



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 20th JANUARY 2023

Happy new year everyone!

The children have made a really good start to the term. I have been very impressed with the quality of project work completed over the holiday period. Well done all and thank you parents for your support. Homework is an important aspect of our school curriculum as it further embeds learning in school.

This term, we look forward to sharing with you further new before and after school clubs, exciting class trips and new opportunities for children to contribute to the wider life of school.

We are currently recruiting at the moment for the following :

2 x Teaching assistants (1 general to work across all classes and 1 to work and support children with specific needs).

Training and support will be provided for the above roles. If you are interested in any of the above, please request further information from the school office.

God bless, Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

We pray for Miss Ward

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you that a former pupil and teacher of St. Mark's, Miss Ward sadly passed away on Thursday 29th December after losing her battle to skin cancer. Miss Ward worked at St. Mark's from 2016 to 2018. She was well liked by all and was a very talented teacher.

Please keep her and her family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Y6 Confirmation – Important Dates

Tuesday 31st January 2023

Parent workshop for parents, children and their sponsors (if possible). 5-6pm

Sunday 5th February 2023

Family Mass at Holy Name Church – 10:30am. We'd like as many of our Confirmandi children to attend to lead the Mass please.

Thursday 9th February 2022

Reconciliation at St. Mark's School after Year 6's Mass 9am. Parents are welcome to attend.

Monday 13th February 2022

Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Name Church (7pm). Please arrive from 6:30pm.



Goodbye Mr. Ellicott!

At the end of this half term, Mr. Ellicott will be leaving St. Mark's to start a new job closer to his home. We are going to miss him greatly, he has worked incredibly hard with our children and provided some fantastic sporting opportunities. We wish him well in his new role and thank him for his hard work at St. Mark's.

Class 5 will be taught by Mr Barnett after half term and we are currently advertising for a temporary assistant principal within our MAC of schools to join our leadership team. We will update you on new members of staff in the coming weeks once interviews have been completed.



St. Mark's Family Mass

On Sunday 5th February, we have our next St. Mark's Family Mass. After the success of last term's Masses, 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 Y6

"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: 5th February 2023, 2nd 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/community?pid=MTA101634&v=81.4>

Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 31st January - Parent SEND coffee morning

Sunday 5th February - Family Mass at Holy Name Church 10:30am

Thursday 9th February - Year 1 'Toys From The Past' Workshop

Thursday 16th February - Y2 Trip to ThinkTank Museum

Half Term Holiday: Monday 20th—Friday 24th February 2023

SEND Cof fee Morning

We are very much looking forward to hosting our first SEND coffee morning on **Tuesday 31st January 2023** with our external agencies.

Confirmed speakers are;

Steph Collins—Speech and Language Therapist

Dr Rebecca Glazzard—Educational Psychologist

Dawn Fisher—Communication and Autism Team

Ruth Rainsford—Pupil and School Support

We look forward to welcoming you for an informal chat, over tea and a KitKat, so that you can see how we all work together to support the children at St Mark's and an opportunity to ask any questions.

This coffee morning is open to **ALL** parents.



Over the coming months, a local graffiti artist will be working with our pupils on a number of projects.


This week, our children have been tasked with designing a wall in school that inspires children to follow school rules on the playground.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 4** for having the least amount of lates and the highest attendance in the whole school.

Please can **Year 3** parents ensure they are bringing their children to school on time. Our whole school attendance target is **97%**.

we are currently on **94.9%**.

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	0.8%	93.8%
YEAR 1	0.6%	94.3%
YEAR 2	1.6%	95.5%
YEAR 3	1.9%	91.5%
YEAR 4	0.3%	98.1%
YEAR 5	1.2%	97.6%
YEAR 6	1.8%	93.8%

USED UNIFORM AVAILABLE

Please see list below of unnamed school uniform, which has been washed and in good condition.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	Size	Quantity
Red cardigan no logo	8-9	1
Red jumper with logo	8-9	1
Red jumper no logo	8-10	1
Red jumper with logo	9-10	1
Red jumper no logo	10-11	1
Red jumper with logo	11-12	1
Red jumper with logo	30	1
Red jumper with logo	32	3
Red jumper with logo	34	1
Boys grey trousers	4-5	1
Boys grey shorts	7-8	2
Boys grey trousers	8-9	2
Girls grey trousers	8-9	1
Boys grey shorts	9-10	1
Boys grey trousers	10-11	1

You are very welcome to call into the school office at any time and claim any of these items.

We will also have a rail with other items of clothing, such as coats and jackets, which are in good condition, that have not been claimed.

Notifications will be posted on Class Dojo about how and when you can collect these unwanted items.

SCHOOL SPORTS NEWS

A number of Year 6 children represented the school last week in a mini basketball league, consisting of two teams from St. Mark's and two from St. John Bosco. The standard was fantastic throughout the afternoon. We have some very good players and I'd seriously consider joining local teams if you get the chance. Our team in the red kit wone one, drew one and lost one and finished second place, whilst those in the black kit wone 2 and drew 1, topping the league. WELL DONE ALL!



A reminder too, that we are heading back to watch the City of Birmingham Rockets on Saturday 4th February 2023, which will include our children dancing on court. Look out for the video on Class Dojo soon, so that the children can practise. Tickets are still available to book on School Gateway until Monday 23rd January. Please return any more forms to the school office.



Firstly, I would like to congratulate the huge number of children who had their work published in the most recent Young Writers book.

All of your poems were absolutely amazing!

There are also 4 new poetry competitions you can enter at [Competitions | Young Writers](#) which are running for just a few more weeks.



Over the past term, we have been really focussing on handwriting and presentation.

I am delighted to announce that the following children
have achieved their Pen License this half term:

Ramell, Freya, Destiny and De'Jaune.

I am certain that there will soon be many more names to add to this

TOAST



Toast is available for all children every breaktime from Monday to Friday. We are now a cashless school, and therefore, payment for toast is required to be paid via school gateway.

Every Monday, you will see a payment item on school gateway for Toast for a cost of £1, which covers Monday to Friday. This will be available to pay until Thursday that week, for your child to have toast the following week. After Thursday, this payment item will not be available to pay, therefore, please ensure you do not miss the deadline, as we will be unable to provide toast for your child that week.

Payment is required a week in advance to ensure we are able to cater for the number of children who have requested toast.

If you have any queries, please can you contact the school office.



ALLERGY & DIETARY INFORMATION —

If your child has or develops an allergy or there is a change in the dietary information we have for them, please can all parent/carers advise the school office as soon as possible.

YOU need to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information for your child.