



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support this half term in ensuring that high expectations remain a priority in ALL areas of the curriculum and school life. Parents' evening will be taking place tonight and teachers will be sharing an update with you on your child's progress this half term. Teachers keep a log of children who are not reading daily and who do not complete their weekly homework (staff on the door will be asking those few of you who have not yet signed the homework agreement to sign this). It is crucial that we continue to work together to ensure that every opportunity is taken to help children fulfil their potential.

I have been very impressed this half term with the number of children who have **consistently** attended their morning and after school writing intervention group, a special certificate will be going out to those children this week! Next half term, writing intervention groups will continue but only after school and only for a select few based on pupil progress findings from this half term. Your continued support is very much appreciated - it is making a difference! Next half term, I will be leading a whole school assembly in the hall every Monday morning. Whilst I am keen to welcome parents and carers back into school very soon, I also want to keep our children and staff safe. For Autumn 2, photographs of weekly winners from the Monday **celebration assembly** will be posted on our school Twitter account, so you will be able to still see your child receive their certificate (providing you have signed Twitter consent form).

Finally, today marks the last day of Black History Month in our school. I had the pleasure of reading some work from one of our Year 6 children this week and with his permission, I have included this below:

*If someone asked me why we celebrate Black History Month, I would tell them...*

*We need to learn from the past. Black people were not treated very well so we need to inform everyone why that happened and how our generation can shape the future to avoid racism later. In Black History Month, we respect others and understand that our differences don't matter. We celebrate the black community because Britain's culture wasn't just built by white people. Black people brought a lot of their culture into Britain and we should show them gratitude. We need to teach children about black people in history and associate all races in historical learning. There were never just white people in Britain.*

By Kieran Y6

Well done Kieran and well done to all the children this week - some excellent work has been produced on Black History and I have no doubt that as a school, further work will embed the important learning that has taken place this week.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and happy half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 1st November.

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

## Presentation Points

In order for children to score 100 points, all children need to be dressed in the correct uniform every day - that means no trainers unless they have been asked to wear them, no nail varnish, no earrings and red school jumpers please.

Reception - 76

Year 1 – 76

**Year 2 – 80**

Year 3 - 78

**Year 4 - 80**

Year 5 - 78

**Year 6 - 80**

**Well done Year 2, 4 & 6  
Keep up the good work!**



### Attendance figures so far this term

Reception – 93.4%

Year 1 – 94.4%

Year 2 – 97.6%

**Year 3 – 99.3%**

Year 4 – 97.6%

Year 5 – 95.3%

Year 6 – 95.9%



Well done everyone but in particular well done to **year 3** who have the highest attendance so far! Keep it up!

## 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:** Gaia & Hizkiel

**Year 1:** Leonel & Amal

**Year 2:** Rajveer & Kane

**Year 3:** Adam & Suriyah

**Year 4:** Ali & Adam

**Year 5:** Destiny &

Taisia

**Year 6:** Aanya & Joseph



## Healthy Eater

This week's Healthy Eater awards go to, Daija in Year 1.

Well done and keep making healthy food choices!

## Year 1 staffing update

After half term Mrs. Dykes will be returning to St. Mark's from maternity leave as the year 1 class teacher. We would like to say a big thank you to Miss McKoy, who has been with us since the Summer term and has got to know the children very well. We are also looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Doody back after the half term holiday.

## Values & Virtues of the Week

- Reception** – Sofia for being friendly and helpful to Naomi who started new in the class.  
**Year 1** - Aarav for always being kind and helpful to his friends.  
**Year 2** - Joey for always supporting others and being happy to help.  
**Year 3** - Evie for speaking respectfully to others always.  
**Year 4** - Zuzanna for always being kind and caring towards others.  
**Year 5** - Savaun for looking after the reception children during pantomime.  
**Year 6** - Mya for being reverent and respectful throughout our class mass.



### **TOP STAR EARNERS OF THE WEEK**

Well done to the following children for earning the most stars this week!!

(YR) Robert	(YR) Traebhavan	(YR) Ruhan	(Y1) Caitlin	(Y1) Nishitha
(Y1) Aarav	(Y2) Eva	(Y2) Zayyan	(Y2) Rico	(Y3) Ashnan
(Y3) Chioma	(Y3) Rose	(Y4) Zakaria	(Y4) Eesah	(Y4) Eliza
(Y5) Zahra	(Y5) Freya	(Y5) Raman	(Y6) Elena	(Y6) Preeti
(Y6) Amani				

## Parent Volunteer Readers

Last year, we had some very kind parent volunteers come into school to hear children read. We are appealing again for some generous parent volunteers who can spare 2 hours a week to hear our children read in school. If you are able to spare 2 hours a week and have a good standard of English and would like to support children to read, please pass your details on to the school office. We would be grateful for any support you can provide. A full induction and full training will be given.



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### Note for Parents of Reception Children

Reception Parent workshop on Early Reading - **Tuesday 2nd November (3.30pm to 4.00pm)**  
we would like all Reception parents to attend this meeting please.

## School fund

**Not many parents have made a contribution to school fund this term, so we are appealing to parents to make a contribution to school fund. School fund pays for many extra curriculum experiences for your child that would not be possible without this extra contribution. Please, if you have not already made a contribution, please do so by going on to ParentPay and looking for the payment item named, School fund. Many thanks.**

## **Sports Club and Activities Outside of School**

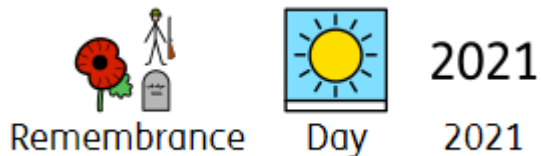
Having been at the school several months now, I can see that there is a lot of sporting talent within the school. We have increased the number of extra-curricular sporting clubs offered at school, and sporting fixtures and events involving other schools will start to take place again after half term.

However, I am aware that some of our children are involved in regular sporting activities outside of school too, which is great. I would really like to encourage more of this if possible, particularly as part of our wider recovery from Covid, as sport is not only good for our bodies, it's great for our wellbeing too.

If you can recommend any local sports clubs or activities, whatever the sport, please either speak to Mr Ellicott, pass on information directly to the school office, or send an email to [enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk) for Mr Ellicott's attention.



Whatever comes back will then be shared with you all in the near future in order to encourage as much involvement in sport as possible.



After half term, Year 6 will be selling poppies in preparation for Remembrance Day 2021 on 11th November. Remembrance Day is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Poppies will cost 20p (for a normal poppy) and £1 (for a knitted poppy). All of the money raised will go to The Royal British Legion.

## **Update on Success of Writing Interventions this half term**

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you for your full support with the writing interventions that have taken place before and after school this half term. Writing certificates have been given out today for children who have attended every session and have worked very hard to improve their writing. Your support has been much appreciated! Next half term, writing groups will continue but only after school and for a reduced number of children (letters have already been sent out this week - please check your email inbox).



Here is an extract of a piece of writing from one of the Year 5 interventions:

*Suddenly, the shadow disappeared, and Larry felt a tingly sensation run down his spine. The next thing he knew, he woke up in an abandoned hospital. It was dark, and the only thing to be seen was a dark hallway with flickering lights. Again... the shadow appeared and said in a cackling voice, "Wanna play a game?" As quick as a flash, Larry ran as if his life depended on it.*

A super piece of descriptive writing from Daniel in Year 5!



## Diary Dates

For your  
Diary



### Dates for Diary: -

Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021	Reception Parent workshop on Early Reading
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Flu Vaccinations for the whole school
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Please could children bring in unwanted goods for the Christmas Fayre (they need to be unused and in good condition please!)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021	Please could children bring in bottles for Christmas raffle
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas Fayre & non-uniform day
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas dinner day for Reception & Key Stage 1*
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas dinner day for Key Stage 2*
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas jumper day, Children pay £1 to wear a Christmas jumper to school

\*Christmas dinners are £2.40 and information on how to book will be sent nearer the time.

## Term Dates

### School Term Dates

#### **Autumn Term 2021**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October is a staff INSET day so school is closed to all pupils  
Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
Term ends: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### **Spring Term 2022**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 is a staff INSET day so school is closed to all pupils  
School opens: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

