



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 20th October 2022

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see so many of our families at the first St. Mark's family mass of the year at Holy Name Parish on Sunday. Well done to all the children who attended, so many of the parishioners were very impressed by the children's active participation in the Mass. A big thank you to Miss Dorsett and all the staff who facilitated this. If you were unable to make it, our next family Mass will be on **Sunday 20th November**, we look forward to seeing you there!

It has been wonderful to see so many children engaged in sport this half term and the talent that we have amongst our children is inspiring! Thank you to Mr. Ellicott for facilitating a number of sporting competitions and sporting events such as the upcoming basketball game to watch the City of Birmingham Rockets Basketball Club play on Saturday 19th November (see school dojo page on how to obtain tickets).

You will have seen from the school dojo page that the Mission Team for our school has been chosen. Well done to all the children that applied for one of the leadership positions, there will be more news to follow on what activities and events the mission team have planned for next half term—please look out for updates on class dojo pages and as always, we value your support!

I hope you all found parents' evening useful yesterday evening, thank you to all of you who completed our parent survey. If you haven't done so yet, please could you access the form via your email/class dojo link. We value your feedback and the more we have, the better!

Have a relaxing half term holiday, we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 31st October.

Stay safe,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Our 'Friends of St. Mark's' is a group of parent volunteers who help to



Organise, lead and deliver events for our children to enjoy. We would love to welcome new parents to this group, if you are interested in joining us, our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 18th November at 5pm** (this will be to discuss the Christmas Fayre). This meeting will be held over Zoom.

Please email the school office if you would like to attend, and we will send you the details. We hope to see you there!

Health and Safety Update

Recently, we have reviewed our health and safety practice, as a result of the recent review, please ensure the following:

- ⇒ **No earrings are to be worn in school**
- ⇒ **Long hair must be tied back and minimal hair accessories should be worn.**

A number of children are wearing earrings to school, once 6 weeks have passed since ears were pierced, earrings can and **MUST** be taken out. Please ensure your child's earrings are taken out, as we will be making phone calls after half term to parents whose children have earrings in.

St. Mark's Family Mass

A HUGE thank you to all children and their families that joined us for our first St. Mark's family mass at Holy Name Church last Sunday. It was a brilliant success! Well done to all the children who read so beautifully, joined in the liturgy and helped with the offertory. Father Kuriakose and the parishioners were so pleased we were there and commented on how well you did and how lovely it was to have the church filled with children.

"I went to church on Sunday and saw my teachers there. We got to do some colouring with Mrs Linley about the Gospel." Tise Reception

"It felt good to read in church, one of the ladies told me I read really well. I enjoyed giving out biscuits afterwards, we got to meet new people." Zia Y6



Upcoming family mass dates: 20th November 2022, 5th February 2023, 12th March 2023, 7th May 2023 and 2nd July 2023 (to celebrate our Y3 children making their First Holy Communion).

First Holy Communion for Y3: 2nd July 2022

Sacrament of Confirmation for Y6: 13th February 2022



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/half-term-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=72.4>

Dates for the diary:

Friday 21st October:
School closed for STAFF Training DAYS

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

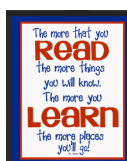
Wednesday 2nd November:
Y5 RSPB Sandwell Trip

Wednesday 16th November:
Flu Vaccination

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

CALLING ALL RECEPTION PARENTS

You are invited to our early reading workshop.



When:

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2022

8AM and 3:30PM

Come along and learn with your child and see how we teach reading at St Mark's.



You only need to attend one session.


ATTENDANCE UPDATE

An attendance assembly will be taking place near the end of the term (date to follow). We hope to see lots of children receiving certificates for great attendance.

Gold — 100%

Silver — 98-99.9%

Bronze — 96-97.9%

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	0.9 %	90.9 %
YEAR 1	0.5 %	91.6 %
YEAR 2	1.6 %	96.4 %
YEAR 3	2.2 %	93.8 %
YEAR 4	0.3 %	97.1 %
YEAR 5	0.7 %	95.7 %
YEAR 6	1.5 %	94.4 %

8.30am School gates **open**

8.45am School gates **close**

Well done to **Year 4** for your punctuality and attendance.

Can **Year 3** parents ensure their children get to school on time. Thank you.

SCHOOL SPORTS FIXTURES



Last week, we had a dodgeball fixture against St John Bosco, who are also part of our academy. It was the most recent sports event, which has also seen us play football and basketball over the past few weeks, including children from years 4-6. All fixtures have been lots of fun and seen our children progress and learn to adapt their skills and knowledge to real game situations. We look forward to further fixtures next half term.



Black History Month

This week, each class has studied aspects of black history through history and RE work, linked to Catholic Social Teaching. The knowledge the children have retained from previous years is impressive and they feel passionately about the importance of learning more about all cultures and religions. Class 5 even wrote letters addressed to the government arguing that Black History shouldn't be taught in isolation and that the history curriculum should be re-written to incorporate this throughout. The photo below shows a powerful sample of this

Reading Breakfast

You are all invited to attend a reading breakfast with your child. This is a time to sit down and share a book with your child in school.

They will begin at **8.10** and finish at **8.30**.

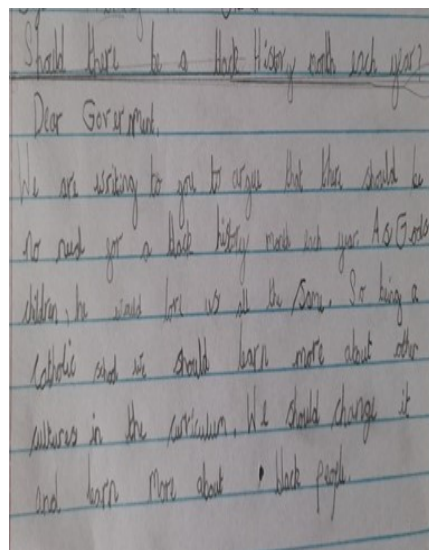
Toast will also be provided.

Reception— Tuesday 13th December

Year 1 and 2— Tuesday 8th November

Year 3 and 4— Wednesday 9th November

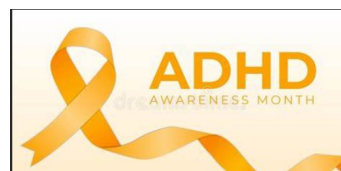
Year 5 and 6—Tuesday 29th November



This month has been **ADHD awareness month**. I have put together a small table with some characteristic traits and where to find additional support. If you have any concerns about your child, or think they may have ADHD do not hesitate to contact me via telephone, Class Dojo or email.



NEURODIVERGENCE FOCUS



Some Characteristic Traits	Some children may display a lack of focus, have poor disorganisation skills, be forgetful and show a lack of motivation. Children may act impulsively, have poor time management skills and have a poor self image. Other children may have relationship issues and outbursts of dysregulation.
Where to find support	The ADHD Centre ADHD Parent Support - The ADHD Centre Birmingham Community NHS ADHD: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder : Birmingham Community Healthcare (bhamcommunity.nhs.uk)
Famous people with this need	Emma Watson - Actress Michael Phelps - Olympic Swimmer Jamie Oliver – TV personality and Chef Justin Timberlake – Singer and Song writer