



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU
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Executive Principal: Mr. G. Linford



Friday 24th June 2022

Dear Parents,

Well, we are really hurtling towards the end of term now, with less than four weeks to go until the children break up for the long summer holiday.



Preparations are well under way for the new school year, and it was wonderful to welcome **Mrs. Linley** back to school last week for the first of her "Keeping In Touch" sessions. She will be back with us full time from **Friday 8th July**.

I'd like to say a huge "Thank you" to everyone who came along to support the children on **Sports' Day** last Friday, and to everyone who contributed to making the day such a success! We survived probably the hottest day of the year!

I am sorry not to have been in school over the last few days as I was struck down with COVID following the First Holy Communion Mass at St. Mary's last Saturday. All being well, I will be back to welcome the children after their long weekend. Don't forget it's a **TRAINING DAY** on Monday!



Remember that you can keep up to date with everything that's going on in school on the class and school story pages of Class Dojo!

Mr. Linford and the St. Mark's Team

SEPTEMBER START TIME: 8.45 a.m.

SEPTEMBER END TIME: 3.15 p.m.

From the start of the new term, we are required to ensure that school is open for a minimum of 32.5 hours per week, i.e. 6.5 hours a day for ALL children. At the moment, many families still arrive with their children significantly after the gates have been opened, partly as a remnant of the staggered starts when school started to reopen after the lockdown periods. We need to return to a slicker start to the day right from the get-go in September. Therefore, the gates will open each morning from 8:35 a.m. and there will be a 10 minute window during which ALL children should arrive and make their way to the classrooms ready for a prompt start at 8:45 a.m. Gates will close promptly at 8:45 and any late arrivals must be walked around to the school office and signed into school by a responsible adult. All classes will finish the school day at 3:15 p.m.

Please allow yourselves plenty of time to get to school, both at the beginning and end of the day, especially if you are driving. If you always aim to park a little bit further away from school and walk your child/ren the last part of the way, this will help to avoid traffic congestion in Kingsdown Avenue, reduce incidents of road rage which we have experienced outside of school from time-to-time, and help to get the children's heartbeats pumping a bit faster before they start work!



The St Mark's **Gardening Club** has been actively running since Autumn 2021. It's a lovely group where children from Years 4, 5 and 6 join together before school on a Wednesday morning. Their enthusiasm is contagious.

The group was absolutely delighted to reap their rewards on 15th June, when we harvested onions and garlic with success. The children have also planted potatoes which we are looking forward to harvesting in the autumn. We tried growing some salad leaves amongst other vegetables and leaves; however, they were eaten. We also tried growing sunflowers but didn't have much success.

Ms Aslam who runs the Gardening Club said: "It's been a great journey and it was lovely to see how one bulb can turn into fresh produce. The funniest part has been convincing the children why we need to remove weeds".



Holly: "I like gardening because you get to plant things and watch them grow. You get to use new equipment and help the environment."

We will continue to run the club and plant more root vegetables ready for the end of the year. The children will use the produce to raise funds so we can purchase more bulbs and seeds to grow at school. If you would like to make a donation, please get in touch with Mr. Ellicott. **Thank you.**

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/choices?pid=MTA101634&v=63.4>

Dates for the diary:

Monday 27th June:

School CLOSED for Staff INSET Day

Wednesday 29th June: 11.30 a.m. start

Y4, Y5 & Y6 to Mass in Church for the Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul

Friday 1st July: Whole school workshop

“The Quest for The Windrush”.

£3.00 contribution per child is requested via School Gateway by 29th June please.

Thursday 7th July: School Mass, 9:00 a.m.

Years 2, 4 and 6 in attendance

Sunday 10th July: First Holy Communion

Mass at Holy Name Church, 76:96 a.m.

Wednesday 13th July: Transition Day

Children spend the morning with their new teachers.

Thursday 14th July: School Mass, 9:00 a.m.

Years 1, 3 and 5 in attendance

Monday 18th July: Commonwealth Games

Day (whole school event)

Thursday 21st July: Y6 Leavers' Mass

Thursday 21st July: Last day of the Summer term



**Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th September:
School closed for STAFF Training DAYS**

Wednesday 7th September:

School reopens to children for the
2022-2023 academic year

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Here's a table that shows each year group's attendance % since September:

Reception	92.7%
Year 1	92.4%
Year 2	94.1%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	94.9%
Year 6	96.2%
Whole school	94.7%

Please do your best to bring your child to school every day between now and the end of term, so we can push these percentages even higher. This data shows that we are still in a period of COVID-recovery. Let's hope for a much healthier year from September!



**The Most
Sacred Heart
of Jesus**

Friday 24th June

Lord, you deserve all honour and praise,
because your love is perfect and your heart sublime.
My heart is filled to overflowing with gratitude
for the many blessings and graces you have
bestowed upon me and those whom I love.

Forever undeserving, may I always be attentive and
never take for granted the gifts of mercy and love that
flow so freely and generously from your Sacred Heart.

Heart of Jesus, I adore you.

Heart of Jesus, I praise you.

Heart of Jesus, I thank you.

Heart of Jesus, I love you forever and always.

Amen