



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



Monday 19th June 2023

A curriculum with a difference!

Refugee Week

It is Refugee Week in school this week and our children will be completing some further work on the refugee crisis locally and globally. In Friday's assembly, we will be presented with our School of Sanctuary Award. This award recognises the commitment we as a school have shown towards educating our children about the community around them. We are proud to live in a diverse community and we recognise that there are many refugee and asylum seeker families living in our local area.

At St. Mark's, we are all committed to creating a culture of welcome for ALL who walk through our doors, particularly for refugees and people seeking asylum. This is an integral part of our catholic social teaching principles, as our children need to have compassion and an understanding of the many challenges people around them are facing, so that they can treat them with dignity and respect. Sadly, the media does not always portray a fair and accurate picture of the refugee crisis and this can so easily lead to stereotyping and bias that can have a negative impact on our understanding and tolerance of others.

We proudly and joyfully, love, live and learn as God's children and we do so knowing that we are ALL part of the same family.

75th Anniversary of the Windrush

...A personal message from Mrs. Linley

Diversity and inclusion at St. Mark's is what I am most proud of. Educating children about the Windrush is an important part of their local history and for many, their heritage. The Windrush period had a significant impact on our local area and this deserves recognition in our curriculum so that our children recognise the contribution so many people made to Birmingham.

My own grandad, Vincent Lee arrived in England in April 1955 with 3 of his friends from Jamaica. Growing up in a diverse family (having one grandparent from Jamaica and two grandparents from Ireland) gave me an understanding from an early age that family is family, regardless of where you are from, what you look like and what your heritage is.

I always say to the children that we are one family here at St. Mark's and we should not judge others based on appearances. Over the



coming weeks, the children will be taking part in a range of activities recognising the Windrush generation and we look forward to sharing these events with you on class dojo.

Left: Vincent Lee circa 1960



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/god-s-kingdom?pid=MTA101634&v=95.7>

Dates for the diary:

- 20th June—Reconciliation for Year 3 in school
- 2nd July—Holy Communion at Holy Name Church
- Monday 3rd July — Sports Day for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at 9:15am
- Monday 3rd July —Sports Day for Years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at 1:30pm
- Monday 5th July —Mental Health Awareness Workshop for Parents at 3:30pm
- Friday 14th July—School Reports sent home
- Friday 14th July—Summer Fayre 3.30—5pm
- Wednesday 19th July—Year 6 Production (more information to follow)
- Friday 21st July—Whole School Attendance assembly
- Friday 21st July - 3.15pm - End of term

Attendance

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	0.8%	96.5%
YEAR 1	0.4%	95.8%
YEAR 2	0.1%	98.2%
YEAR 3	1.8%	94.9%
YEAR 4	1.1%	97.2%
YEAR 5	1.6%	96.9%
YEAR 6	0.6%	95.8%

Well done to **Year 2** for having the least amount of lates and the highest attendance in the whole school.

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

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



Mental Health Awareness Workshop for Parents - Wednesday 5th July at 3.30pm

Mental health affects everyone and this is not a workshop aimed at parents who are concerned for their child's mental health - it is a workshop for ALL parents because at some point in the future, every child's mental health will be affected in some way.

Good mental health and wellbeing is essential for our children to thrive and it is important that we educate children as well as adults about this important topic. Educating children about mental health helps them to learn effectively, cope with day-to-day challenges, and develop into resilient young adults.

This workshop will cover the following:

- Commonly held misconceptions surrounding mental health
- What mental health means
- What can affect mental health and wellbeing
- What signs to look out for when concerned about an individual's mental health
- Resources that can help support mental health and wellbeing

It would not be suitable for children to accompany parents at this workshop, however, we will support the supervision of children if you would like to attend this workshop.



School of Sanctuary Award

The week beginning 19th June is Refugee Week. Children in school will be participating in a range of activities and on **Friday 23rd June at 2.30pm**, we will be holding an assembly to educate parents about the refugee crisis. Please support us by attending this assembly - we would love to see you there! At this assembly, we will also be presented with our 'School of Sanctuary' award, this recognises that as a school we have created a culture of welcome, inclusion and support for people seeking sanctuary.



For parents who are interested in finding out more about communication and autism—why not go along to meet the CAT team?

Come along and meet Wendy and Jo from the Communication and Autism Team (CAT).

This is an opportunity for you to:

Meet other parent/carers with autistic children and young people

Find out a bit more about autism

Ask questions

Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Primary School Kingsbury Road, Erdington, B24 9ND	Thursday 29th June 2023 9.30 – 11.30am
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Please note: we do not have any childcare facilities at the venue.

**If you have any questions, please contact us.
Just turn up on the day - there is no need to book. We look forward to seeing you there!**

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Gibb & Jo Clifford

CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk