



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

Tel: 0121 357 9892 Email: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk

Executive Principal: Mr. G. Linford

Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



Thursday 21st July 2022

Dear Parents,

Well, this will be my final contribution to the St. Mark's newsletter, as I hand back over fully to Mrs. Linley who has returned from her maternity leave with great energy and vigour! It has been an absolute joy to have taken care of this "jewel" of a school (as used by Dr. Nicky Cuddihy, Catholic Senior Executive Leader of the St. John Bosco Catholic Academy in a recent visit) for the last seven months. The children are a credit to you all as a parent body, and the outstanding progress and achievements of our Year 6 Leavers show exactly what this fantastic, conscientious team of staff can do to prepare your children for the next, exciting part of their learning journeys. And all this in a very challenging time of COVID recovery and catch up!

It has been a pleasure getting to know some of you at the gate and at other meetings over the last few months. Schools can not do what we do without your support, and there are many ways that you can lend this. Although we have managed to persuade several new members of the parish community to join the Local Governing Board as Foundation Governors, we are now on the look out for **TWO NEW PARENT GOVERNORS**. Now is a really exciting time to get involved, and I know Mrs. Linley will share more information about this role at the start of the Autumn term in September.



I am delighted, too, that Class Dojo has been so well received and that you value it as a powerful tool for us sharing what is going on in school with you. Look out for one last, departing message from me on Thursday!

Thank you for the warm welcome that you have given me. Good luck everyone, and God bless you all.

Gary Linford

SUMMER BLESSING

This summer we pray for a refreshment of mind and body. We pray for joy, love and safety. We pray that we count our many blessings. We pray that we share our blessings with others. We pray that we enjoy and relish each moment of sunshine and fun.

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Linford for his incredible efforts over the last seven months while I took my maternity leave. It is always daunting to step away from the school but in his capable hands we have continued to go from strength to strength. It has been lovely being back in school these last few weeks and I can't wait to continue our journey together in September.

I wish the Year 6 children all the very best. I have enjoyed watching them grow into outstanding pupils, who I know will go on to achieve great things in their Secondary Schools.

Please have a great Summer holiday, and return safe and well in September. Look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 7th September.

God bless,

Mrs. Linley 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, 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!

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/holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&p=12&v=66.7>

Dates for the diary:



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

Wednesday 7th September:
School reopens to children for the
2022-2023 academic year

Friday 21st October:
School closed for **STAFF Training DAYS**

Half-term Holiday:
Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October

Christmas & New Year Holiday:
Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January

School Uniform

A reminder that we have high standards at St Mark's, especially when it comes to uniform. Please click the link if you need any guidance over what the uniform expectations are and where you can buy it from.

We appreciate your support with this.

<https://www.stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk/uniform/>

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Here's a table that shows each year group's attendance % from 2nd September to Friday 15th July:

Reception	92.7%
Year 1	92.7% ↑
Year 2	94.2% ↑
Year 3	97.0%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	95.0% ↑
Year 6	96.1%
Whole school	94.7%

Here's the latest attendance data for the whole school year. It's pleasing to see that three classes' percentages have improved since the last newsletter! Attendance is broadly in line with the national average at the moment in this period of recovery from COVID, but we all hope that this will continue to improve further in the new school year back to pre-COVID levels (i.e. 97%) Well done to all the children (and parents) of our present **Year 3 class** who have maintained this high level throughout the year!

Lord God,

We put ourselves into
Your hands, and pray that
You will bless us and our
families during the
wonderful months of
summer.



May we all help make our home a place of
relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety.

May we be generous and considerate, not
thinking only about ourselves, but helping
others enjoy the blessings of summertime.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen