



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 12th JANUARY 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New year! I trust you have all had a good Christmas holiday. It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday and hear about their holiday experiences.



Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, the time when the three wise men visited the new born Saviour. The wise men were taking a huge risk in following the star to Bethlehem, but they trusted that God was leading them to something far greater than they could know. This is such a powerful example of how we as Christians should live our lives. Trusting that God knows what is best for us and that His plan, no matter how unattainable things might seem on the journey, will lead us to where we need to be. We should also have the strength to see Jesus in our lives in unexpected ways, and when we do, worship and adore Him.

The children have been modelling our school rules brilliantly, to 'be ready, be respectful and be safe' and I, along with all the staff, feel very proud of them for making an excellent start back to school. Well done everyone!

God bless and have a good weekend,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Presentation Matters!

To promote smart presentation in and around our school, we have introduced a new system this term whereby each class is responsible for maintaining 20 presentation points. A point will be deducted for every occasion where there is evidence that our presentation expectations are not being adhered to. The presentation of each classroom is also considered, as we expect children to help keep classrooms tidy and well organised. The class earning the most points will get the astro on a Friday.



Please speak to the office staff if you would like some good quality second hand uniform for free.



We have seen an increase in the number of children wearing earrings in school, Please note, ***'Earrings are not permitted to be worn in school for safety reasons'***, as stated in our policy which can be found on the school website. If your child needs to keep earrings in they can replace their studs with plastic ear pins.



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/new-start?pid=MTA101634&v=115.2>

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.

6 meetings with families where attendance is a concern took place this week with Mrs. Linley

3 home visits were conducted to check on children not in school


Current whole school attendance is ... **95.5%**

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 6** for their attendance and **Year 1 & 5** for having the least amount of lates. Please can **Year 2** ensure they attend school everyday and **Reception** children arrive to school on time.

Gates open between 8.30 and 8.45am. Thank you.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.5%**.

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	3.3%	92.5%
YEAR 1	0%	92.9%
YEAR 2	1.0%	85.2%
YEAR 3	1.0%	95.1%
YEAR 4	1.9%	96.2%
YEAR 5	0%	96.7%
YEAR 6	0.5%	99.5%

KS2 Music Lessons

St. Mark's works with Totally RAD Music to provide additional music lessons for our KS2 children. These lessons take place within the school day and have proven to be a success for the children who are accessing them so far. We have scheduled more lessons this half term and still have a few places available.



If you have not yet signed up for music lessons, and wish for your child to access this opportunity, Totally RAD Music have offered a discount for the new year. Please scan the QR code to find out more and how to sign up:



Nativity painting competition

Thank you to all who entered the Nativity painting/art competition before Christmas. We are eagerly awaiting to hear whether we have any winners and will update you as soon as we know. Good Luck!



Dates for the diary:

Sunday 21st January—Family Mass at Holy Name Church at 10.30am **ALL WELCOME!**

Thursday 25th January—Year 4 trip to Birmingham Think Tank

Friday 26th January—Year 4 Severn Trent workshop

Tuesday 30th January—Year 1 Toys workshop

Friday 2nd February—Year 3 trip to Walsall Museum

Tuesday 6th February—Internet Safety Day

Thursday 8th February—Internet Safety workshops taking place in school

Friday 9th February—Year 5 Belgrade Theatre Trip

Friday 9th February—school closes for half term

Thursday 22nd February—Teacher Training Day—school closed for ALL pupils.

ST JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC ACADEMY

TEACHER TRAINING APPLICATION FOR 2024/2025 ARE OPEN

Are you interested in Teaching?
Are you considering changing career?

We support both primary and secondary trainees.

Training to teach within one of our eight schools is a fantastic opportunity.

You will gain real classroom experience and learn from fantastic staff within one of our Catholic schools, whilst being supported by our team and SCITT partner Bishop Challoner.



Gain Real, Valuable Teaching Experience

Ease yourself into school life and build confidence by getting a chance to work fulltime in a school, shadowing and working closely with fantastic teachers and headteachers.



Comprehensive, Research- Informed Programme

Benefit from a research-informed teacher training programme with a sequenced curriculum that has been deliberately structured to build on the previous term's learning.



Support from Tutors, Mentors and SFE Experts

Tutors, mentoring staff and SFE advisers will always be on hand to offer support and protect your wellbeing. We want you to succeed and will be with you every step of the way to make sure that happens.



If you are interested and would like a chat please email admin@sjbca.co.uk with your choice of one of our eight schools and you will receive the opportunity to speak to one of our school leaders who will be able to provide more information.

How to apply

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

Simply search for St John Bosco Catholic Academy (5L9)



St Chad's
Catholic
Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic High School



St Bernadette's
Catholic
Primary School



St Joseph's
Catholic
Primary School



St John Bosco
Catholic Academy



St Mary's
Catholic
Primary School



St John Bosco
Catholic
Primary School



St Mark's
Catholic
Primary School



Bishop Milner
Catholic
College