



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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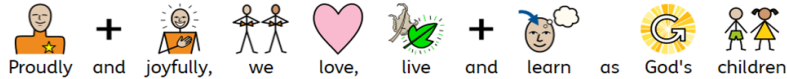
Email: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk

Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



THURSDAY 26th OCTOBER 2023

Our Mission Statement



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support at last week's Mass and also for your support with this year's Harvest Mass. It is always good to have you as parents with us in collective worship and Mass, as it strengthens us as a faith community. Our Minnie Vinnies have chosen for the food donations to go to Fr. Hudson's Care this year following a recent visit to Fr. Hudson's in Coleshill. It's great to see them putting their faith into action by supporting the more vulnerable in our society.

We have enjoyed seeing many children purchase a new book from the book fayre in the hall this week. We look forward to hearing how they have enjoyed reading their new books over half term. Thank you also for your feedback during parents' evening. As always, your feedback is much appreciated.

Stay safe (especially with any halloween or bonfire night activities) and have a restful half term holiday!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

OPEN DAY

We are holding open days for any prospective Reception parents. You are welcome to join us to find out more about the school on:

Wednesday 8th November at 9:30am

If you know of any prospective parents, please pass on this message. We look forward to seeing you then. We have a small number of spaces in this year's Reception class. This is a rare opportunity, so please contact the office if you would like any more information.



A school whereby we proudly and joyfully, love, live
and learn as God's children

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

13th—17th November 2023

Wear Odd Socks

The Guardian Angels welcome you to kick start Anti-Bullying week on **Monday 13th November** by wearing **odd socks** to celebrate what makes us all unique.

In preparation for Anti-bullying week, we will be welcoming Amit Ghose (disability speaker) to St. Mark's on Monday 6th November. Amit will be leading a whole school assembly and then leading workshops with our Key Stage 2 children on the morning of 6th November.



Y6 Trip to the Slavery Museum, Liverpool Thursday 19th October 2023

On Thursday 19th October, Year 6 visited the Slavery Museum in Liverpool to support their learning about the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It was a thought-provoking day, where the children explored the past and listened to real life stories of those effected.



God's Rise Theatre Company Tuesday 17th October 2023

On Tuesday, our whole school community enjoyed a breath-taking journey of discovery around the earth, into space, learning about the beauty of God's creation.



"I enjoyed singing, dancing and acting all day." M, Y4
"I can be a planet hero by pledging to save electric in home and at school." E, Y5

Today we say goodbye to Mr. Deery, our Year 1 teacher. We wish Mr. Deery all the best in his future endeavours and we welcome Mr. Dempsey who will be Year 1's new class teacher (thank you for already making him feel welcomed at parents evening).

Mother Mary Challenge

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Mother Mary competition this October. It is great to see so many pieces of artwork depicting Mary in different cultures around school. We have even sent some to the MAC family so they can see your wonderful work. Well done to our winners, voted for by our Catholic Life Leaders:

Reception: Yahya

Year 1: Lena

Year 2: Traebhavan

Year 3: Aarav

Year 4: Valeriya

Year 5: Pedro

Year 6: Diya and Nishika



Educational Visits – Parent Volunteers

Educational Visits are an important part of the curriculum at St. Mark's, they provide children with opportunities that they may not experience in the classroom. To enable us to provide the children with these opportunities, we require parent volunteers to support these visits.

We would be very grateful for any parent volunteer support - parent volunteers will be given notice of the visits in advance as we are aware that you may have prior commitments.

If you can become a parent volunteer, please contact the school office on 0121 357 9892.

Many thanks for your support.

Extra-curricular activities

We are delighted to announce that after half term, we will be providing a range of extra curricular activities (some new to St. Mark's). We have made the decision to not provide morning extra curricular clubs as we had a number of children that often arrived late last year. When children arrive late to clubs in the morning, it means the club can't start on time and it causes disruption to the group activity. Please note that all clubs will start the **second week back** at school (**week beginning 13th November**). A letter to apply to the clubs on offer will go out on Monday 6th November and places will be booked on first come first served basis with priority for the pupil premium children, but please recognise that we want as many children as possible to have the opportunity to attend an after school club so we will be keeping a record of who is attending a club so that if your child does not get a space this time then we would hope that they get a space next time.

As well as weekly after school clubs, we are also going to provide some 'one-off' clubs to reflect the liturgical season :

KS1 Christmas wool decoration club - Tuesday 21st November 3:15-4:15pm

KS2 Christmas decoration club (salt dough designs) - Friday 24th November 3:15-4:15pm

KS2 Christmas decoration club (painting salt dough and other crafts—Monday 27th November 3:15-4:15pm

As we are offering a wider range of after school clubs, we have changed our prices, weekly after school clubs will now cost £2.50 per session (£15 for 6 weeks). Mrs. Hussain will set up payment tabs on the school gateway the first week back to enable you as parents to pay for clubs after you have received confirmation that your child has a place in the club.

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Any child not following the school's behaviour policy and not adhering to our school rules to:

1. Be Ready, 2. Be Respectful and 3. Be Safe

will be taken out of the club with immediate effect and the child's place will be given to a child on the waiting list. We have high expectations for behaviour and it is important that ALL children follow the rules.

Day of the week	Club	Year groups	Description
Monday 3:15-4:15pm	Board Games	3,4,5 and 6 Max 20	Children spend a lot of time playing digital games, this club is an opportunity to play some new and traditional board games.
Tuesday 3:15-4:15pm	Football	3,4,5 and 6 with Liam	Football coaching session to use a range of ball skills and work in a team to play short matches.
Tuesday 3:15-4:15pm	Dance with Riley	Years 1, 2 and 3 Max 16	Younger children will have fun, learning exciting dance routines to pop music that your kids love, and getting active the fun way!
Wednesday	Tae Kwon Do	Years 4, 5 and 6 Max 20	A form of martial arts with an experienced Instructor, to learn new skills, improve your fitness, flexibility, co-ordination, and improve your confidence.
Friday	Dance with Shelley	Years 4, 5 and 6 Max 20	Older children will have fun, learning exciting dance routines to pop music that your kids love, and getting active the fun way!



All Souls' Day Celebration Day of the Dead



This year, on Thursday 9th November, we'll be celebrating All Souls' Day in school (a week late due to half term). This year, we will be combining our usual Catholic traditions with the Mexican celebrations of 'Day of the Dead'. This will be a day of celebration, remembering and commemorating our loved ones who have passed away. This celebration links with our Catholic belief of eternal life.

We are running a half term project for children (see next page) and will be celebrating in school by:

- having a special Mass to remember our loved ones
- Decorating our altar and classroom prayer tables
- Learning about the Mexican celebration and completing work in class
- Having a special Mexican-themed lunch, provided by Mrs Beresford (more info to follow on Class Dojo)

During the month of November, we pray for all our loved ones who have joined God in the kingdom of Heaven.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 1** for their attendance and **Year 3** for 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 **93.3%**.

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.7%	95.1%
YEAR 1	0.82%	97.9%
YEAR 2	0.46%	95.8%
YEAR 3	0.43%	95.6%
YEAR 4	1.4%	96.5%
YEAR 5	0.59%	95.3%
YEAR 6	0.88%	93.9%

Dates for the diary:

- **Friday 27th October 2023—Teacher Training Day—school closed to pupils**
- **Half Term—Thursday 26th October to Friday 3rd November 2023**
- **Monday 6th November - Amit Ghose (disability speaker) in school**
- **Wednesday 8th November 9.30am—Open Day for Prospective Reception Parents**
- **Thursday 9th November—Day of the Dead celebrations and themed lunch (more info to follow)**
- **Sunday 12th November—Family Mass at Holy Name Church 10.30am**
- **Week beginning 13th November—Anti-bullying week**
- **Wednesday 15th November—Whole School Flu Immunisations**
- **Friday 17th November—Year 4 Trip to the Rep Theatre**

All Souls' Celebration - Day of the Dead!

On 2nd November, we celebrate 'All Souls Day'; a day where we remember and commemorate all our loved ones that have gone before us to be with God in the kingdom of Heaven. This year in school, we will be combining our usual Catholic traditions with the Mexican tradition of 'Day of the Dead'. This day is a true celebration of all those who have died and it links with our beliefs of eternal life.

Your half term project is to create a home-made altar (out of a shoe box, or similar) that we can use to display in school as part of our celebrations. These will allow our departed loved ones to be remembered and celebrated in our school community. Here are some examples:



You can use images of your loved ones, bright colours, flowers, pictures and items that your family member/friend liked. These will be used as part of our celebrations when we returned to school and offered up in Mass.

Our classroom altars will also be decorated with bright flowers and pictures. If anyone wishes to bring in flowers/pictures to add to classroom altars, these would also be greatly appreciated. We look forward to this celebration of all our loved ones who have gone before us.