



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 26th JANUARY 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see our St. Mark's community come together for family Mass on Sunday at Holy Name Church. The children participated really well and the parishioners at Church were full of praise for them. We hope to see more of you at our next family mass on Sunday 17th March at 10.30am at Holy Name Church in Great Barr.

I have been super impressed with the extra effort that all the children have been making to dress smartly and proudly in their school uniform. Thank you for supporting us with this. They are a credit to you as parents. Over the next two weeks we have football fixtures arranged with two other schools from our MAC, so look out for match reports in the next newsletter.

I have sent out two letters this week regarding staffing at St. Mark's as we have found this year particularly challenging to recruit staff. We have also encountered long term staff absence which was unforeseen. You may have seen in the news that nationally, there is a teacher recruitment and retention issue. Our experience is shared by many schools locally. We continue to do everything we can as a school to ensure your children receive the best education they possibly can at St. Mark's.

Lastly, I would like you all to please keep Mrs. Nellist and Mrs. Beresford in your prayers. Mrs. Nellist will be absent from school, for a while, due to ill-health; we pray the Holy Spirit gives her strength through her treatment. We also pray for Mrs. Beresford, who has recently lost her Dad. May he rest in eternal peace.

Have a good weekend and God bless,

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

**SEVERN
TRENT**

Super Sewers Assembly

**SEVERN
TRENT**

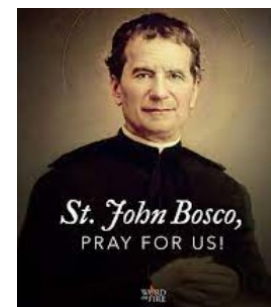
This morning, Andy from Seven Trent Water and our Laudato Si Leaders lead us in a fantastic assembly about how to we use water. We also learnt about the water treatment system used at Seven Trent Water. Following this, they were taught about the 3P's that should be flushed down the toilet. Please ask the children about these. They will also be able to give you some reasons why other things should not be flushed down the toilet or washed down the sink.

BE A BINNER, NOT A BLOCKER!



St. John Bosco Feast Day

Next week we celebrate the feast day of St. John Bosco, who our MAC is named after. All classes are planning and leading acts of collective worship in class, our Mission Teams will be travelling to St. Mary's for a special feast day Mass and on Thursday, we'll be celebrating a special Mass in school.



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/teacher?pid=MTA101634&v=117.3>


ATTENDANCE MATTERS

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 6** for their attendance and **Year 1** for having the least amount of lates. Please can **Reception** ensure they attend school everyday and **Year 4** children arrive to school on time.

Gates open between 8.30 and 8.45am. Thank you.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.6%**.

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	2.4%	90.4%
YEAR 1	0.2%	96.5%
YEAR 2	0.6%	92.9%
YEAR 3	0.5%	98.1%
YEAR 4	2.5%	94.2%
YEAR 5	1.1%	96.9%
YEAR 6	0.5%	98.0%

SEND SOMEONE SPECIAL A VALENTINE CUPCAKE



This year, our St. Mark's Friends, along with Mrs Beresford have organised for your child to buy a special Valentine cupcake (sealed with love) and delivered on Friday 9th February. This will be in a plastic container for them to take home and if you wish, they can give to a loved one to enjoy or enjoy it themselves.

Letters have been sent home with your child earlier this week, with more information.

Please can you return your reply slip and make a payment by **Wednesday 31st January**. Can you please ensure you state the correct number of cupcakes you require (*limit of 4 per child*), in the comments section on school gateway, and make a payment for the correct amount.

All cupcakes will be vegetarian. We are able to cater for all dietary requirements, please state clearly on your slip, what the dietary requirements are.



There is a vacancy for a parent governor on the governing body of our school and we would like to reach out to ALL parents to encourage you to apply. Our children need a parent governor who will listen to the children's views and work with the other school governors to help support the school to further improve and meet the ambitious targets set. We are blessed to have such a diverse school community with many cultures, faiths and ethnicities and we would like our governing body to be representative of our school community. You do not need to be Catholic for this role and you do not need to have previous experience of being a governor, as training will be provided. We ask that you are respectful and supportive of our Catholic Faith and we ask that you are able to commit time to governing body meetings. If you would like to find out more information about this, please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs. Linley or speak to Mrs. Linley on the gate in the morning.

Dates for the diary:

Wednesday 31st January— St John Bosco Feast Day Mass (letters have been sent to selected pupils)

Friday 2nd February—Year 3 trip to Walsall Museum

Tuesday 6th February—Internet Safety Day—whole school assembly

Tuesday 7th February—Year 1 Toys workshop (more information to follow)

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

Friday 9th February—Year 5 Belgrade Theatre Trip (more information to follow)

Friday 9th February—school closes for half term

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

Thursday 7th March—World Book Day

Thursday 21st March—Parents Evening (more information to follow)

Friday 22nd March—school closes for Easter holidays