE get in touch with us, we are happy to help.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are delighted not only with the range of clubs we're able to offer this term, but also with the response to them so far. We have a number of children signed up to all clubs. Thank you everyone for the prompt response, handing in slips and making payments.

Text messages have and are being sent to confirm which children have places for each club.

There are a limited number of places remaining for some of the clubs. Please sign up as soon as possible if you're interested.

Please note: Cricket Club on Wednesday morning from 7.45am is now open to year 4 as well as 5 and 6.

Wednesday Word - Sharing the Gospel

Please click on the following link to access this spiritual resource to share with your family and friends:



<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/jesus?pid=MTA101634&v=36.17>

Congratulations & Well Done!

We would like to say a big well done to the following pupils for receiving a Congratulations certificate this week. Keep up the great work!



Reception: Aisha & Eseye

Year 1: Anaiah & Luca

Year 2: Anaiya & Rico

Year 3: Ryan & Rose-Marie

Year 4: Elisia & Kyle

Year 5: Micah & Ramell

Year 6: Maria & Elena

Values & Virtues of the Week

Reception – Megan for settling in well in Reception and helping in the classroom

Year 1 - Timi for comforting another child who felt sad

Year 2 - Thomas for supporting his class friends

Year 3 - Taon for demonstrating wonderful manners at all times

Year 4 - Nishika for always being respectful and truthful

Year 5 - Freya for being trustworthy & respectful at all times

Year 6 - Christian for explaining the importance of being a truthful & trustworthy role model

New Astroturf Pitch

The children have been loving our new Astroturf pitch this week for PE lessons and break times. It's a brilliant new facility and it will have an official opening very soon, as well as a planned Sports Day on 24th September, when parents will be invited to come along and watch. More details to follow.



Grove Court Fundraising

The residents over at Grove Court have kindly been working hard over the summer months to do some fundraising towards our brand-new sports kits. We are very grateful for this and a few of the residents are going to come over next week to present the funds and hopefully enjoy a cup of tea with us and some time with our children. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this. Our new kit looks smart and now has the school badge proudly displayed too.

THANK YOU!

Allergies/Medication updates



Please ensure you inform school if your child has developed any new allergies. If there are any updates that we should be made aware of regarding your child's health - please inform the school as soon as possible.

First Aid Notes

Please note: first aid notes will be sent home via the school pupil planners. Please check your child's planner for messages/noted from school staff on a daily basis.