



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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**FRIDAY 21st July 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many of you attend our Summer Caribbean Fayre on Friday, our mission to **proudly and joyfully, love, live and learn** together was at the heart of the fayre. I thank you for your support and look forward to future events of this kind. The total amount of money raised was **£960!** This was an incredible achievement!

## Upcoming projects

This Summer holiday, we will be having a new Rainbow Room which will be fully fitted with sensory equipment that can both be stimulating and calming for all children. The room will be in the space of the current rainbow room.

Our courtyard situated in the centre of school that enables our Reception children to access outdoors provision is getting a make-over this Summer with new art work and resources.

The above developments are important for our school as we strive for the very best provision for all of our wonderful children and support shown at the Summer Fayre and throughout the year helps raise funds so that our children's wishes can be met (we are yet to be able to afford a flight simulator which has been a request, but we will never stop trying!) Thank you.

Lastly, I wish you all a peaceful and restful Summer. We look forward to welcoming your children back to school (safe and well) on **Tuesday 5th September** (new Reception children start on Wednesday 6th September).

God bless all,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

## **Summer Blessing for Families**

May we make our homes places of relaxation,  
joy, love, peace and safety.  
May we be generous and considerate,  
not thinking only about ourselves,  
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.  
Lord God, Creator of all things,  
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts  
during these months of summer and vacation days.  
Grant us refreshment of mind and body.  
May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference  
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us  
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime.

*The Catholic Review*



## 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>

*We say farewell to Mrs. Doody,*

*Mr. Barnett and Mrs. Greaves*

*We pray for Mrs. Doody who has not been able to be with us at school for a while. We thank God for all the laughter, love and kindness Mrs. Doody has shown our St. Mark's community and pray she knows how loved she is here.*

*We pray for Mr Barnett as he leaves us to start his new job at St. Francis of Assisi.*

*We pray for Mrs. Greaves and wish her well on the next chapter of her journey.*



On Wednesday 19th July, Year 6 performed their end-of-year play, 'High School Musical'. It was a fantastic evening, where the children acted, sung and danced brilliantly. What a showcase of Year 6's wonderful talents! Thank you to all who supported through preparing costumes, buying tickets, practising dance routines at home and so on! We also thank Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School for their hospitality and support helping us to put on such an amazing show! Well done Year 6—I think we'll be seeing a few of you on the stage again in the future!

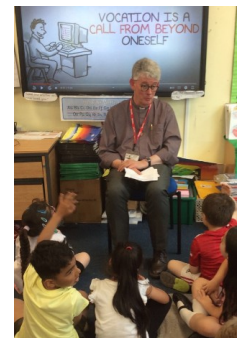
### WATER BOTTLES


All children in school have access to drinking water to fill their water bottles up. Please can you ensure that they are only bringing in water and no juice. Can you also ensure your child does not bring any fizzy drinks or Prime bottles to school.



### Vocations Day 2023

On Thursday 13th July, St. Mark's celebrated Vocations Day. We were joined by Fr Chris (an ex-pupil of St. Mark's School), Brother Andrew (an old friend of St. Mark's and Holy Name Parish, who serves as a Sacred Heart Brother) and Mr Campbell (a director of our MAC, musician and singer in the Church). All gave us insightful talks about what 'Vocations' are and how we are all called to use our God-given gifts and talents to make the world a better place.



	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.0%	95.1%
YEAR 1	0.5%	95.4%
YEAR 2	0.2%	97.6%
YEAR 3	2.1%	93.8%
YEAR 4	0.8%	97.0%
YEAR 5	1.6%	95.7%
YEAR 6	0.8%	94.2%

### ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 2** for their attendance and having the least amount of lates. Please can **Year 3** ensure they attend school everyday and on time.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.6%**.

We would also like to thank the parents that supported us by talking to the children about their Vocations. We are very grateful for your support.



We recognise how important it is for our children to carry on reading throughout the summer and we would love it if as many children as possible complete the 'Summer Reading Challenge' that has been set by the library service.

Please visit the website for full details <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/#library>

### **Dates for the diary:**

- Monday 4th September—School closed for Teacher INSET day.
- Tuesday 5th September—School opens to pupils
- Week beginning 11th September—Parent meetings with new class teachers and Mrs. Linley on expectations for the year ahead.
- Tuesday 19th September—Class group photos
- Monday 16th October—INSET day for staff—school closed to all pupils

## **Summer Caribbean Fayre**

at St. Mark's R.C. School, Almond Croft, Great Barr



### **What a wonderful celebration of heritage!**

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Summer Caribbean Fayre, last Friday.

Despite the rain preventing it from being outdoors, the occasion was filled with dancing, music, food, fun and laughter. The atmosphere was amazing.

Thank you to the SMF team for organising and managing the raffle, face painting, mehndi and other stalls. Their planning and organizing has been fantastic.

**It's great to hear that so many of you had a great time too. Your feedback has been phenomenal;**

**"Great atmosphere and was extra special with the involvement of the children."**

**"The supportive atmosphere that was felt in the hall was wonderful to be a part of. Hearing the staff share their stories and allowing the children to witness that so that they can learn to be comfortable in their own skin is just beautiful and the inclusivity that st marks offers makes it the wonderful school that it is. "**

**"The atmosphere, the theme - I stayed till the end I've never done that before."**

If you haven't already provided feedback and would like to, please follow the link below

<https://forms.office.com/e/3CucybyPfv>

If you would like to offer your support for future events, please enquire about how you can become a member of the SMF.