



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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

Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



Friday 18th November 2022

Bonjour!

Today we had great fun learning all things French in school and Mrs. Beresford, (our talented school cook) prepared us a wonderful French inspired dinner.

Our Catholic life leaders kicked off with an assembly on anti-bullying week in school on Monday. Well done to all who wore odd socks. Please remember Destiny's words in Year 6, 'we may all be different in some way, but we all should be treated fairly and with respect.'

Lend a hand, take a stand and STOP bullying NOW!

A huge thank you to those parents who attended the St. Mark's Friends meeting this week. For those of you who don't know, our St. Mark's Friends group is made up of parents who willingly volunteer some of their time to organise fun and exciting events.

We warmly welcome more parents who would like to join and contribute to this group. Working with the SMF group, makes for greater communication between home and school, enables you as parents to have a voice, and also allows you to provide children with opportunities they may not have had access to before.

Finally, thank you to all of you who responded to our recent parent survey. The results will be published in the next newsletter, with action we as a school will be taking in response to your feedback. In order to achieve the very best outcomes for all of our children, we must work together.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

St Basil's Sleepout

On **Friday 25th November**, some members of staff will be sleeping out to raise awareness of homelessness. In school on Friday 25th November, we would be very grateful if children could bring 50p in for this good cause. On Monday 21st November, staff will be walking the streets of Birmingham with the charity, 'Let's Feed Brum' to encounter and feed the homeless in our city.

With the cost of living increasing and children and families experiencing poverty, homelessness is a real issue and we want to support those less fortunate than ourselves. If you can contribute more than 50p, we would be very grateful. In return, for bringing in 50p, we are allowing children to wear **one item of blue clothing to remember the homeless. Saint Benedict Joseph Labre** is the patron saint of homeless people and he was French, so we would like children to reuse an item of blue clothing from the French Day for Friday 25th November.

Health and Safety Update

Thank you for ensuring that earrings are not being worn in school. We have seen a significant improvement and your support is very much appreciated.

Minimal hair accessories

Parents, please be mindful of the number of hair accessories your child wears to school. Whilst we allow hair accessories, we ask that you please adhere to the wording of *minimal* as there are a number of children wearing a large quantity of hair accessories.

Many thanks,

St. Mark's Family Mass

This Sunday, we have our next St. Mark's Family Mass. After the success of last half term's Mass, we are hoping to see as many children and their families attend the Mass to join in with the liturgy, read scripture or a prayer and help in many different ways. If you are able to attend, please let Miss Dorsett know via Class Dojo.



"I really enjoyed our last Mass. I got to do a reading and also give out biscuits afterwards. It was a really good opportunity." Holly YG

"It was fantastic to see so many of St Mark's children and staff in Church. They read beautifully and were impeccably behaved, of course! We look forward to the next one!" Holy Name Parishioner

Upcoming family Mass dates: 20th November 2022, 5th February 2023, 12th March 2023, 7th May 2023 and 2nd July 2023 (First Holy Communion for Y3).



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/mercy?pid=MTA101634&v=75.7>

Dates for the diary:

Maths Workshop: Monday 21st November 2022 @ 3:30pm

Year 6 Trip to RSPB: Friday 25th November 2022

Christmas Dinner: Tuesday 13th December 2022

Christmas Disco: Friday 9th December 2022

Christmas Film Night by SMF: Wednesday 14th December 2022

Christmas & New Year Holiday:

Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The date for this year's attendance assembly is **Friday 16th December at 9.00am**. We look forward to celebrating your child's attendance with you.

Gold — 100%

Silver — 98-99.9%

Bronze — 96-97.9%



	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	0.7%	93.7%
YEAR 1	0.4%	92.7%
YEAR 2	1.6%	96.6%
YEAR 3	2.2%	94.9%
YEAR 4	0.3%	98.6%
YEAR 5	0.9%	96.5%
YEAR 6	1.7%	95.8%

PE KIT REMINDER:

PE KIT



Can we kindly remind you of the PE kit your child should be wearing on their PE days:

- Black jogging bottoms or shorts
- Plain red T-Shirt (with or without school logo)
- Red school jumper or plain Hoody
- Trainers or black pumps

Well done to **Year 4** for their attendance and punctuality!

Can Year 2, 3 and 6 parents ensure their children come to school on time!

Our whole school attendance target for this academic year is **97%**.

Reading at St. Mark's

A huge thank you to all of the children and parents who have attended our Reading Breakfasts so far for Year 1, 2, 3 and 4. These were really successful. Year 5 and 6's Reading Breakfast on **Tuesday 29th November at 8.10** and

Reception's is **Tuesday 13th December at 8.10**.

Here's just a reminder about the importance of reading for 20 minutes each day and the impact this will on your child.



	Minutes read each day	Minutes read	Total
Child A	20 minutes	3,600 minutes	1,800,000 words
Child B	5 minutes	900 minutes	282,000 words
Child C	1 minute	180 minutes	8,000 words

Christmas Activities organised by our St. Mark's Friends

Following an unsuccessful appeal for more parent volunteers for St. Mark Friend's group. We still remain with only 3 members. However, these 3 members have arranged 2 Christmas events for our children to enjoy.

Friday 9th December - Whole School Disco in the hall after school until 4.30pm

Children should pay £2.00 to wear their own party clothes to school and for £2.00 children will receive unlimited drinks, sweets and crisps.

Please pay on the school gateway - this will be available on the gateway next week.

Wednesday 14th December - Christmas Film night until 5pm (this is limited to 100 children max)

Please note: in order to run this Christmas film event, we need 3 more parent volunteers. If you can volunteer, please contact school office.

For £2.00 your child can watch a Christmas film after school, receive popcorn and unlimited drink
(TO BE CONFIRMED)



PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

There is a vacancy for a parent governor on the governing body of our school and we would like to reach out to **ALL** parents to encourage you to apply. Our children need a parent governor who will listen to the children's views and work with the other school governors to help support the school to further improve and meet the ambitious targets set. We are blessed to have such a diverse school community with many cultures, faiths and ethnicities and we would like our governing body to be representative of our school community. You do not need to be Catholic for this role and you do not need to have previous experience of being a governor, as training will be provided. Letters about the role of parent governor and how to apply to become a governor have all been emailed out to parents (please check your email inbox).

We ask that you are respectful and supportive of our Catholic Faith and we ask that you are able to commit time to governing body meetings.

If you would like to find out more information about this, please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs. Linley or speak to Mrs. Linley on the gate in the morning.



SEND COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 31st January 2023

Please come along and meet some of external agencies. We work with a range of different external agencies who support our children and families. Come along and find out about how these agencies can support you and your child. This is also an opportunity to speak with other parents and carers about their experiences, drink some tea or coffee and eat some biscuits.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Dykes SENDCo



SCHOOL SPORTS

BANNERS

Our playground and Astro are looking amazing, thanks to the kind donation of some Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games signage, as well as the banners which all children contributed towards with their art work in the summer. Massive thanks to our artist, Natalie and to Mr Turovsky and the Coates family for enabling this to happen. It looks brilliant!



SPORTS FIXTURES

We continue to enjoy regular sports Fixtures against fellow academy school, St John Bosco. Pictured are the latest fixtures of football for upper key stage 2 and dodgeball for y2/3. We also look forward to indoor athletics and a dance festival in the near future. Well done to all of the children involved - you continue to do St Mark's proud in representing the school.

