



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents,

This week in school we celebrated the first week of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent is about 'hope' and we have been looking at what we hope for in the coming weeks and in the future. Purple is the colour for Lent and Advent and both of those liturgical seasons are a time of preparation. The children in Year 4 decided that as part of their preparation for Christmas, they would organise an appeal to help others who have been worst affected by the Covid Pandemic. The children were inspired by Marcus Rashford after learning about him during Black History month and had the following to say:

'We often discuss in our classroom how each and every one of us is made in God's image and likeness and how WE ARE ALL UNIQUE, WE ARE ALL SPECIAL AND WE ARE ALL IMPORTANT! Therefore, we would like to reach out to the homeless community and let them know how important they are too.'

You will see on our school Twitter page that the response has been overwhelming, thank you to all the families who have kindly donated items and thank you to Year 4 for organising this. All donations will be going to SIFA Fireside, a charity that supports the homeless and vulnerably housed adults.

"Prepare a path for God so that he can enter your heart." St. John Baptist De La Salle

Have a good weekend,
Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Healthy Eater

This week's Healthy Eater awards go to, Chinaza in year 2, Natalia in year 4.

Well done and keep making healthy food choices!



TOP STAR EARNERS OF THE WEEK

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



(YR) Leo	(YR) Isaam	(YR) Caelan	(Y1) Enya	(Y1) Dottie
(Y1) Tida	(Y2) Harpreet	(Y2) Julia	(Y2) Alex	(Y3) Adam
(Y3) Ivelin	(Y3) Dylan	(Y4) Natalia	(Y4) Kyle	(Y4) Zuzanna
(Y5) Sienna	(Y5) Christina	(Y5) Destiny	(Y6) Shanice	(Y6) Mya
(Y6) Kieran				

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/preparation?pid=MTA101634&v=46.10>

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 - 98

Year 1 - 99

Year 2 - 95

Year 3 - 95

Year 4 - 97

Year 5 - 98

Year 6 - 100

Well done Year 6

Keep up the good work!



Attendance figures so far this term

Reception - 93.7%

Year 1 - 94.2%

Year 2 - 95.3%

Year 3 - 98.4%

Year 4 - 97%

Year 5 - 94.3%

Year 6 - 96.7%



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: Spirit & Isla

Year 1: Mahira & Caitlin

Year 2: Natasha & Isaac

Year 3: Amanah & Connor

Year 4: Jaspreet & Ali

Year 5: Savaun & Victoria

Year 6: Raphael & Daisy

Values & Virtues of the Week

- Reception** - Jasleen for being helpful towards the teacher and her friends.
- Year 1** - Enya for her encouraging, helpful attitude towards her peers.
- Year 2** - Tia for supporting her peers when they need cheering up.
- Year 3** - Rohan for trying his best to follow guidance to improve his learning.
- Year 4** - Myles for his wise understanding of what the words in "The our father" mean.
- Year 5** - Arjun for his excellent knowledge of the different sacraments.
- Year 6** - Ivy for supporting and encouraging her friends.



Commonwealth Games

Just in case you weren't aware tickets for the Commonwealth Games which will be held in Birmingham next year are now on general sale. If you are interested in buying tickets you can do by clicking this link.

<https://www.birmingham2022.com/the-games/tickets/>

Christmas Dinner



You should have received emails this week informing you about the Christmas dinners we are offering the children in school. Key stage 1 will be having their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 14th December and key stage 2 will be having theirs on Wednesday 15th December. You should see on the School Gateway under the payments section how you can book for your child's Christmas dinner. For parents of key stage 2 children this will cost the same as a normal school meal, £2.40. Key stage 1 children and children in receipt of free school meals will not need to pay but it needs to be booked on the app in advance the kitchen staff are aware of how much food needs to be cooked and to avoid any wastage. This needs to be done by 10am on Monday 13th December.

Christmas Performance



Next week on Friday 10th December the children will be doing their Christmas performances. Due to covid restrictions we unfortunately cannot invite parents into school to watch this. We have instead arranged with a very kind parent to have the performances professionally filmed and once edited an email link will be sent to you for you to download this video. If you do not wish your child to take part in the performance or to appear in the video please inform us by either emailing the school or sending us a message on School Gateway. If we have not heard from you by Wednesday 8th December we will assume you are happy for your child to take part. Please can the children also bring in cakes on this day for the Christmas fayre.

COVID-19 Update

With the additional Covid safety measures put in place at the weekend, we now request that all parents on the school site wear a face covering. This is to keep you and other members of our school community safe. We are also requesting that all visitors into school have received a negative lateral flow test no more than 24 hours before arrival. Please help us by asking your child to wash their hands regularly and should your child develop any of the 3 COVID symptoms, please ensure your child does not attend school until they have received a negative PCR test. I thank all of those parents who have informed the office promptly of PCR tests being taken - it is reassuring to know that you have been quick to respond to any signs of Covid - thank you for your co-operation.

TT Rock Stars (Classes 2-6) / NumBots (Reception - Class 2)



As a school, we recently purchased these programmes to improve children's knowledge of number bonds and times tables. It has been a huge success, with many children making huge improvements to the time taken per question and overall, it has been really motivational.

Just to clarify, these programmes have been purchased to support children with their learning and help make it fun. They will have opportunities to use them at school each week. Using these programmes is not specific homework - this is set separately each week. However, children choosing to work on these at home each week may be rewarded at school. Login details are stuck in planners and a letter should have come home too. Mr Ellicott checks weekly for those who have: used TT Rock Stars regularly or earned the most coins, made the biggest improvement in terms of time taken per question and made the biggest impact on the overall leader board. In order to register on the leader board, children need to complete 10 lots of the 'Studio' game, which takes 1 minute each time. Don't worry if they haven't done this yet - there will be further opportunities in class.

We appreciate that some children find times tables easier than others, but this programme offers something for everyone and importantly, it prepares children for the statutory Y4 tests the children undertake in the summer.

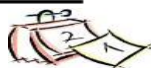
At some point in the New Year, we hope to run a parent maths workshop which will include a little about these programmes, but in the meantime, please encourage your child to practice when they can (but not too much!).

Any questions, please contact class teachers.



Friday 10th December

We were going to have a non-uniform day next Friday but due to the children doing their Christmas performances and these being filmed we would like all children in school, smartly dressed in their school uniform. They are however invited to wear any Christmas hats or accessories they may have with their uniform. The following Friday, 17th December we will still be having our Christmas jumper day. Many thanks for your understanding.



Diary Dates

For your
Diary

Dates for Diary: -

Friday 10 th December 2021	Christmas Fayre & Christmas performances
Tues 14 th December 2021	Christmas dinner day for Reception & Key Stage 1
Weds 15 th December 2021	Christmas dinner day for Key Stage 2
Friday 17 th December 2021	Christmas jumper day, Children pay £1 to wear a Christmas jumper to school (money goes to school fund)