



# St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

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**FRIDAY 22nd March 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, the children have been re-enacting the events of Holy Week. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 worked together to re-enact Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Monday. Year 3 continued the story with the last supper on Tuesday. Year 4 retold the arrest and betrayal of Jesus on Wednesday and Year 5 led us in a very solemn retelling of Jesus' crucifixion on Thursday. The children have been brilliant at learning their lines and showed confidence in their performances. I would like to thank all the staff who have worked together to make these assemblies happen and thank you all as parents for your support.



**Holy Week**

There have been many achievements this term and we are very proud of our school and the wonderful children we have that fulfil our mission statement every day. In addition to our mission teams, we have two more groups of pupil leaders. We have appointed our new playground buddies and librarians this term and they have been doing some brilliant work. Thank you to all of you who attended parents' evening yesterday. I hope you found this useful and your feedback is always appreciated.

I wish you all a very happy and holy Easter holiday and we look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school safe and well on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

## **STAFFING UPDATE**

We are pleased to announce that after Easter, we will be expanding our staffing team and welcoming Mr. Dixon to our school. Mr. Dixon will primarily be working as an additional teacher in Year 6 with Miss Dorsett.

We have also welcomed Miss Leah-Gerard to our team and she will be working with Years 5 and 6 in Mrs. Nellist's absence. (We continue to keep Mrs. Nellist in our prayers and wish her a speedy recovery).

Miss Cooney will be starting at another school after Easter, we thank her for her contribution to St. Mark's and we wish her well for the future!

On 6<sup>th</sup> April, some staff at St. Mark's will be walking about 18 miles from St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham to St. Chad's Church in Lichfield to raise money for Cancer Research. We keep Mrs. Nellist, along with other members of our school community who have been affected by cancer, along with Miss Ward who was a past pupil and teacher of St. Mark's in our prayers.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, we will be having a special gathering after Mass to plant a tree in memory of Miss Ward as she would have turned 30 in April this year. All are welcome to join us for Mass and the ceremony afterwards.

A BIG thank you to all of you who have sponsored staff for the Cancer Research walk.



**CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK**

## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to all our **GOLD**, **SILVER** & **BRONZE** attendance awards winners. We would also like to give a big congrats to those children who received the **IMPROVED ATTENDANCE** award this term.

In total we had **9** children who received this award —

**'WELL DONE & KEEP IT UP!'**


Well done to **Year 5** for their attendance this term and to **Year 2** for having the least amount of lates.

Please can **Reception** ensure they attend school everyday and **Year 4** ensure they arrive to school on time.

Gates open between 8.30 and 8.45am. Thank you.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.2%**.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	2.7%	<b>89.8%</b>
YEAR 1	0.7%	96.0%
YEAR 2	<b>0.6%</b>	94.5%
YEAR 3	0.7%	96.6%
YEAR 4	<b>1.8%</b>	93.4%
YEAR 5	1.3%	<b>96.9%</b>
YEAR 6	0.8%	96.6%



This term we achieved the Pathway to Podium certificate in recognition for our work and commitment to developing sport and supporting children's health and well-being.



## Healthy snacks



Since sending the letter about healthy snacks out on Friday, we have seen a significant improvement in the number of healthy snacks being brought into school. Thank you for your support with this.

*The first wealth is health*

By Emerson

## Dates for the diary:

Thursday 18th April—9:00-10:00am—Mass in memory of Miss Ward

Monday 22nd April—Reception trip to Black Country Museum—(more information to follow after Easter)

Thursday 25th April—St. Mark's Feast Day

Thursday 30th April—Year 4 Vikings Workshop with Portals (more information to follow)

Monday 6th May—BANK HOLIDAY



We are excited to announce that we have moved our MIS to Arbor.

Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data and workflows into one system.

We are really looking forward to getting started with Arbor and invite all our parents to familiarise themselves using the link below.

[Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App](#)

Arbor also offers access to many training resources which are completely free for you to make the most of! These can all be found [here](#).

We will send further communication on the parental app and how to register on after Easter. Please look out for this information and register your child when prompted.

We hope you are looking forward to using this new feature as much as we are!



## Extra Curricular Clubs Update:



The clubs for the spring term have now come to an end.

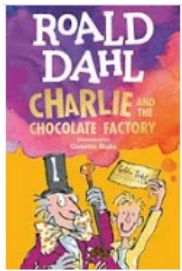
We will be sending new club letters out on the first day back after the Easter break.

# Reading News!

A big congratulations to our newly appointed St. Mark's librarians. They are busily working on organising our library and already have a system in place to ensure all books are labelled and that they are kept tidy.



Here are some of their book reviews to inspire you with what to read next:

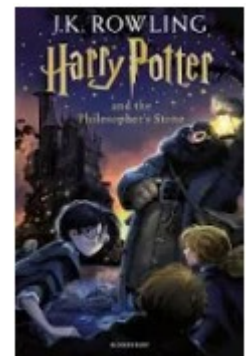


## **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl - recommended by Safa Year 3**

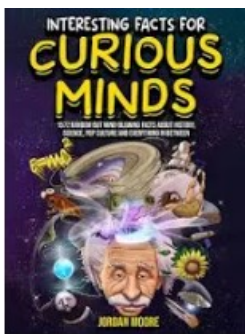
"This book is a mix of fantasy and adventure. It's about a boy named Charlie Bucket, who wins a golden ticket to visit Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. Can you imagine that? The best part is when they get to explore the factory –there are so many crazy things happening inside, like a chocolate river and an elevator that goes sideways. The theme of the book is the importance of being kind and good. Charlie is a good boy and he is awarded for his kindness in the end. It teaches us to be honest and caring to others.

## **The Harry Potter Series- recommended by Suriyah (Y5) and Eesah (Y6)**

This absolutely terrific story is the first book of the Harry Potter series. There are many chapters which include cliff-hangers, adventure scenes and the life of the main character, Harry Potter. If you like adventures, this is the book for you!



## **The Harry Potter Series- recommended by Iveling Y5**



If you are looking for a new trivia challenge and some engaging material to use at gatherings with friends or family, then this book is for you! However you read this book is entirely up to you. I am sure most of you will read this cover to cover at some point but you can also pick out the parts that most appeal to you! I recommend this book to every curious mind out there!

## World Book Day!

A big thank you to all children who dressed up for World Book Day this year. It was a fantastic day, where we enjoyed meeting author, James Hywel. He told us all about his books, which contain a little mouse called Albert. James inspired us to write our very own St. Mark's book, titled 'Albert Goes to Space' (chosen by our Reception children). All classes spent the day writing their adventure story and creating pictures of Albert. James Hywel asked me to thank you all for your amazing stories and illustrations of Albert. He has shared a mock-up of our school book! We can't wait to read the finished book and share it with you all. A huge well done to Isaac in Y4, whose picture was chosen for the front cover!

## **Albert Goes to Space!**

Albert Mouse - Dartmouth's most far-mouse resident

