



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER 2023

Our Mission Statement



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is the first day of Advent. We pray during Advent that we may open our hearts in love and hope as we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is a special time of preparation and I ask that you take some time this weekend to reflect with your child on the important meaning of Advent.

Advent Prayer

God of love, Your son, Jesus is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent as we wait and prepare for his coming.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour,

Amen.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported our Nativity painting competition. Entries are due in by the 13th December so if you have not yet completed yours, there is still time.

Our Year 3 children visited Birmingham Central library today and have displayed some of their fantastic Winter art work in the library for all to see. If you are in Birmingham City Centre this weekend, please pop in and take a look!

Have a good weekend all. God bless.

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

West Midlands Police — School Liaison Officer—PC Manns

Next week, PC Manns will be visiting school to spend time with the children. He will be exploring/supporting us with the following:

- Discussing with the children how to be safe around Christmas time and in the colder weather/darker nights.
- Reminding the older children, who walk home, how to keep themselves safe and dangers to be aware of when walking to/from school.
- The parking outside school at the end of the day and how to make it as safe as possible.
- A patrol of the local area after school.

Our Guardian Angel's Mission Team will patrol outside the school gates at the end of the day and monitor how parents park and what we can do to ensure this is done as safe as possible. Please look out for them and ensure you are parked sensibly and NOT on the yellow lines, to avoid a ticket from the Guardian Angels and PC Manns!



'Dads and Lads Workshop'

On Monday 27th November, we held a 'Dads and Lads' Workshop. It was a great session lead by Matt from Lily-Mae Foundation. We explored the importance of creating a safe space to share our worries and how to support our boys with feeling confident to talk. Thank you to all those who participated and shared their own views and experiences. It was a great workshop and we look forward to our next one.



Feedback so far...

"Emotional literacy of boys will be better by this because we are actively encouraging them to talk and share their thoughts with us." -Parent

Even better if.... "Do a dads and sons trip for bonding time" - Parent



Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots!

During this week's praise assembly, lots of children won certificates for earning the most coins! Well done!

CLASS	NAME OF CHILD
Reception	Richard
Year 1	Chidera
Year 2	Samuel
Year 3	Aman
Year 4	Aamir
Year 5	Amanah
Year 6	Reuben

This week's challenge is for children to improve their overall speed! Please encourage your children to keep practising at home as number facts and times table are building blocks for children to access higher-level maths skills!

Y6 and Y4 are currently in a tournament—look out for which class will be challenged next!



Year 4's trip to the Rep Theatre

On Friday 17th November, Year 4 went to The Rep Theatre in Birmingham to watch a performance of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. Year 4 are also reading the book in class, so this performance has really brought the story to life for them.

"I loved when the witch started to fly!" Rajveer

"This was my first time at the theatre, it was very exciting." Isaac



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/prayer?pid=MTA101634&v=111.2>



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.




To improve our punctuality, we have sent letters to 6 families this week whereby we have identified persistent punctuality issues. Any families needing further support to improve the punctuality need to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Linley - please contact her directly via class dojo messaging. As a school we aim to support our parents with attendance and punctuality.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 5** for their attendance and **Year 2** for having the least amount of lates. Please can **Reception** ensure they attend school everyday and **Year 4** to 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	So Far This Term
	Nr. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	1.6%	93.6%
YEAR 1	0.8%	97.4%
YEAR 2	0.4%	94.3%
YEAR 3	0.6%	96.7%
YEAR 4	1.7%	95.3%
YEAR 5	0.7%	97.6%
YEAR 6	1.2%	95.0%



Christmas Fundraising

"Lend a hand, take a stand and stop cutting trees." Dylan

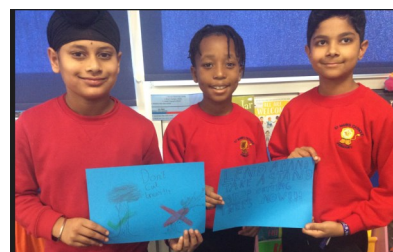
Did you know that 1 billion Christmas cards get thrown away each year? That's a lot of trees getting cut down (33 million)!

Instead of buying Christmas cards this year, we are urging you to donate the money that you would have spent instead. All money donated will go towards the Rwanda Project.

If you would like to make a donation, please can the money be sent into school, in an envelope clearly labelled **'The Rwanda Project'** by Monday 18th December.

Thank you,

The Mini Vinnies.



Dates for the diary:

- Friday 8th December 2023—Christmas Jumper Day**
- Friday 8th December 2023—School Christmas Fayre starts at 3.30pm**
- Tuesday 12th December 2023—Parents Mental Health Workshop led by Forward Thinking, Birmingham—3.30pm-4.30pm**
- Wednesday 13th December 2023—Christmas Dinner Day**
- Wednesday 13th December 2023—Christmas Carol Concert at Holy Name Church—6pm-7pm**
- Friday 22nd December 2023—Whole School Attendance assembly**
- Friday 22nd December 2023—End of Term**
- Tuesday 9th January 2024—Start of Spring Term**