

Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2023



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs).

If a child is in **immediate danger**, call the **POLICE on 999**

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe.

They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Safeguarding Team:



Mrs. Linley (DSL) Mrs. Dykes (DSO) Miss Dorsett (DSO)

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:

0121 357 9892

Alternatively, to make a referral directly to children's social care you can call Birmingham Children's Trust using the contact details below.



Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm
Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Telephone: 0121 303 1888

**Emergency out-of-hours
Telephone: 0121 675 4806**

Dear Parents and Carers,



Our school expectations as stated above are what we pride ourselves on here at St. Mark's. We expect every child to:

- be ready to learn and fulfil their potential
- be respectful to everyone they encounter
- be safe – in school and out of school

Please help us by ensuring that your child has all of their resources ready to learn each day. Please ensure your child is prepared for the school day by knowing what to expect. Some children do not deal well with change so explaining to your child what to expect, is a good way of helping them to be ready for the day ahead.

Anti-bullying week in November helped us all to recognise and remember the importance of being respectful. Our school motto is:

'Lend a hand, take a stand, STOP BULLYING NOW!'

Bullying can take many forms such as cyberbullying, physical bullying and/or emotional bullying. We teach our children to be respectful and we encourage our children to speak to a member of staff should they become concerned about bullying at St. Mark's. Children can do this in person and also in confidence through emailing - report@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk which the DSLs in school have access to.

At this time of year, the sky gets darker earlier and we are experiencing much colder temperatures. Please take care getting to school, especially in the mornings where there is frost and black ice on the roads. Give yourself plenty of time to drop children off to school (8.30am to 8.45am) and plenty of time to collect children from school (at 3.15pm).

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday – stay safe!

Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team



Mental Health Workshops

This term we have held three mental health workshops for parents. StressBox with coach Liam, Dads and Lads with a local male counsellor and a mental health workshop with the Forward Thinking Birmingham team. Thank you for those of you that attended and for your feedback.

Calmly and confidently opening up conversations in our schools can encourage children to understand that mental health is something we all have, and that we should be aware of it and learn skills to look after it.

On 10th October, we celebrated World Mental Health Day by wearing green, and our guardian angels supported children in schools on how to look after their mental health. We will continue to support all of our children to look after their well-being.



Devices and games this Christmas

Please keep your child safe by remembering the following:

Gaming can be real fun and help develop some great skills. They are designed by the best minds to hook in children and become addictive. But for many parents, it seems like a foreign world.

- Each game has an age rating – ensure your child is not accessing games that are not suitable.
- Age ratings do not apply to the chat part of an online game. Most online games allow children to talk and message others directly whilst playing. Age ratings will not restrict the type of conversation or language used.
- There are many people playing online and not everyone is who they say they are. Some people are not nice and play online games as a way to talk to children. They use voice changer headsets so they can trick and sound like a child.
- Some games are good at encouraging young people to buy extra features and in-game rewards. This is simply a trick to get parents to spend real money in return for imaginary prizes in an imaginary world.





UPDATE on ALLERGENS



Nuts can cause severe allergic reactions in a wide range of ways. A child with an allergy does not have to eat nuts to have a severe reaction; **this can be caused by surface contact and airborne particles.**

As a school, we have a responsibility to keep our pupils, staff and visitors safe and to reduce risk of harm. Therefore, we do not accept any gifts for staff or children may contain nuts. These include the following:



We understand that some parents may want to bring in treats for their child's class. Please **DO NOT** bring in home made cakes or products that contain nuts.



Please ONLY bring in treats that do not contain nuts or other allergens such as gelatine.



Be Allergy Aware & Save a Life

anaphylaxis UK
A leading charity supporting children with anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a serious reaction to allergens such as food, insect stings, medication & latex. The body thinks it's fighting something which shouldn't be there and sends out special chemicals to fight back.



People may experience mild or moderate symptoms including:

- > Itchy skin rash
- > Itchy/tingling mouth
- > Swelling of lips, face or eyes
- > Tummy pain or vomiting

What are the signs of a severe allergic reaction?

- > Hard to swallow / coughing
- > Difficult to breathe / noisy breathing
- > Feeling dizzy, floppy or sleepy

1. An allergic reaction can become serious quickly, so a special adrenaline pen must be used immediately
2. Then call 999 and tell them the person is suffering from anaphylaxis [ana-fil-ax-is]



For more information please see:

<https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/>

<https://www.food.gov.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/allergies/>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/immune-system/allergies/>

Punctuality and attendance matters at St. Mark's!

Mrs. Hussain and Mrs. Linley monitor punctuality and attendance on a regular basis in school. We identify trends and issues and ensure that we take early action to prevent an issue becoming worse.

This term, we have sent letters to 6 families whereby we have identified persistent punctuality issues. Any families needing further support to improve the punctuality need to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Linley - please contact her directly via class dojo messaging. As a school we aim to support our parents with attendance and punctuality.

Our current attendance figure for this point in the year is: **95.6%**



Our whole school target for attendance is **97%** for the year.

Children need to be in school every day. Mrs. Linley and Mrs. Hussain have conducted 2 unannounced home visits this term. Please communicate with school staff if you require further support to ensure your child's attendance is the best it can be.

Punctuality

The school gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am. Lessons start at 8.55am so children need to be in class before this time to ensure they are well prepared to start their morning lesson. Any child arriving after 8.45am will need to be signed in by a parent on the signage system and your child will receive a late mark.

Being on time is a good thing

- Gets the day off to a good start with everyone in a positive frame of mind.
- Helps your child make the most of their learning and sets positive patterns for the future.
- Helps children develop a sense of responsibility both for themselves and for others
- Helps your child make and keep friends.
- Improves self-confidence.

The impact of being late

- Gets the day off to a bad start and can put you in a mood.
- Can be embarrassing
- May damage your child's confidence.
- Children miss vital information at the start of the day.
- Disrupts the learning.

Procedures on Reporting a Child's Absence

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please contact the school office on 0121 357 9892 before 8.30am. The school answering machine will pick your message up and please follow the instructions for reporting your child's absence. A phone call needs to be made to the school office every day that your child is absent from school.

If we have not heard from a parent by 10.00am as to why their child is absent from school, Mrs. Hussain will ring all of the contact numbers registered for that child until contact is made.

