



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2023

Our Mission Statement



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in school, we recognised Anti-bullying Week. Anti-bullying Week is an annual event where we raise awareness of bullying and explore ways to prevent it with the children. This year, we linked it to our learning about the British Value, 'mutual respect'.

Our British Values underpin what it is to be a British citizen in our modern and diverse society. They help us celebrate the diversity of the UK and our school—something we are very proud of. The children have been working hard this week exploring that British Value and how we can put it into action at school, home and in our community.

On Monday 6th November, we welcomed Amit Ghose, a disability speaker, into our school to share his story and how he overcame difficulties presented to him. Following this, Lyla in Y6 was inspired to share her story, a very powerful assembly indeed.

St. Mark's is an inclusive school, following the teachings of Jesus who teaches us to, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34). This week there has been fantastic examples of how love is shared at St. Mark's.

God bless and have a good weekend,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Health and Safety—Parent Action Needed

At St. Mark's, safety of the children is paramount and we are constantly reviewing our practice to ensure we are doing all we can to keep the children safe in school, on the playground and especially at home time dismissal. Therefore, can we please ask for your cooperation with the following:

- **No bikes, scooters or roller skates to be used inside the school gates.**
 - **No dogs allowed inside the school gates.**
- **Once you have collected your child, please ensure they are not allowed to run around (especially near to where KS2 are dismissed).**

We are committed to providing the children with special, reverent prayer areas in and around school. Our school prayer garden is regularly used by the children to spend peaceful time with nature and in prayer. Please can we ensure that we remind the children about this and that they are not allowed to play in there after school. We have lots of exciting plans to develop our prayer garden, for our children and community, so it is important it is recognised as a special area to spend time with God.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



All Souls' Celebration—Day of the Dead

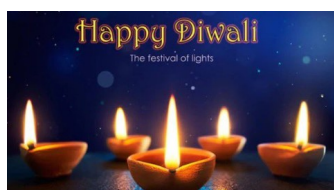
On Thursday 9th November, St. Mark's celebrated a Mass and All Souls' celebration like no other! We celebrated a traditional Mass but incorporated the Mexican tradition of 'Day of the Dead'. Thank you to all children, and their families, that make memory boxes, commemorating our loved ones that are in Heaven. The hall was beautifully decorated with the boxes and these were blessed during the Mass. All classes completed different activities to learn more about the Mexican tradition and how it relates to our Catholic traditions – including comparing altars, doing Mexican dances and drawing pictures of Heaven. Mrs B made us all a themed lunch with some delicious Mexican food and biscuits. It was a whole day of celebrations and wonderful to see all of our St. Mark's community getting involved! Thank you all for your ongoing support.



Happy Diwali!

To all our families and St. Mark's community, who celebrated Diwali last weekend, we hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating. We have loved seeing all the pictures and hearing about your celebrations.

May the blessings of Diwali bring peace and happiness to all.



Anti-bullying Week!

This week in school we celebrated Anti-bullying week. Lyla in Y6 lead us in a wonderful assembly, where she bravely shared her story. In classes we explore the British Value, 'mutual respect': its importance and how we can show it to others. Thank you to the Guardian Angels, who organised an odd-sock day to remind us that we are all unique!



Amit Ghose—Disability Speaker

On Monday 6th November, we had a visit from Amit Ghose, speaking about embracing and celebrating our individuality. He helped us think about those who are different from us, whether through a disability, race, culture or background. Here is what the children had to say when reflecting on his visit:

Josh - He lost his eye in Year 7 and had to wear an eye patch

Zakaria - You have to stand up for yourself just like he did, and now he is an ambassador

Nathan - We need to express our personality like Amit because it helps people to get to know us

Zayyan - treat others how you want to be treated

Aidan - it doesn't matter that we are all different, we all matter





CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

We are inviting you to enter an art competition to paint a nativity scene.

This competition has been set up by The Knights of Saint Columba.

There will be cash prizes for the winner and the school.

Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more details.

The deadline date is Wednesday 13th December 2023. Good Luck Everyone! Mrs Scarrott x



Friday 1st December— 'Bring a Bottle' for the Bottle raffle— These will be used for prizes in the bottle tombola.

Friday 8th December— 'Bring a Fancy Good' - these can be chocolates, toiletries, perfume or make up etc —all unused and boxed please.

Friday 8th December—Christmas Jumper Day.


St. Mark's Friends would appreciate if any parent or carers can volunteer to help out during the Christmas Fayre, please let the school office know if you would be available to do this.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 1 & 5** for their attendance and **Year 2** for having the least amount of lates. Please can **Reception** ensure they attend school every-day and arrive to school on time.

Gates open between 8.30 and 8.45am. Thank you.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **96.3%**.

	So Far This Term No. Of Lates %	So Far This Term Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.7%	94.5%
YEAR 1	0.8%	97.8%
YEAR 2	0.3%	95.7%
YEAR 3	0.4%	97.2%
YEAR 4	1.5%	96.1%
YEAR 5	0.5%	97.8%
YEAR 6	1.0%	94.8%

Volunteers Needed



'St. Mark's Friends' is a group of parent volunteers who help to Organise, lead and deliver events for our children to enjoy. We would love to welcome new parents to this group, if you are interested in joining us, our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th November at 4.30pm (this will be to discuss the Christmas Fayre). This meeting will be held over Zoom. Please email the school office if you would like to attend, and we will send you the

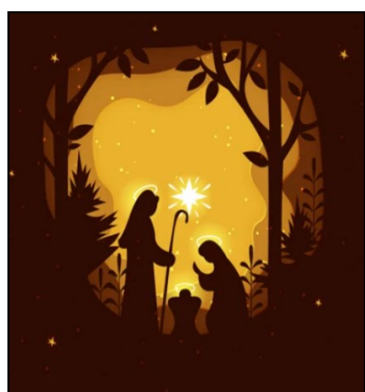
Dates for the diary:

- **Wednesday 22nd November—Open Day for New Reception 2024**
- **Friday 24th November—Stress Box Workshop for Year 4 & 5 parents and children—3pm-3:45pm**
- **Monday 27th November—Dads and Lads Workshop for Y4/5/6 boys—3.30pm-4.30pm**
- **Friday 1st December—Year 3 Trip to Birmingham Central Library**
- **Friday 8th December—Christmas Jumper Day**
- **Friday 8th December—School Christmas Fayre**
- **Tuesday 12th December—Parents Mental Health Workshop led by Forward Thinking Birmingham—3.30pm-4.30pm**
- **Wednesday 13th December—Christmas Dinner Day**
- **Wednesday 13th December—Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Name Church—6pm-7pm**
- **Friday 22nd December—End of Term**



Nativity Painting Competition

This year St. Mark's have been invited to participate in a Christmas Nativity painting competition. Your challenge is to paint a scene of Our Lord's Nativity and include the Bible passage that inspired your painting. Paintings need to be A4 and given to Mrs Scarrott with your name and year group on.



The Knights of Saint Columba will vote for the winners and there are cash prizes for winners and their



Two age ranges:

Infants (4–7 years)

Juniors (7–11 years)

All entries must be in by Wednesday 13th December 2023



Infant 3rd place 2022/23



Junior 3rd place 2022/23

This is The Knights of Saint Columba Young People's Competition and it is a national competition. WWW.KSC.ORG.UK



Mrs Danielle Linley
Headteacher
St Mark's Catholic Primary School
Almond Croft
Great Barr
BIRMINGHAM
B42 1NU

27 October 2023
6032

Dear Mrs Linley

Thank you for your generous contribution of food this autumn.

Your support will enable us to work with homeless people, children and families as well as older people, refugees and vulnerable migrants and people with severe and complex disabilities. Our work, made possible thanks to your support, brings light to people during their darkest times, and offers them hope and opportunities for the future.

One example of this is the Father Hudson's Care Family Support Service. Our Family Support Workers are based in Catholic Schools around the Archdiocese to support pupils and their families as they work to overcome challenges that are negatively affecting a child's welfare or academic attainment. Our support workers provide tailored support, including food hampers and hygiene items to support families while they overcome their challenges and move forward positively. This summer we were able to share a little extra joy with our families. We received a grant that enabled the Family Support Service to take children and their families from across the Archdiocese to the beach for the day. This offered the families that we work with the chance to spend quality time together at the beach, a treat that many who we work with felt was beyond their reach.



Thank you for making a real difference to lives of our neighbours in need.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Hateley'.

Kevin Hateley
Head of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing