



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1NU

Tel: 0121 357 9892 Email: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk Principal: Mrs. D. Linley



FRIDAY 19th APRIL 2024

Dear parents and carers,

In Monday's Gospel assembly this week, we explored how Jesus' words, 'Peace be with you' to the disciples is a good example of how Jesus reassures us and that we should not be worried or doubt his presence in our lives. I shared with children our school values and that to **love, live and learn** together we must show the presence of Christ in each other. As a school we regularly revisit what bullying is and how to spot the signs of it so that we can follow our school motto to, '**lend a hand, take a stand and stop bullying now!**' Our school is a place of peace and we strive to ensure that every member of our community is treated respectfully and with dignity.

Have a great weekend, Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Team

peace
BE WITH YOU

NO DOGS and NO SCOOTERS

Please keep dogs a safe distance away from the school gates (even if your dog is very friendly) some children and adults are very frightened of dogs.

Please also do not allow your child to ride their scooter on the school grounds. Please wait until they are off the school site.

In Loving Memory of Ciara Ward



On Thursday 18th April, we held a special mass in memory of Ciara Ward, a much-loved member of staff and friend to all at St. Mark's. Ciara also attended St. Mark's as a pupil and the school held a very special place in her heart. After Mass, we held a tree planting ceremony and our St. Mark's community joined with Ciara's family to share memories of her. Thank you to all who made the occasion so special and we look forward to seeing Ciara's tree grow and blossom: a beautiful memory of her.



St. Mark's Feast Day 2024!



On Thursday 25th March, St. Mark's will be celebrating St. Mark's Feast Day! We will be holding a special Mass in school and all of the children will be creating pieces of work to be displayed for the special celebration. Family members, parishioners and all

of our local community are welcome to join us for Mass, followed by refreshments, at 9am in our school hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



PARENT COMMUNICATION ON CLASS DOJO

Proudly and joyfully, we love, live and learn as God's children

The partnership between school and home plays a crucial role in the holistic development and success of children. We are committed to ensuring your child is able to thrive in school and fulfil their God-given potential. I must emphasise the importance in supporting us on a daily basis in setting high expectations for each of our pupils. It is also significant to emphasise the importance of trust in our teachers. Teachers make many decisions each day for the wellbeing and benefit of pupils and have strong and thorough policies to follow, ratified by our governing body, which cover all areas of school life.

We understand that there are times when concerns or questions arise and we encourage open dialogue. However, it is crucial that interactions remain respectful and courteous, focused on finding constructive solutions. I have read a number of messages sent to staff recently whereby parents have been discourteous and this has caused some upset. Similarly, I have been informed by a number of parents that they have been approached by other parents about issues they believe to be present in the classroom or school. As a school, we will contact parents directly in relation to any issues involving their own children as speculation or misinformation is not constructive.

To ensure that all of our school community are treated with dignity, please see our new Parent Code of Conduct which states clearly the expectations for every parent. Any parent not adhering to our new policy should expect to receive feedback from me. Should parents continue to use the Class Dojo messaging system incorrectly by making demands of teachers, sending rants to teachers and sarcastic comments, we will have to make the decision to stop Class Dojo messaging and revert back to a previous system of communicating with staff via the school office. Parent feedback demonstrates that Class Dojo is a highly valued tool used to communicate with staff, to find out what your children are learning about and also to view homework etc - playing a crucial role in forming partnership between home and school.

I would like to add that the majority of parents do use Class Dojo correctly and are courteous and supportive and this does not go unnoticed.

Many thanks,

Mrs. Linley

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Well done to **Year 1** for their attendance this term and to **Year 3** for having the least amount of lates.


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

We have noticed the number of late children rising and whilst we are aware of the road closures/works taking place, can you please ensure that you give yourself plenty of time to travel to school so that your child is here on time. Thank you.

Gates open between **8.30 and 8.45am**. Registers close at **8.55am**.

Our target is **97%** we are currently at **95.0%**.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

	So Far This Term	So Far This Term
	No. Of Lates %	Attendance %
RECEPTION	4.3%	95.0%
YEAR 1	1.0%	96.1%
YEAR 2	0.8%	90.7%
YEAR 3	0.7%	91.7%
YEAR 4	3.2%	85.7%
YEAR 5	1.1%	93.2%
YEAR 6	1.9%	93.7%

Dates for the diary:

Monday 22nd April—Reception trip to Black Country Museum

Monday 22nd April—St. Mark's dancers attending the Big Dance Off Regional Heats in Birmingham

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

Sunday 28th April—St. Mark's family Mass at Holy Name Church at 10:30am—all are welcome!

Monday 29th April—Y6 SATs and Alton Castle parent meeting—4.30pm

Thursday 30th April—Year 4 Vikings Workshop with Portals of the Past

Monday 6th May—BANK HOLIDAY

Week beginning Monday 13th May—Y6 SATs week

Wednesday 15th May—Y5's trip to the Think Tank Museum

Week beginning Monday 20th May—Multicultural week in school (more information on trips to follow)

Monday 20th May 1:30pm—May Procession

Monday 20th May 3:30pm—Parent workshop on online messaging systems

Thursday 23rd May—British Values afternoon

Friday 24th May 1.30pm—St. Mark's Multicultural Showcase afternoon

Friday 24th May—Break up for half term holiday

WE ARE NOW LIVE ON THE ARBOR APP!



Welcome to Arbor!

We are now using the Parent Portal and Parent App, and have set up an account for you.

To finish creating your account you just need to set a password. Your username is the email address you have provided to the school.

Go to <https://login.arbor.sc> and click **Forgot your password?** to finish setting up your account.

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Hussain from the school office.

The Parent App can be downloaded from either the Playstore on android phones or the Apple Store on iPhones.

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



Working with our community police officer



Next Wednesday, PC David will be visiting us to speak to Years 4 and 5 about how to keep themselves safe and the dangers of knife crime. PC David and some children will also be monitoring the parking outside of school.

Please park your cars safely!

Reading News!

Thank you to our librarians for their continued hard work and to Mrs Picart for supporting us this week!



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

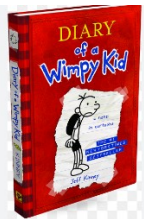
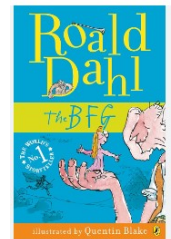


Mega Monster by David Walliams - recommended by Zuzanna Y6

"I recommend this book because the story is very engaging, making you want to read on and on. The book is very descriptive, so the second something new happens, you know exactly what is happening and what the event looks like. It does contain drawings at times because some of the things or people are sometimes hard to think of from the description. The story also contains some jokes and funny bits! The ages that I would recommend this story for is 8 years and above because some of the events that happen in the book could be overwhelming for younger years/children. I would rate this 4.9/5."

The BFG - recommended by Jayan Y3

"I would recommend it because I love how funny it is! I think it is funny because of the made up words like 'rubbsquash'. The genre of this book and the theme of it is fantasy and friendship. I would say don't judge this book by its cover."



Diary of a Wimpy Kid - recommended by Brady Y4

"The author of this book is Jeff Kinney who is an international bestseller with over 25 million copies sold. I would recommend this to other people because it's funny and it makes your day! The genre and theme of this book is comedy and humour."