



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

This half term, our children have worked very hard on demonstrating the values and virtues of eloquence and truthfulness. Our mission teams in school have been active in living out the catholic social teaching principles, and show that they are able to make our school, and our world, a better place.

A massive thank you to all of those parents who attended our SEND coffee morning—it was wonderful to see you and we hope you found it useful. We are inviting parents in next half term for SPaG workshops. Parents evening will be taking place on Thursday 23rd March (more information to follow after half term). Please put these dates in your diaries!

Have a peaceful and safe half term, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 27th February 2023.

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

Farewell to Mr. Ellicott!

Today we gathered together as a school to say a big thank you and goodbye to Mr. Ellicott, our vice principal. Mr. Ellicott is very passionate about sport and has enabled children in school to represent the school in many sporting competitions. We will ensure we keep him updated with future sporting achievements. Thank you Mr. Ellicott for all you have done at St. Mark's, we will miss you!



Congratulations Miss Dorsett!

Two weeks ago, interviews were held for a temporary assistant principal for St. Mark's. I am delighted to inform you that Miss Dorsett will be one of St. Mark's assistant principals alongside Mrs. Dykes.

We wish her well in her new role!

Year 6 Sacramental Preparation

Year 6 have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Last week, the children enjoyed a Confirmation workshop where they learnt about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and created beautiful mobiles to display in Church. Thank you to all parents and sponsors who came to support their children, it was a wonderful evening.



This week, Y6 participated in a reverent service of Reconciliation in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next week. We were proud of how the children recognised the importance of the Sacrament on their own faith journeys.

Year 6 wish to invite all of our St. Mark's community to their Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 13th February 2023, 7pm at Holy Name Church.



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-card?pid=MTA101634&v=84.7>

Dates for the diary:

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

Thursday 2nd March —World Book Day

Monday 6th March—Year 1 SPAG workshop at 2.30pm and Reception visit to Ash End House Farm.

Tuesday 7th March—Reception SPAG workshop at 2.30pm

Thursday 9th March—Year 6 SPAG workshop at 2pm

Friday 10th March—Year 2 SPAG workshop at 2pm

Sunday 12th March—St. Mark's Family Mass at 10:30am at Holy Name Church

Friday 17th March—St. Patrick's Day

Thursday 23rd March—Parents' Evening (details to follow)

Teacher Strike Day


The next teacher strike day is planned for **Wednesday 1st March**. On Monday 27th February, you will receive notification of the plan for the impending strike day.

Please have a plan in place for childcare should we not be able to fully open again.

Mrs. Linley



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	0.8%	94.5%
YEAR 1	0.5%	94.8%
YEAR 2	1.5%	95.5%
YEAR 3	2.2%	93.3%
YEAR 4	0.4%	98.2%
YEAR 5	1.7%	97.5%
YEAR 6	2.1%	94.7%

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

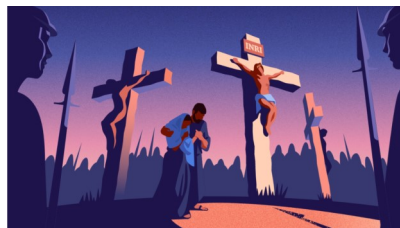
Please can **Year 3 and Year 6** parents ensure they are bringing their children to school on time.

Our whole school attendance target is **97%**.

we are currently on **95.5%**.

Attendance and punctuality letters have been sent out in the post and meetings have been arranged with parents.

Lent



Lent starts next week on Ash Wednesday (22nd February). It is a time for us to reflect and dedicate more time to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

There is no better time to reconnect with and deepen our faith, than Lent. During this time, we can draw closer to God as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.

Our school mission team will be sending out more information about what they will be doing for Lent after half term.

Remember the power of prayer!

THURSDAY MASS—We are extremely lucky to have a parish Mass celebrated each Thursday at 9:00am in the school hall. Families and friends are always very welcome to attend.

Mass Rota

Thursday 2nd March—Year 4 Mass

Thursday 9th March—Year 5 Mass

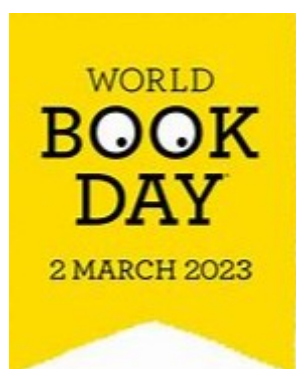
Thursday 16th March—Year 2 Mass

Thursday 23rd March—Year 3 Mass

SCHOOL SPORTS NEWS



St Mark's brought nearly 100 people, including over 30 of our pupils to Nechells Wellbeing Centre on Saturday 4th February to watch the City of Birmingham Rockets basketball teams. It was a brilliant evening! Both games were close, with the Rockets men and women both coming out in top in the end, much to the delight of the crowd! Our children performed their dance on court and did amazingly well! The Rockets were glad to have us there and happy for us to return any time. Thanks to the staff who attended, Shelly for teaching the children the dance routine and to all Rockets players and staff for being so welcoming and ensuring we had a fantastic time.



St. Mark's will be celebrating World Book Day this year on **Thursday 2nd March**. On this day, children are invited to come into school in their pyjamas and bring with them their favourite bedtime story to share with the class. The whole school will be sharing a book and then be creating some amazing pieces of writing. We're all really looking forward to the day!



MOBILE PHONES/INTERNET SAFETY:



If you are unaware of how to apply parental controls to your child's mobile phones then I urge you to restrict access until you know how to do this.

Our IT technician, Mr. Edge is very knowledgeable and is happy to help any parent who contacts him requesting some support with either applying parental controls or internet safety. He will next be at school on Monday 27th February. Please email him with any questions before this date to: j.edge@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk and he will respond on this day.

FOOD ALLERGIES



REMINDER - Can all parents notify staff of any changes to allergies for your child. Could you also speak to your children and ask them not to swap any items of food at break or lunchtime and remind children of the food items that are not allowed in school, i.e. chocolate spread, nuts etc.