



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 29th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the parent welcome meetings held this week with your child's new class teacher. Thank you for your support with our school expectations. I have received many compliments from visitors to school on your children's good manners and positive attitude.

Please see class dojo for links and information about keeping germs at bay as this time of year is common for coughs and colds to spread. We want to limit this as much as possible, so please remind your child/ren to wash their hands carefully.

I received good news today about reopening our hall on Monday. We have received confirmation that there is definitely NO RAAC and the hall and our new rainbow room will be available for children to access. I, along with all the staff look forward to our first assembly and first school Mass in the hall of this academic year. We will update you next week with a plan for other activities that take place in the hall.

God bless and have a good weekend,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular attendance at school is crucial in raising standards of education and in ensuring every child can fulfil their God-given potential here at St. Mark's. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind, therefore, our aim is to maintain our high expectations of attendance by working closely with parents and carers.

In the few weeks we have been back at school, there have been a higher than average number of unauthorised absences and as a result, I have requested meetings with parents of these children.

I understand that holidays in school time are cheaper for families, but the implication this has on children's learning and wellbeing, particularly at the start of the new academic year is detrimental. We want to work closely with families to improve attendance and punctuality, as this is essential for children's future working adult life. In the same way we wouldn't go on holiday from work without first requesting it from management, holidays should not be taken in term time. **Parents have a legal duty to ensure children attend school every day that the school is open except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.**

**STAFF
PARKING
ONLY**

Dear Parents and Carers, we respectfully ask that you do not park in the school staff car park or in front of the school car park gates. When dropping children off or collecting children, you should park on the road in Almond Croft. Thank you for your support



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

We are currently reviewing our parent/carer code of conduct so that it reflects the aims and values of our school. If any parent or carer would like to contribute to this, please do so by emailing the school office - enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk with your suggestions.



PLACES AVAILABLE

Whole School First Aid Workshop

Friday 15th September 2023

On Friday 15th September, St. Mark's enjoyed learning some basic First Aid. They developed the skills to handle real-life situations from minor bumps and bruises to more serious injuries. They



also learnt about breathing and pulse and how to call for an ambulance in an emergency.



PLACES AVAILABLE IN RECEPTION:

If you have a child or know of a child whose date of birth is between **1st September 2018** and **31st August 2019**, and they don't currently attend a school, they could qualify for a place at **St. Mark's Catholic Primary School** in **RECEPTION CLASS**.




Please contact the school office on 0121 357 9892 for more details and application form.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 3** for their attendance and having the least amount of lates. Please can **Year 6** ensure they attend school everyday and can **Reception** children ensure they arrive to school on time. Gates open between 8.30 and 8.45am. Thank you.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **96.2%**.

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.2%	95.6%
YEAR 1	0.7%	97.5%
YEAR 2	0.5%	95.2%
YEAR 3	0.1%	97.8%
YEAR 4	0.9%	96.3%
YEAR 5	0.3%	96.8%
YEAR 6	0.9%	94.0%

Dates for the diary:

- Monday 16th October 2023—Teacher Training Day—school closed to pupils.
- Thursday 19th October 2023—Year 6 Trip to the Slavery Museum
- Thursday 19th to Friday 26th October 2023—Scholastic Book Fair
- Wednesday 25th October—Parents Evening
- Friday 27th October 2023—Teacher Training Day—school closed to pupils
- Half Term—Thursday 26th October to Friday 3rd November 2023
- Wednesday 15th November—Whole School Flu Immunisations
- Friday 17th November—Year 4 Trip to the Rep Theatre (more information to follow)

Mission Team Announcements!

This week we've had our first Mission Team meetings! It's been great to meet the new teams and see how enthusiastic the children are! We can't wait to see how we can put our faith into action together, make a difference to the community and care for our common home! Check out our school website to see more about what our mission teams do:

<https://www.stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk/pupils/>



Parents Evening

WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2023

We will be using 'School Cloud', an online appointment booking system for parents evening.

We will be sending out further information regarding the process and guidance on how to book an appointment for your child on parents evening.

This will be sent out 2 weeks prior to parents evening.

Care for CREATION

The season of Creation started on 1st September and runs until 4th October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology). During this season, children are encouraged to dedicate prayer and actions for the protection of God's creation and promote the key message of valuing, caring for and protecting our common home and all who live in it.

This week, our Key Stage 2 children took one theme from the story of Creation to create a persuasive poster to teach others about the importance of caring for our common home.

Year 3 - How can we care for our oceans?

Year 4 - How can we care for our land?

Year 5 - How can we care for plants and trees?

Year 6 - How can we care for each other?

Thank you to all of you who have supported this season by donating £2 for our Laudato Si mission team to plan how the money will be spent to further improve

sustainability and ecology projects in our school. Please see the school gateway to put towards this good cause. The Laudato Si mission team will be reporting back to the whole school with details about what they plan to do with the money raised.

Thank you for your continued support as we teach your child to grow in the love of God through their actions and prayer.

