



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope very much that you have had a good week? In school, we have seen a drop in the number of COVID cases amongst the children, which is something to be glad about, although we mustn't get complacent. Attendance in school this week has been:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95.7%	89.0%	97.3%	99.3%	97.0%	99.0%	98.0%

However, managing school without either Mr. Thompson (Site Manager) and Mrs. Byrne (Cleaner) this week – both hit by COVID - has presented something of a challenge and my thanks go out to the whole team who have rallied around amazingly to carry out duties “above and beyond”. We are having to remind the children to try NOT to play or run around on muddy parts of the school site at present to keep the amount of soil coming in on their feet to a minimum!!

Some of you may have noticed that we have been having a canopy and outdoor seating installed in the outdoor area near to the front office/school hall/“The Hub”. This will provide an invaluable space in the months to come for children to eat their lunches outdoors (when the weather permits) and as an additional outdoor learning space. How exciting!



It seems that I may have congratulated you prematurely in the last newsletter, as we have received a couple of complaints this week from parents who have seen other drivers inconsiderately parking across the yellow markings outside of school. Please ensure that the area outside of the school gates is kept clear of any vehicles at all times. If this becomes a recurring problem, we will ask the traffic warden team to assist us which may result in penalty notice charges being issued. Give yourselves sufficient time in the mornings and afternoons to get to school in order to park further away and walk the last part of the journey to school. This is a healthier and much more social way to start and end the school day.

We were delighted to welcome our new parish priest, **Fr. Kuriakose Thadathil**, to school last Friday (14th January). The children and staff were all thrilled to meet him and everyone at St. Mark's wishes him a very happy, healthy and fulfilled stay amongst the parish community over the months and years to come. Weekly masses will commence in school from Thursday 3rd February at 9:30 a.m., beginning with Mass for Year 6 and their families. A rota for the rest of term will be drawn up and shared in next week's newsletter.

Next week, we will welcome **Mr. Mark Hinton** to school on Tuesday and Thursday; Mr. Hinton is the new Primary School Improvement Lead for the St. John Bosco Catholic Academy, of which we will be part very soon. His visit forms part of the due diligence process leading up to academisation, and he is looking forward to getting to know the children and staff at St. Mark's very much. I am sure the children will enjoy showing him their work and talking to him about the fabulous work they are doing in school. On our “journey towards academisation”, I am minded to point you to the Parent Newsletter on Ten:Ten for January which has a lot of great prayer resources, and information about the “**Year of Pilgrimage**” which we will begin to explore with the children from Monday. Here's the link now:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

Have a great weekend, everyone – and God bless you all.

Mr. Linford and the St. Mark's Team

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/good-news?pid=MTA101634&v=49.4>



Healthy Eater

This week's Healthy Eater awards go to **Aisha** in Reception and **Zakaria** in Year 4. Well done to them both - and keep making healthy food choices everyone!

Well done to the following pupils for receiving a **Congratulations certificate** this week:

Reception:	Ruhan & Shenaya
Year 1:	Jayan & Mahira
Year 2:	Josiah & Eva
Year 3:	Mudassir & Rosie
Year 4:	Nishika & Eline
Year 5:	Victoria & Christina
Year 6:	Teigan & Aisha



*Keep up the great work, everyone!
Who will get them next week?*

“Values & Virtues” awards of the week

Reception	Sofia for being curious about the many different way we can make the number 4.
Year 1	Tianne for being curious about the feelings of the colour monster.
Year 2	Nathan for his inquisitive questioning in R.E.
Year 3	Alex for being curious about the stone age.
Year 4	Amen for his active participation in all class discussions.
Year 5	AJ for having a brilliant first week and asking questions if he is not sure.
Year 6	Anil for being curious, asking questions and making predictions about our class text.

School Term Dates

Spring Term 2022

Half Term: 21st – 25th February 2022

Term ends: Friday 8th April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Term starts: Monday 25th April 2022

