



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Wednesday is the start of Lent and this is a very important time for us as Catholics. It is a time whereby we strengthen our relationship with Christ by trying to become more like Jesus.



We **fast** or give something up to remember that Jesus gave up his life to show us how much he loves us. We can give up a treat we enjoy or we can try to give up a bad habit. We must try to be more forgiving, loving and understanding. We **give** to others more during Lent and this year, your children have chosen to support Fr. Hudson's so please help us by donating some money this Lent to this worthy cause. We **pray** during Lent and through prayer, we ask God to help us to become more like Jesus.

Let us all be a beacon of light for each other during this Lent.

I wish you all a wonderful half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 19th February. Please remember that Thursday 22nd February is a MAC training day for staff, so school will be closed to all pupils. School will reopen on Friday 23rd February.

God bless, Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

Y6 Confirmation - Important Dates

Tuesday 20th February 2024

Y6 Visit to St Chad's Cathedral

Tuesday 27th February 2024

Parent workshop for parents, children and their sponsors (if possible). 5-6pm

Date TBC by Father Jibu

Reconciliation at St. Mark's School. Parents welcome to attend.

Thursday 29th February 2024

Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Name Church (7pm). Please arrive from 6:30pm.



SAVE THE DATE



Holy Communion will be taking place on **Sunday 7th July** at Holy Name Church at 10.30am. More details to follow.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS


ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 3** for their attendance and for having the least amount of lates.

Please can **Reception** ensure they attend school everyday and 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	2.3%	88.6%
YEAR 1	0.6%	94.7%
YEAR 2	0.6%	93.5%
YEAR 3	0.5%	97.3%
YEAR 4	2.2%	93.7%
YEAR 5	1.2%	96.8%
YEAR 6	1.1%	96.5%

World Book Day 2024

This year, to celebrate World Book Day, we are pleased to announce that we will be working with an author called James Hywel.



This very special experience will allow all children to follow every aspect of the book-writing process, from them creating a book title, right through to our children seeing their book published. They will see how easy writing is, and maybe some pupils will be inspired to become authors when they leave school.

We will be meeting James' friend Albert the Mouse, who our school book will be all about. As a school we will meet Albert the Mouse and James Hywel on World Book Day, read all about Albert's adventures so far and launch our very own writing project.

On World Book Day, all children are welcome to come dressed as mouse (just like Albert) or as an adventurer (e.g. an astronaut, a scuba diver, an explorer, a park ranger, a pilot, a sailor etc).



Dates for the diary:

Monday 19th February—School reopens to children

Tuesday 20th February—Year 4 Times tables workshop in the hall (2-3pm)

Wednesday 21st February—Sports for School Sponsored event

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

Friday 23rd February - Girl Guiding Thinking Day

Thursday 29th February—Year 6 will be making their Confirmation at Holy Name Church at 7pm

Thursday 7th March—World Book Day

Friday 8th March—International Women's Day and British Values day on Democracy

Sunday 17th March - Family Mass at Holy Name Church at 10.30am

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

Friday 22nd March—school closes for Easter holidays

Sports for Schools - Sponsored Event

We're very excited to be welcoming Sports for Schools to St. Mark's School!

A top GB athlete, Amy Smith, will be leading a sponsored fitness circuit with all pupils, followed by a motivational assembly, and Q&A session. The aim of the event is to inspire the pupils to be more physically active, but just as importantly, encourage them to discover and pursue their passion in life. There will be sponsor forms given out with the aim to raise as much money as possible to gain new sports equipment and resources for our school.

Your child should have bought home a sponsorship form this week to gather sponsorship from families and friends. Please can these be returned to school by **Wednesday 28th February 2024**.

Scan the QR code to find out more and learn some more information about Amy Smith.



Football matches this term



A massive well done to our Year 6 team of girls and boys for playing football against St. Chad's in Sedgley on Tuesday 30th January. Both teams played really well. Mrs. Linley was super impressed with the girls team as they had no subs and they gave it everything—well done girls!

On Tuesday 6th February, teams of Year 4 and 5 girls and boys played against St. John Bosco. Both games were friendlies but the quality of defence and attack from both schools was impressive. Mrs. Linley said, "it was a privilege to watch and cheer the children on".

Well done everyone!



If your child enjoys playing football and they are in need of some trainers, please message Mrs. Linley on class do-jo, as we would be happy to help.