



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 31st MARCH 2023

Dear parents and carers,

It was great to see so many of you at parents' evening last week. I hope you found the meetings with your child's class teacher useful. If you were unable to attend your appointment at parents' evening, staff in school will be chasing this up and you will be contacted to organise a new time to facilitate a meeting.

A big thank you to all the staff and children for performing such reverent Holy Week assemblies. It was lovely to see so many parents in attendance too. This Sunday is Palm Sunday and it is the first day of Holy Week. Please say a little prayer as a family this holiday for all those experiencing or who have experienced a difficult journey. We especially pray for refugees and asylum seekers. God bless, Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team.



Today we said goodbye to Miss Cooney who started her teaching career at St. Mark's in 2018. We will be sad to see her go but wish her all the best at her new school. Good luck Miss Cooney!



We welcome Miss Sweeney to the St. Mark's Team. She will be teaching Year 2 after Easter until the end of the Summer term.



"Proudly & Joyfully, we Love, Live & Learn as God's Children"



On Tuesday 25th April 2023, we celebrate the Feast of St. Mark, Apostle, Evangelist, Martyr and the Patron of our Primary School.

On St. Mark's Feast Day, there will be a school Mass held at 1:45pm in the school hall.

You are invited to join our staff, pupils and community in celebrating our Patron Saint on this day.

There will be refreshments available after Mass.

We hope you will be able to join us in celebrating this very special Mass.

Year 3 First Holy Communion—Dates for Diaries:

Thursday 20th April 2023 - Parents' meeting—dates and details (3:30pm)

Monday 12th June 2023 - Parent and Child Preparation Session (3:30pm)

Tuesday 20th June - Sacrament of Reconciliation in school (9am)

Monday 26th June - FHC Parent and Child Preparation Session (3:30pm)

Sunday 2nd July - First Holy Communion, Holy Name Church (9:30am arrival for photographs before Mass at 10:30am)



CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

A HUGE well done to all our children and their families. As a school, we have raised £925 for the CAFOD Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal! Please pass on our thanks to your friends and families for their support, too.

Well done especially to Year 4, who raised the most money and a special congratulations to the children who raised the most money in their class :

- Rec** - Alice
- Y1** - Avraj
- Y2** - Caitlin
- Y3** - Bella
- Y4** - Amanah
- Y5** - Reuben
- Y6** - Destiny

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



Bishop David McGough



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Bishop David McGough, retired auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Bishop David was a good friend of St. Mark's school. He visited us on many occasions and confirmed lots of our children, who made the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray for Bishop David's eternal joy with the risen Christ and pray for his family during this difficult time.



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=89.2>

Dates for the diary:

Monday 17th April - 9am—Spring Term Attendance assembly—Parents welcome

Monday 17th April—2.30pm—Parent Safeguarding Workshop

Thursday 20th April—Knife Crime workshops in Year 4 and 5 delivered by West Midlands Police

Tuesday 25th April—1.45pm Whole school St. Mark's Feast Day Mass—parents welcome

Wednesday 26th April—Year 3 Trip to Soho House (more information to follow)

E-Safety Update—Spring Term 2023

Miss Stewart has been speaking to our children about E-Safety and how we, as a school, help support the children with being safe online. A recent survey found:

92% of our children enjoyed our E-Safety workshop and said it had taught them something new.

100% of children said they have used information they have learnt in lessons to stay safe online.

Our children have identified some ways to stay safe online:


“Never share your personal information and remember you have a digital footprint.” (Y6 child)

“Everything that we do/say online is stored.” (Y4 child)

“Be kind online like you would on the playground.” (Y2 child)



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.1%	96.7%
YEAR 1	0.8%	96.3%
YEAR 2	0.9%	95.9%
YEAR 3	2.2%	93.7%
YEAR 4	0.5%	98.2%
YEAR 5	2.5%	98.0%
YEAR 6	1.8%	96.1%

Well done to Year 4 for their attendance and punctuality. Can Year 3 parents ensure their children attend school and Year 5 parents ensure their children get to school on time!

Many Thanks.

Literacy Updates

Firstly a huge thank you to all of the parents who have attended our SpAG Workshops this half term We really hope that you have found these useful Please complete this short survey by following this link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hK_Sjwgw_kWNf2nf_eaf1b0fo_ict_GHRAL_KpbfukhUQ_RENDBKNk_RSUdVQIVXMTJaTFfNR_U_wQi_u

this is the same as the one shared on Class Dojo to tell us about what workshops you'd like us to deliver in the future

Secondly a huge thank you to all of the children who have entered the St Mark's Writing



ATTENDANCE ASSEMBLY

On Monday 17th April 2023 at 9:00am, we will be holding our spring term attendance assembly. Please see Class Dojo for the names of the Gold, Silver and Bronze certificate winners.

We do hope you can join us !

Multi-Cultural Week 2023

On **Monday 22nd May—Friday 26th May 2023**, as part of our Pentecost celebrations, we will be celebrating 'Multi-Cultural Week' in school. We have lots of exciting plans that are well underway but to make this a St. Mark's community event, we need your help! We are asking any parents to come forward, who would feel comfortable to share their faith with our children, demonstrate their own traditional clothing, food, dance or music or just support us in planning our showcase event on the **afternoon** of the **Friday 26th May** (more information to follow and tickets will be on sale for this celebration of diversity). If you are interested in supporting the school with this exciting week, please contact Miss Dorsett via Class Dojo.



May we also take this opportunity to invite you to our Pentecost Mass on **Thursday 25th May at 9am**. During this Mass, we will be encouraging children to pray in their first/home languages and do readings too. If any parents would like to take part in this Mass, as well as join us. Please also let us know. Many thanks.



Parent Safeguarding Workshop **Staying safe on the internet - what parents need to know.** **Monday 17th April - 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM** **School Hall**



All parents are invited to attend a session about online safety with Mrs. Linley and Mr. Edge. The session will explain what behaviours and incidences we as a school have dealt with recently, and what parents can do to keep children even safer online.



SEATBELTS - please ensure your child is always wearing a seatbelt in the car, as recently it was brought to our attention that some of our young children were witnessed driving home with no seatbelts on.



We would like to wish all of our St. Mark's Families who are joining in with this special time of year a very Happy Ramadan.

As our friends and families begin the holy month of fasting, we wish them, along with the millions of Muslims around the world a blessed and generous month.