



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

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FRIDAY 8th March 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

During Lent, the children are exploring what it means to be faith-filled and hopeful and today is International Women's Day and Sunday is Mother's day. Year 5 have recently been exploring gender equality and how lessons have been learned from perceptions in the past in relation to how women and men were treated, and the rights women had in comparison to men. We continue to teach our children the catholic social teaching principles in the hope that we can change things for the better! Miss Stewart has set a homework project on class dojo for our children and I hope you will support them in this. I look forward to seeing what our children produce!

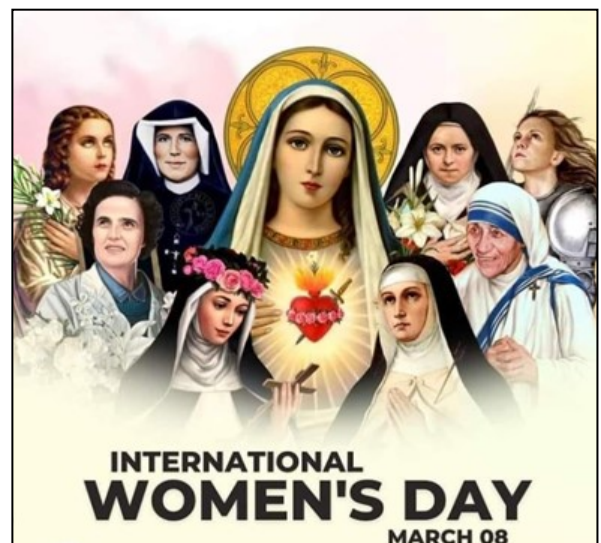
Please share the following prayer with your children:

On this International Women's Day,
as we celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of women,
we remember the women who have played a part in our lives.
Those who have
nurtured us,
taught us,
inspired us,
loved us.

On this International Women's Day,
as we acknowledge the challenges women still face,
we pray that all women may know equality
of healthcare,
of education,
of wealth,
of prospects.

We pray that all women may know themselves to be
respected,
safe,
included,
empowered.

Amen



Y6 Confirmation—Thursday 29th February 2024

On Thursday 29th January, our Y6 Confirmandi were sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Their demonstration of faith and commitment was inspirational to us all and Bishop David Evans was very impressed with their knowledge and understanding of the Sacrament. Thank you to all parents, sponsors, St. Mark's staff and children for supporting them on their faith journey.

Please keep the Y6 Confirmandi in your prayers.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS


ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to Year 5 for their attendance and to Year 2 & 3 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 **95.6%**.

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	2.7%	90.4%
YEAR 1	0.7%	96.1%
YEAR 2	0.6%	94.6%
YEAR 3	0.6%	96.8%
YEAR 4	1.7%	93.6%
YEAR 5	1.3%	97.5%
YEAR 6	0.9%	97.2%

PARENTS EVENING—

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2024

We will be using **schoolcloud**, an online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

Appointments can be made from today **Friday 8th March 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** and will close on **Friday 15th March 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** Please see email sent today with the link and guide on how to book your slot.

Once you have made your booking, an email will be sent with confirmation of your booked slot.

Once all the appointment slots have been taken, you will need to contact the teacher via Class Dojo to book alternative appointments at a mutually convenient time for yourselves and the teacher.

Dates for the diary:

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

Monday 18th March: 9am Palm Sunday assembly

Tuesday 19th March: 9am The Last Supper assembly led by Year 3

Tuesday 19th March—Break dance session for boys in Y3, 4, 5 and 6 to raise the profile of dance.

Wednesday 20th March: The Agony in the Garden assembly led by Year 4

Thursday 21st March: 9am The Stations of the Cross - Year 5

Thursday 21st March—Parents Evening (please see newsletter for more information)

Friday 22nd March—KS2 attendance assembly at 9:00am

Friday 22nd March—KS1 attendance assembly at 9:45am

Friday 22nd March—school closes for Easter holidays

Allergy Reviews and Updates



It has been lovely to speak to some parents regarding an update in allergy care plans. We look forward to speaking to more of you over the coming weeks to review the current care plans. If your child has an allergy, please alert the school office or Mrs. Dykes who will liaise with our school nursing team to ensure the correct care plan is in place.



If there are any changes to your child's allergies, please inform us as soon as possible so that we get everything updated promptly.

Sporting News!



Thank You and Well Done!

A huge well done to all our children who took part in the sponsored sport event! We raised £760! This money will be split between Sports for Schools (supporting athletes and ensuring disadvantaged children get access to sport) and the rest will be given back to us in the form of a voucher, to spend on PE equipment and resources for our school. Thank you to all our families and our local community that sponsored the children. It really raised the profile of sport in school and it was a great day!

Taekwondo

A massive well done to all the children who attend our Taekwondo after-school club and received their white or orange belt. We are so proud of you, what a fantastic achievement.



Dance Festival

Well done to all KS2 girls who performed in the dance competition at St John Wall School. It was an incredible experience, especially for those who had their first experience performing. We are so proud of you.



Reading News!



Thank you to all KS2 children who have applied for the position of a class librarian. Lots of application forms have been received and we shall make the exciting announcements soon.

A plea to our families and community

Thank you to those who have been in touch to support us with our most recent reading support plea! We are still looking for reading volunteers to come into school and listen to our children read. This can be any time/day to suit you and would have countless benefits to our children, such as: developing their comprehension skills, their reading fluency, self-esteem and confidence etc. If you are able to give any time to be a reading volunteer, please contact Miss Dorsett via Class Dojo. Thank you to those who have volunteered so far, your time and generosity is much appreciated.

Finally, we are also looking for parent/family helpers to assist us in keeping our library organised and tidy, ensuring books are labelled correctly and that we have a wide-range of resources accessible to and reflective of all our children. Thank you to those who have volunteered, we are excited to welcome you into school and for you to meet our new librarians! If you would be interested in becoming a library helper, and supporting our school librarians, please also contact Miss Dorsett.

